

## Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary time – 27<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Headings	Gospel (Luke 11; 1-13)	First Reading (Genesis 18; 20 -32)	Second Reading (Colossians 2; 12-14)
<b>Context</b>	<b>“Lord, teach us to pray”</b> The disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. They had already learned how to pray but seeing Jesus at prayer, they realized they had more to learn. In response Jesus taught them the Our Father.	Abraham intercedes for Sodom by bargaining with the Lord. Abraham shows the importance of interceding with God. We can learn from Abraham the importance of intercession. It means asking on behalf of others rather than for our own interests.	Here Paul reflects on the meaning of Baptism. He tells his readers that in baptism they are united with Christ in his death and resurrection. They are made alive with Christ and invited to live a new life. The debt they owed because of sin is removed by the crucifixion of Jesus.
<b>Key verse</b>	<b>“So I say to you: Ask, and it shall 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 always has door opened to him”</b>	<b>“Are you really going to destroy the just man with the sinner? Perhaps there are fifty just men in the town. Will you not spare the place for the fifty just men in it?”</b>	<b>“You were dead, because you were sinners ...he has forgiven all our sins He has overridden the law and cancelled every record of the debt we had to pay; he has done away with it by nailing it to the cross”</b>
<b>Key themes/ messages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Our Father is about our relationship with God. Jesus invites us to enter into his relationship with his Father.</li> <li>In the Our Father we adore God as Father and petition him for our spiritual and material needs.</li> <li>In the second half of the Our Father we use the words “us” and “our”. We pray it as God’s family, not as isolated individuals.</li> <li>The words Jesus taught his disciples describe the attitude we ought to have when we pray.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abraham persevered in prayer and didn’t give up.</li> <li>Abraham was a friend of God and trusted in his promises.</li> <li>Once God had confided his plan to him Abraham’s heart is attuned to the Lord’s compassion for men.</li> <li>He dares to reduce the number of just men needed to save Sodom. Sadly there weren’t ten just men in Sodom.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through Baptism we are joined to Jesus, and are given the power to live a new life.</li> <li>In the early centuries the baptismal font was a small pool sunk in the ground. Candidates walked down steps on one side and were fully immersed in the water. They then walked up steps on the other side transformed</li> <li>The pattern is similar to the pattern of Jesus ‘death and resurrection from the dead.</li> </ul>
<b>Questions/ application to our lives</b>	<p>How often do you ask Jesus to teach you how to pray?</p> <p>How do you grow in prayer from the teaching of Jesus in the Lords’ prayer?</p> <p>The key verse above encourages us to “ask, search and knock”. How often do you ask for the Holy Spirit to be given to you? Would other needs take precedence?</p> <p>How important also is it to praise and to worship the Lord?</p> <p>How might it help you to relate to him better?</p>	<p>How much is intercession part of your daily prayer? Why is it important to intercede?</p> <p>Do you try to bargain with God for favours you need? If the outcome is not what you want then how do you react?</p> <p>How could you learn more about prayer of intercession?</p>	<p>Why do you think Paul explains the meaning of baptism in this letter? How would you explain baptism to somebody enquiring what it means?</p> <p>What have you learned from others about your own baptism?</p> <p>How well do you know your faith? What are you doing to increase your understanding of it?</p>
<b>Further reading</b>	<i>Catechism 2566- 2567, 2609 2610, 2761 -2772,</i>	<i>Catechism 2634-36,</i>	<i>Catechism 537, 628, 1002, 1227</i>