

Prayer and Liturgy at home

20th October 2023

Each week we will be sending out Prayer and Liturgy which you can carry out as a family at home. The theme of the week will be shared with you on a Friday. Prayer and Liturgy is a way of praying and talking to God.

This is a time to come together to:

- Gather—having a quiet reflective place to begin by making the sign of the cross.
- Listen to the Word—A Gospel reading or a Parable to read together and to listen to God.
- Respond by talking about the message of the Gospel—reflecting, meditating, saying prayers, offering thanks for the week.
- Going Forth to share the Word with other family members of the message you would like to give.

We would love to see some examples of you sharing your prayer and liturgy at home as a family through pictures, your responses and just coming together to gather and think about the message of the Gospel.

Prayer and Liturgy:

Gather—have a quiet space with a Bible, a cross and a candle.

Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together:

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son , and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

You can begin with an opening of what the Prayer and Liturgy is about: **The Wedding Banquet - answering God's invitation and how we can be kind to all.**

God of welcome, you invite us to follow in your ways and enter into your kingdom. May we answer your call. Amen.

In today's liturgy we will hear a story about a king who invites lots of different people to the wedding of his son. They have a big feast with lots of yummy food. Let's think about what God invites us to do in our lives today.

Word: Read the Gospel Passage together. This week our Gospel tells us about the Parable of the Wedding Banquet: Matthew 22:1-14 -

Jesus again used parables in talking to the people. "The Kingdom of heaven is like this. Once there was a king who prepared a wedding feast for his son. He sent his servants to tell the invited guests to come to the feast, but they did not want to come. So he sent other servants with this message for the guests: 'My feast is ready now; my bullocks and prize calves have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast!' But the invited guests paid no attention and went about their business: one went to his farm, another to his shop, while others grabbed the servants, beat them, and killed them. The king was very angry; so he sent his soldiers, who killed those murderers and burnt down their city. Then he called his servants and said to them, 'My wedding feast is ready, but the people I invited did not deserve it. Now go to the main streets and invite to the feast as many people as you find.' So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, good and bad alike; and the wedding hall was filled with people.

"The king went in to look at the guests and saw a man who was not wearing wedding clothes. 'Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' the king asked him. But the man said nothing. Then the king told the servants, 'Tie him up hand and foot, and throw him outside in the dark. There he will cry and grind his teeth.'"

And Jesus concluded, "Many are invited, but few are chosen."

The people are who the man sends to deliver a message to the tenants are the prophets.

This week we have been thinking about the invitation from God to be kind to all.

Respond:

Before we reflect let us think about what the parable is showing

The king sends out his servants to stand in the middle of the street and invite everyone they can find to the wedding. So, they do, and the wedding hall is filled with guests. They all take part in the big feast.

The king in Jesus' story represents God and the wedding is the kingdom of heaven. What do you think that Jesus was trying to tell us with this story?

We are all invited by God to enter into the kingdom of Heaven. It is a place where everyone is welcome. But we have to be ready to go.

Respond to the Gospel by thinking about:

Pope Francis is asking us to answer his call by declaring that we are "missionary disciples". Our Faith is not something that we can celebrate in private. We need to be living our Faith in all our actions and decisions, as nothing less than "ambassadors for Christ", as St Paul calls us. Nor do we live our Faith on our own – it is best lived and expressed in community, whether in school, family or parish. It is by working together that we can achieve more. We need to say yes to helping others and continuing to develop our faith as a school and as a community being welcoming to all and caring for all those around us and the world.

As we reflect upon the words we have heard we think about:

Jesus tells us another parable to try and explain what the kingdom of heaven is like. The king's son is getting married. He invites lots of people to the party but when the day comes and the king sends out his servants to fetch the people they do not come. He tries again, but the people just aren't interested in coming.

God asks us to be kind, to be welcoming and invite others to share in what we have, to bring peace, to stand up for what is right, to care for and respect one another and to love our neighbour, wherever they are in the world.

By answering God's invitation and being kind and generous, welcoming and fair, by loving our neighbour, we can help to reflect God's kingdom here on earth. We will help other people to see that we care for everyone, no matter who they are or where they come from, and the world will become a better, fairer place for all people to live. Let's all try really hard this week to listen to what God wants from us and to say yes to that invitation in the way we behave in the coming week.

I think God is inviting me to be more generous and share what I have. I will say yes to that invitation by sharing the vegetables from my allotment with my elderly neighbour/sharing some of my time volunteering to help others/taking my old clothes to the charity shop, raising money for CAFOD etc.

Hail Mary, Mother of Grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of death. Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

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 those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen

Make the sign of the cross together: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son , and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Go Forth: Think about how as a family you can carry out what is being asked in the Gospel. Try to pray the Rosary every day as a family thinking about who to pray for and how you can help others.

At home take time to pray together over the coming week and think about who you want to pray for and offer the Rosary up for them.