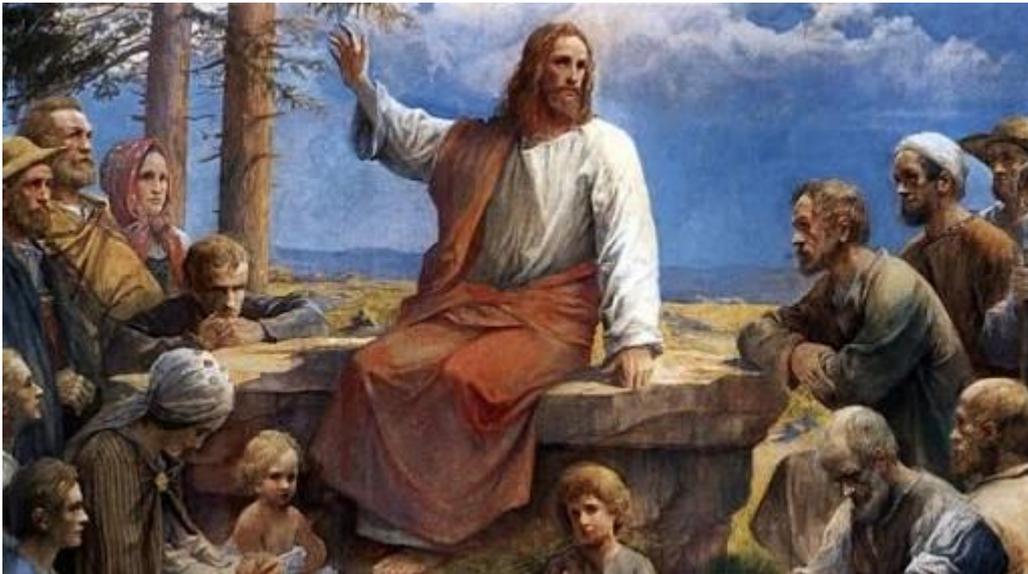


The readings this Sunday encourage us to pray and ask God for good things. In the first reading, Abraham asks God to spare the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. The psalm response is “*On the day I called, you answered me, O Lord*”. In the second reading, Paul reminds us that we have been set free and forgiven in Christ Jesus. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray and encourages them to be persistent in prayer.



Jesus was praying and when he had finished, one of the disciples said, “Lord, teach us to pray.” Jesus said to them, “Say this when you pray:

*Father, may your name be held holy,  
your kingdom come;  
give us each day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our sins,  
for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us.  
And do not put us to the test.”*

This simple version of the most famous Christian prayer, the Our Father, is stripped of much of the language we are used hearing, Luke's version seems simple and direct and it is because he is praying to his father, with whom he has a loving relationship. Jesus reminds us that when we pray our first words are to praise God. We pray that God's name will be recognized as holy and that his rule over all will be established. This is followed by petitions for our needs for bread, for forgiveness, and for deliverance.

Having taught his disciples a simple, daily prayer, Jesus goes on to reassure them that God answers prayers, because God loves us. The answer to our prayer might not be what we expect and we have to be prepared for that.

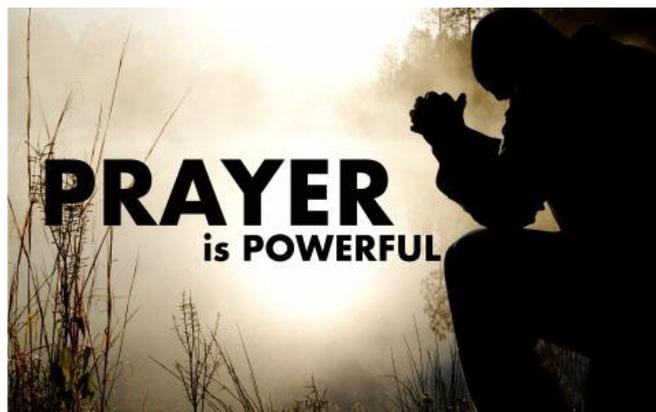


*Ask and you will receive;  
Seek and you will find;  
Knock and the door will be opened,  
For the love of the Lord has no end.*

The Catechism of the Catholic Church speaks about prayer when it says:

*“Prayer is the raising up of the heart and mind to God. The Church professes the mystery of faith in the Creed and celebrates it in the sacramental liturgy so that the life of the faithful may be conformed to Christ in the Holy Spirit to the glory of God the Father.*

*This mystery, then, requires that the faithful believe in it, that they celebrate it, and that they live from it in a vital and personal relationship with the living and true God. This relationship is prayer.”*



May we, the community of The Most Holy Trinity, Dockhead, deepen our relationship with our God by deepening our prayer life. May we always praise God and believe that our prayers will be answered in the way that is for our good.