

Monday 8th October 2012

In today's Gospel, we hear the familiar Parable of the Good Samaritan. The parable shows us how (to be a good neighbour) we should serve others.



Jesus said, "A man was robbed and badly beaten. Two people passed by and left him for dead. But a Samaritan traveller stopped, felt sorry for him and bandaged his wounds. He then paid for him to stay at an inn and looked after him. Who then was a 'neighbour' to this poor man?" "The one who took pity on him," the teacher replied. Jesus said to him, "Go, and do the same yourself."

(Adapted from the Gospel of Monday 8th October 2012 - Luke 10:25-37)



Dear Lord Jesus, help us to show our love through our actions and so to be respectful, caring and loving to all our neighbours. Amen.



Through this parable, Jesus answers a question from a lawyer and tells us that we are 'neighbours' to others when we help anyone in need, regardless of who they are or where they come from. Through the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus is showing us how to be truly human and so change the world through serving our neighbour. Good neighbours are caring, generous, kind and compassionate. How can we show these qualities and be 'good Samaritans' to those around us in 'Little Way Week'? Perhaps we can: visit an elderly or sick person as a family; be welcoming to new people in our community; try to include someone at school who may be feeling lonely or left out.

Tuesday 9th October 2012

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the story of Martha and Mary and reminds us about the importance of listening to God.



A woman called Martha welcomed Jesus into her house. She had a sister called Mary who chose to sit down in front of Jesus to listen to him. Martha was busy preparing the meal and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do the serving all by myself?" But Jesus said to her, "Martha, Martha, you worry about so many things, but only one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen what is good; this will not be taken away from her."

(Adapted from the Gospel of Tuesday 9th October 2012 - Luke 10:38-42)



Dear Lord Jesus, help us to listen, hear and understand your words, and to be good listeners to each other too. Amen.



Jesus understands that household jobs are important, particularly when serving others, but he reminds us how important it is to take time to listen to God. Jesus does not force us to listen to him, but he knows what's best for us. Listening to Jesus, hearing what he says, and acting on his words, helps us to become the best person we can be. We can serve each other through being good listeners – it's a powerful way of showing that we care. Regularly listening to Jesus reminds us what's important in life and how much we are loved by God. How can we especially listen to Jesus throughout 'Little Way Week'? Perhaps we can: go to church as a family this Sunday; remember to have a quiet time in prayer each day, making and space and time in our lives to listen to God as he speaks to our hearts.

Wednesday 10th October 2012

In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches us how to pray and reminds us about how important it is to forgive others just as God forgives us.



Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John the Baptist taught his disciples." Jesus said to them, "Say this when you pray: 'Father, may all people honour your holy name; may your kingdom come; give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we ourselves forgive anyone who has done wrong to us.'"

(Adapted from the Gospel of Wednesday 10th October 2012 - Luke 11:1-4)



The prayer in today's Gospel is the shorter version of the Lord's Prayer (the 'Our Father'). In this prayer Jesus reminds us that God, the Creator of the Universe, is our heavenly Father. He teaches us to ask God to forgive us in the same way that we forgive others. Today let's think about how it feels to forgive someone and to reconcile a friendship. 'Little Way Week' can be a great time to make a new start. Is there anyone whose forgiveness you would like? Is there anyone you need to forgive? Let us try to be more forgiving with people at home, at school and in our community as we journey through this important week.



THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Thursday 11th October 2012

In today's Gospel, Jesus encourages us to keep on praying. We must never give up because God hears all our prayers and will always do what is best for us and those we pray for.



Jesus said to his friends, "Ask and it will be given to you; search and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to them."

(Adapted from the Gospel of Thursday 11th October 2012 - Luke 11:5-13)



Persevering in our prayers keeps us close to God. Prayer, at its simplest, is spending time with God – talking, listening, being together. God is our loving Father and he wants us to spend time with him through prayer, regularly being with him and telling him all about our lives, just as we would spend time with others who love us. God created us to pray and we can pray any time, anywhere. What would you like to pray and ask God for in this 'Little Way Week'? Decide on which people you will love and serve by praying for them this week.



AN ACT OF CONTRITION - a prayer used to say sorry to God:

O my God, because you are so good, I am very sorry that I have hurt others and so also hurt you and I will try not to do this again. Amen.

Friday 12th October 2012

In today's 1st reading, St Paul reminds us about the value of faith.



Saint Paul said to the people of Galatia, "Do you not see that it is those who rely on faith who are the children of Abraham; our father in faith. All those who rely on faith will receive the same blessing as Abraham, the man of faith."

(Adapted from the 1st reading of Friday 12th October 2012 - The letter of St Paul to the Galatians 3: 7-14)



St Paul and St Thérèse of Lisieux were people of great faith. Their lives and writings continue to help others to grow in Christian faith. To 'have faith' is to believe and trust in God's love for us. Faith is a precious gift from God that greatly enriches our lives. As 'Little Way Week' draws to a close for 2012, what will you do in the coming weeks to help your faith to develop? We can show our faith in God by loving and serving other people. Why not visit the 'Little Way Week' web area this weekend for more ideas on how to serve others, to learn more about St Thérèse's 'Little Way' and to help you understand and develop your faith? Please see www.catholicnews.org.uk/little-way-week



Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for St Paul and St Thérèse, whose example and teaching help us to grow in faith. Please help our faith to grow so that we can know you better. Amen.



This 'Little Way Week' resource 'Begin the Day with God's Word' was produced by The Wednesday Word Trust in partnership with the Catholic Bishops' Department for Evangelisation and Catechesis for England and Wales and the Catholic Education Service.

*The Wednesday Word Trust also produce a colour, double-sided A4 leaflet which creates a new, lively, weekly contact between the Church and **primary school** families - a creative way to share the gospel, and to enhance the home, school and parish partnership. Although The Wednesday Word has not been specifically designed as a secondary school resource, it has been used by some secondary schools to good effect in Year 7. More at: www.wednesdayword.org or see the 'Little Way Week' web area at www.catholicnews.org.uk/little-way-week*