

# Whitechurch Parish,

## Sunday, 27 September, 2020.

*THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY*



‘Knowing what we ought to do’.

Today’s Collect reminds us that prayer is more than simply asking God for something and waiting for an answer. We are part of the answer, for God works through us. We ask him what things we ought to do, and pray for grace and power to carry them out. As someone once said: ‘Pray as if everything depended on God. Do as if everything depended on you.’

### The Gathering.

#### THE GREETING.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father,  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Praise the Lord!

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

**All: for his steadfast love endures for ever.**

Save us, O Lord our God,

**All: and gather us from among the nations,**

that we may give thanks to your holy name

**All: and glory in you praise.**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,

**All: from everlasting to everlasting.**

And let all the people say,

**All: ‘Amen. Praise the Lord!’**

(Ps. 106: 1-2, 47-48)

#### PRAYER

**All: God our Father,  
we are here to worship you  
and learn more of your love for us  
through Jesus Christ.  
Renew us by your Spirit  
that we may grow  
in faith, hope and love,  
for Jesus’ sake.           Amen.**

• **PENITENCE**

- We reflect silently, in the presence of our holy and merciful God, where our lives have gone wrong, and where we have failed to live up to the Christian values we profess.....  
(silence)
- Let us confess our sins and shortcomings.

Gracious God,  
we pretend to be good when we are not ...  
How quick we are to find fault in others.

Lord, have mercy.  
**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Merciful Lord,  
we turn our backs on those who need us ...  
How slow we are to do good.

Christ, have mercy.  
**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Holy God,  
we place our own interests above everything else ...  
How reluctant we are to seek your will.

Lord, have mercy,  
**All: Lord, have mercy.**

**ABSOLUTION.**

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

• **THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Let us pray ... *(silent prayer)*

O Lord,  
we beseech you mercifully  
to hear the prayers of your people  
who call upon you;  
and grant that they may both perceive  
and know what things they ought to do,  
and also may have grace and power  
faithfully to fulfil them;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

• **THE SCRIPTURE READINGS: Exodus 17, verses 1 – 7.**

**(Water in the desert from rock).**

(After the reading)

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**THE GOSPEL: St. Matthew 21, verses 23 - 32.**

**(Jesus's authority is questioned).**

Hear the Gospel of our saviour Christ according to Matthew, chapter 21,  
beginning at verse 23.

**All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

(After the reading)

This is the Gospel of Christ.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come  
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

**(The Apostles' Creed)**

**Amen.**

## • INTERCESSIONS

- Our Father in heaven, we pray for all people, in the name of your Son Jesus Christ:
- We pray for the Church, for our Archbishop Michael, and for all who lead, teach and minister in Christ's name ... Grant that we may be nourished in our faith and understanding, and bear daily witness to Christ's love.

Lord of life,  
**All: in your mercy, hear us.**

- We pray for the nations of the world and for those who take authority to serve the cause of justice and human well-being ...  
Strengthen our President, Taoiseach and Government and the leaders of the nations with gifts of wisdom, courage and integrity, that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Lord of life,  
**All: in your mercy, hear us.**

- We pray for those who are afflicted by natural disasters, or caught up in brutal conflicts ...  
Fill them with the resurrection hope that good will prevail, and bless all who stand with them in finding solutions to their difficulties.

Lord of life,  
**All: in your mercy, hear us.**

- We pray for the people we are called to serve, in the home, the neighbourhood and at work ... Help us to work hard at building good relationships, and to strive for reconciliation when they break down.

Lord of life,  
**All: in your mercy, hear us.**

- We pray for all who suffer from illness, loneliness or loss ... Raise them from despair to hopefulness and health.

Lord of life,  
**All: in your mercy, hear us.**

- We remember with love and thanksgiving those who have died ... Strengthen all who mourn, with the sure hope that, in Christ, their loved ones are raised to fullness of life.

Lord of life,  
**All: in your mercy, hear us**

**All: Accept all these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour  
Jesus Christ.**

***Amen.***

**• THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven.....**

**• CONCLUDING PRAYER**

**All: Teach me my God and King  
in all things thee to see,  
and what I do in anything  
to do it as for thee.**

***Amen.***

*(George Herbert)*

**† THE GRACE.**

**All: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now  
and for evermore. *Amen.***