



# NEWSLETTER

24TH JULY 2022

A PARISH OF THE MULLINGAR DEANERY

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**ST. JOSEPH'S, RATHWIRE.**

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>, 11.30am. Mary, Micky & David Cannon. Breda Smyth. Rose, Patrick & John Larkin & family.

**ST. BRIGID'S, RAHARNEY.**

Adoration  
of the  
Blessed Sacrament



**In St. Joseph's Tuesday 1pm-9pm.  
& St. Brigid's Wed. 6pm-10pm:**  
*Special Diocesan intention of prayer  
for vocations and the family.*  
**Take one Hour with the Lord**

## Weekday Masses; Raharney Tues & Thurs 9am. Rathwire Wed & Fri 9am.

**MASS OFFERTORY COLLECTION: 532  
PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND 570**

**RIP:** Fr. Thomas Gillooly, SPS, Kiltegan.  
Brother of Anne Rooney.

**Charity shop:** at Rathwire church opens Tues, Thurs & Fri 11am – 1pm.

**Used stamps:** can be left in the box available in the churches. These are of value to the missionary orders who really appreciate receiving them. Thanks.

**Pope Francis has established a World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, which will take place for the second time on Sunday 24 July 2022 on the theme 'In old age they will still bear fruit (Ps 92:15)'. The World Day was established to be celebrated on the Sunday closest to the Feast Day of Saints Joachim and Anne on 26 July.**

Pope Francis' Message for the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 2022 on the theme 'In old age they still bring forth fruit' (Ps 92:14).

Pope Francis says that old age is no time to give up and lower the sails, but a season of enduring fruitfulness: a new mission awaits us and bids us look to the future.

"The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly is taking place this year against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine and conflict in many other parts of the world. Pope Francis addresses this in his text and invites Grandparents in particular 'to teach the women and men of our time to regard others with the same understanding and loving gaze with which we regard our own grandchildren. Our grandparents held us in their arms and carried us on their knees; now is the time for us to carry on our own knees – with practical assistance or with prayer alone – not only our own grandchildren but also the many frightened grandchildren whom we have not yet met and who may be fleeing from war or suffering its effects. He gives encouragement saying;

*'Let us too become, as it were, poets of prayer: let us develop a taste for finding our own words, let us once again take up those taught by the word of God. Our trustful prayer can do a great deal: it can accompany the cry of pain of those who suffer, and it can help change hearts. We can be "the enduring 'chorus' of a great spiritual sanctuary, where prayers of supplication and songs of praise sustain the community that toils and struggles in the field of life.'*

### Prayer for the second World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

I give thanks to you, Lord, for the blessing of a long life for, to those who take refuge in You, grant always to bear fruit. Forgive, O Lord, resignation and disillusionment, but forsake me not when my strength declines. Teach me to look with hope to the future you give me, to the mission you entrust to me and to sing your praises without end. Make me a tender craftsman of Your revolution, to guard with love my grandchildren and all the little ones who seek shelter in You. Protect, O Lord, Pope Francis and grant thy Church to deliver the world from loneliness. Direct our steps in the way of peace. Amen.

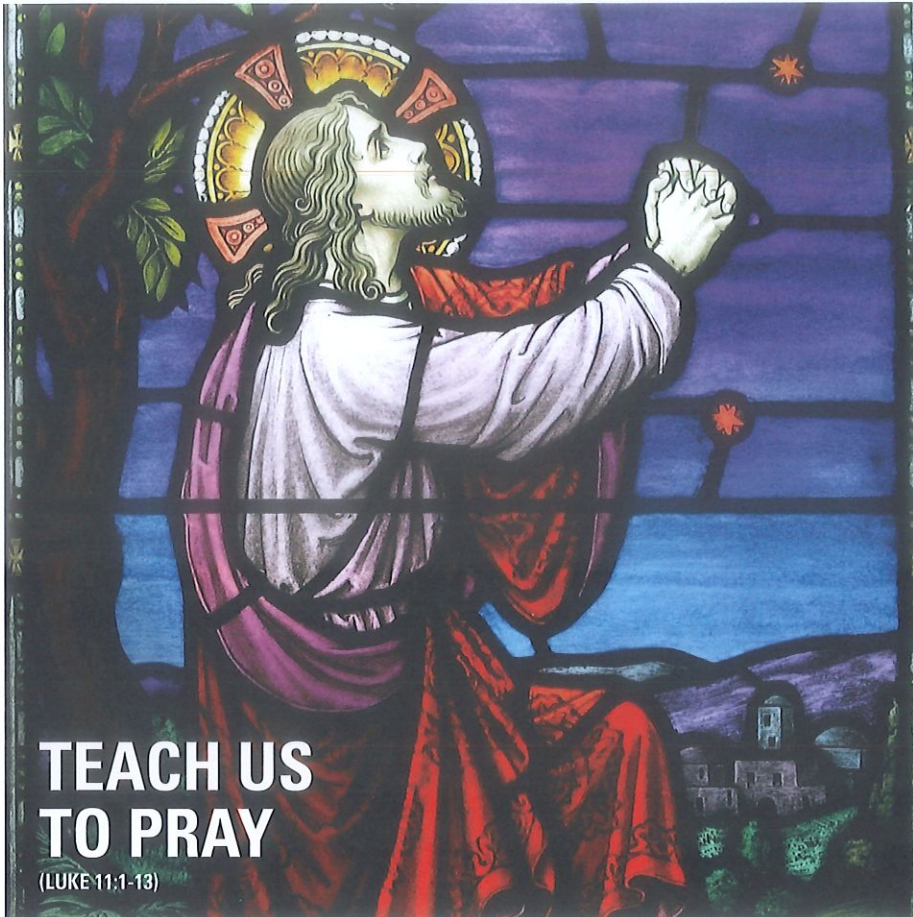
24 JULY 2022

# Sunday Message

17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 1



## TEACH US TO PRAY

(LUKE 11:1-13)

One feature of the writings of Luke is his emphasis on prayer. From his first appearance as an adult, at his baptism, Jesus is shown as praying at significant points in his ministry, as well as regularly, as in our Gospel reading today.

The disciples have noticed him spending time communicating with God and ask him to instruct them how to do this themselves. They are not asking Jesus simply as an individual teacher, but one with the authority of a prophet, someone in the line of John the Baptist. Jesus the prophet is another theme running through Luke's version of the Good News.

Luke's presentation of the Lord's Prayer is shorter, less detailed than Matthew's (the one we normally use). It consists of five requests: the first two refer to God and the coming of God's kingdom: God's name being held holy and the establishing of God's kingdom are, in some ways, the same thing.

The other three petitions concern the reader and reflect important themes of Luke's Gospel. These are, firstly, asking for our daily needs to be met: the second request is that God forgives us our sins, but we might note that God's forgiveness depends on our willingness to forgive those who have offended us in some way or other; the third and final appeal asks that we may not be put to the severest test, which means standing up for what we believe in in the face of persecution, because we might well not pass the test.

The second part of our Gospel extract today emphasises the importance of keeping on praying and not giving up, even if we seem to be receiving no answer. ■

### SAY

**Father, may your name be held holy: your kingdom come.**

(Luke 1:2)

### REFLECT

Luke's version of the Lord's Prayer is shorter than the words we usually use, for example, in the Communion Rite at Mass. We might consider some of the lines which we hear today and to think about the prayer in modern speech may give us a different understanding of what we say automatically when we start off "Our Father, who art in heaven". Sometimes, archaic language, sometimes described as 'traditional' or 'sacred/sacral' can obscure the real meaning of the text.

In Luke's version, we ask God to 'forgive us our sins, for we forgive each one who is in debt to us.' Does this make more sense than talking about "trespasses"? It emphasises that the forgiveness we hope for from God depends on our willingness to forgive other people who have offended us. There is no cheap grace in the Christian life.

'Do not put us to the test' is perhaps a better translation than "Lead us not into temptation": we will see that testing is to find out what Jesus is all about, as at his baptism and then the testing scene at the beginning of the Gospel narrative: this theme returns at Gethsemane.

The Lord's Prayer has greater significance – and consequences – than perhaps we realise, and which may fade as a result of constant repetition. ■

### LEARN

Jesus spent special time in prayer, in communication with God, throughout his life and ministry.

There are two versions of the Lord's Prayer in the Gospel tradition: that of Matthew and that of Luke.

God's forgiving us of our sins is in direct proportion to our forgiving other people.

"Temptation" in the Lord's Prayer is better understood as 'test': the test is to be faithful to our beliefs, just as Jesus was, and which led him to the cross.

### DO

Learn Luke's version of the Lord's Prayer from today's gospel: use it for a few days and see how it influences your understanding of the teaching of Jesus.