

KEEP
ASKING
GOD

Luke 18:1-8

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Website: <https://www.watermead-apostolate.co.uk/>

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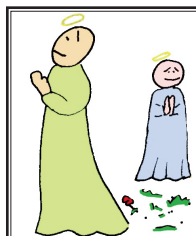
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Watermead Publishing Ltd, Registered Office, 64 Gwendolin Avenue, Birstall, Leicester LE4 4HD



RELIGION
AND
HYPOCRISY

Luke 18:9-14

19th October 2025 : "World Mission Sunday - we pray"

Dear Friends,

Do prayers get answered? Every week there are requests for prayer in our prayer box - names, situations, events - and I know that, although the reason is not given alongside the individual names, those names will hopefully be in your prayers. But how do you then know that your prayer for those people has been answered? It is easy with public situations and events, because these are often reported on through the media and the resolution, if there is one, is publicly known. The only way answered prayer is known for the individuals is if the name is eventually removed from our prayer box.

So, we can pray blindly for a name, not knowing what we are praying for, and do not expect that the answer will be shared with us. But can we pray similarly for ourselves, or someone close to us, without the expectation of immediate answer? Although, when answer comes, do we recognise it?

Yesterday, I was talking with someone who is suffering from anxiety, telling me about feeling particularly desperate that morning and reaching out in prayer to deceased parents (and Fr John) in a plea for help. A couple of hours later there had been a surprise visitor with a new opportunity, giving hope and a positive distraction - the person recognised the visitor as the much-needed answer to prayer.

I remember many years back a similar situation when in our Watermead Centre's shop, wondering at the value of the service we were providing - was it worth it, was it appreciated? I was coming to the end of a quiet day, with no customers, thinking of the things that needed to be done in the house and that I would have to catch up on later. Suddenly, a lady burst through the door and approached the counter. She proceeded to tell me that she passed by our sign every day, had never been in a church but, in the middle of hoovering her house, felt a sudden urge to come and see if we were open - as there might be someone in the "God-shop" who could help with her nagging question. In response to the impulse she had quickly switched off the hoover, left her cleaning and came, and now she was telling me very excitedly of all the questions she needed answers to. What followed was a wonderfully long and inspiring conversation that helped her and reassured me of the need for our presence in the community. I have since always referred to her as my 'hoover angel' - an unassuming messenger from God with answers that I, too, needed.

Prayer is central to all religions and important to those who, though they may not believe in God, recognise a creator, or a deity in their lives. When speaking with a friend who believes only in mother earth (and numerous non-biblical angels), she will genuinely respond with care to a person's concern by sending them "(spiritual) healing" - or, in other words, prayer.

Although I do not claim any superior revelation as to how prayer works, it is central to my belief and connects me to that eternal dimension where those who have gone before me now reside. Yet, over the years, experience has shown me that prayer does not always give an immediate, even recognisable, response and one should not be expected. It can sometimes take days, months, years, and sometimes it is a series of events and interactions that provide the answer. Yet, reassuringly, prayer *always* offers hope, even in the most dire of situations, whether for me personally or to those for whom I pray.

As a young girl playing the organ in church I found I prayed through music and later this became 'Music as Prayer', when Fr John began to share my orchestral compositions and our hymns through the 'Holy Hour' at the retreats he preached - a story for another time!

SUNDAY READINGS REFERENCE

19th October 2025

29th SUNDAY OF YEAR C (Prayer Week 1)

For a background to all the readings each Sunday see Watermead's *The Lord's Day* newsletter from <https://www.watermead-apostolate.co.uk/the-lords-day>

The bible references for this week are as follows:

1st reading: **Exodus 17:8-13**

2nd reading: **2 Timothy 3:14,4:2**

Gospel according to **Luke 18:1-8**

WEEKDAY READINGS REFERENCE

(29th Week of Year 1)

Mon: Romans 4:20-25 Luke 12:13-21

Tue: Romans 5:12,15,17-19,20-21 Luke 12:35-38

Wed: Romans 6:12-18 Luke 12:39-48

Thu: Romans 6:19-23 Luke 12:49-53

Fri: Romans 7:18-25 Luke 12:54-59

Sat: Romans 8:1-11 Luke 13:1-9

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS REFERENCE

26th October 2025

30th SUNDAY OF YEAR C (Prayer Week 2)

The bible references are as follows:

1st reading: **Sirach 35:15b-17, 20-22b**

2nd reading: **2 Timothy 4:6-8**

Gospel according to **Luke 18:9-14**

WEEKDAY READINGS REFERENCE

(30th Week of Year 1)

Mon: Romans 8:12-17 Luke 13:10-17

Tue: Ephesians 2:19-22 Luke 6:12-16

Wed: Romans 8:26-30 Luke 13:22-30

Thu: Romans 8:31-39 Luke 13:31-35

Fri: Romans 9:1-5 Luke 14:1-6

Sat: Revelation 7:2-4,9-14, 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12

Universalis is a free online resource that you may find useful to obtain the daily readings at mass, along with the Office of Readings and various other resources - click here to see the version for England.

Focus on Saints & Feasts

Wednesday (22nd October)

St John Paul II

Saturday (25th October)

**Six Welsh martyrs
& Companions**

Thursday (23rd October)

St John of Capistrano

Tuesday (28th October)

**St Simon & St Jude
(Apostles)**

Friday (24th October)

St Anthony Clare

Saturday (1st November)

FEAST OF ALL SAINTS

"Prayer is love, I want to love" is the statement on a friend's website, built to share prayer and care - and you'll find details of the website over the page.

Prayer Box

This week we especially remember in prayer

Sister Mary Therese (RIP), Molly Dempsey (RIP)

Angie & Billy, Oisín, Mary, John, Angelin, Ava, Don,
John, Matthew, Pauline & Christine, Pauline, Rosie,
Sylvia, Susan, Sheila, Toni, Judy, Winefride
The Women of Afghanistan

Kate and Gerry and all Madeleine McCann's family,
especially during these weeks of trial.

We pray also for all families of missing children.

Peoples of Ukraine overshadowed as they have been
by the news from Gaza. May they also know some peace.
All the countries of our world affected by conflict and war.
Those in our homelands suffering bias and discrimination.

Please email your reminders & additional names for prayers
watermead-community@outlook.com

All prayer petitions welcomed - and do remind us if they do not appear

The Pestering Widow

(Fr John's rendering in verse of this week's Gospel story)



O the widow woman was desperate and poor,
Came often and often, hard knocking the door
Of the magistrate proud, such an arrogant judge,
Who ignored her, declaring he never would budge
To give her the justice she claimed as her own.
For he reckoned he feared neither God nor her moan,
And would never consider her widowly plea
For justice and right against her enemy.

But he reckoned without all her womanly wiles
- Not tears, nor tantrums, nor winningly smiles -
But simply the strength of persistently prayer
That the Lord says has power to eventually wear
E'en God, who will listen as we pray and we plead,
Telling honestly, truly, of all that we need.

"Don't ever lose heart," the Lord gently does say,
"Keep trusting, continue to reverently pray."
For our God always listens and searches the heart
For the love and the faith that will set us apart -
Like the widow, determined she never would budge,
We'll wear down our God just as she did the judge!

So ask, you'll receive; do you seek, and you'll find;
Keep knocking the door - 'cos the good Lord won't mind -
For the Lord's word is true that God always is there
To listen and lovingly answer our prayer.

Dear Lord, it's in faith that I write this on prayer,
But honestly, truly, it's so hard to bear
When we pray and we long and our eyes are aglisten,
You don't seem to hear, and you don't seem to listen.
Forgive me . . .

Copyright © 2005 : Watermead Music Collection 10
Lyrics: John Daley IC, Music: Alison Kennedy

Above are the lyrics from one of the songs on 'Don sings
the Parables', our recording with Don Maclean in 2006.
To read more on the 'Parables' Project visit our [website](http://www.watermeadapostolate.co.uk).

Click here listen to Don's recording of 'The Pestering Widow'

CHURCH IN THE WORLD

Pope Leo's first encyclical "DILEXI TE" The apostolic exhortation begins . . . "I HAVE LOVED YOU" (Rev 3:9). The Lord speaks these words to a Christian community that, unlike some others, had no influence or resources, and was treated instead with violence and contempt: "You have but little power... I will make them come and bow down before your feet" (Rev 3:8-9). This text reminds us of the words of the canticle of Mary: "He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty" (Lk 1:52-53).

Click to read the full document . . .

A Hymn to bridge traditions When King Charles and Queen Camilla visit the Pope Leo next week there will be service jointly led by Pope Leo and the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, in the Sistine Chapel. The ecumenical tone of the visit will be reflected in the liturgy, and will include a hymn by Saint Ambrose of Milan - sung in an English translation by Saint John Henry Newman. who was himself an Anglican for much of his life before becoming Catholic. Music will be provided by the Sistine Chapel Choir, alongside choristers from the Chapel Royal at St James's Palace and the Choir of St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. Kings Charles is set to become the first monarch to pray at a public service with the Pope since the Reformation when he makes this state visit to the Vatican.

Click to read the full article . . .

"A Faith Under Siege" is a thought-provoking film that examines attacks on hundreds of Ukrainian faith communities, including Catholic and Protestant believers, telling the story of Ukraine's persecuted Christians.

Click to visit article with links to 'free' YouTube film . . .

DATES FOR DIARY

Root and Branch

invite us to share Dr Jon Rosebank's talk (by ZOOM) on
Thursday 30th October, 8.00 pm

For more details and to book, click on the picture link below

A Warm Welcome

EVERY FRIDAY 11.30 AM - 1.30 PM

at the Immaculate Conception Church Hall

54 New Street, Oadby LE2 4LJ

All are welcome regardless of age, background or interests,
to come and share company, activities, guest speakers.

**Celebrate the feast of St Cecilia, patron of music
with LACY'S BIG SING**

Leicestershire Active Catholic Youth invite people to join them

on **Sunday afternoon 16th November 2025.**

4.00 pm - 6.00 pm at the Franciscan Convent Chapel,
Dalby Road, Melton Mowbray.

Light refreshments will be served afterwards.

Anyone who would like to be involved should contact
Pauline and the LACY Team on 07885 187374



Daily Prayers

Prayer is Love, I want to Love

If you have explored our Watermead website's resources page you may have already come across the above link. The website has a wealth of information - prayers, saints, blessings, novenas, litanies, stories, etc. It has been built and shared by Francis, who some readers may remember was the headteacher for a several years at St Paul's Catholic School in Evington. The website origin is (quote) "a part-fulfilment of one of many small but unfinished dreams. This dream is to help others in their prayer life and to help the poor". The site certainly fulfills that dream.

When you visit and read the vision for the site you will find there a surprise, as Francis also duplicated Fr John's [letter to the parish](http://www.watermeadapostolate.co.uk) each week from February 2016 - a wonderful archive to share - you also help the vision by donating through the site to help its mission to the poor.

Watermead

Contact us on 0116 2207880 or 07941352885

(if you don't get an answer, please do leave a message)

or use the 'Contact Us' on the apostolate website

www.watermead-apostolate.co.uk/

which also shares our free download resources.

watermead shops

visit www.watermeadgifts.co.uk/

Rosaries, Crosses/Crucifixes, Jewellery, Resources,
Greeting cards (all occasion, seasonal & sacramental),
Mass cards, Books, Music, Statues, Angels, gifts, etc. etc.
Orders from our online shops are beginning to grow and please
do share us with anyone you think may be interested.

For all that Watermead Publishing Apostolate produces see -
www.watermeadshop.co.uk/

→ Pilgrimages →

ROME IN NOVEMBER 2025

The itinerary and necessary information has now been
emailed, so can those going please check their emails.
Hard copies will be posted out along with boarding
passes at the beginning of November.

EASTER IN MALTA 2026

Good Friday Procession, Luqa, Malta

For more information [click here](http://www.watermeadapostolate.co.uk/pilgrimages) to see the video link.

Confirmation of interest has only been received from
4 people (originally 12 persons expressed interest!). We
will extend the interest period whilst we explore prices,
however, if there is no legitimate confirmation of interest,
over the coming weeks we shall not continue with the
suggestion.

Please do email frjohn-pilgrimages@outlook.com if
you are definitely interested.

See also the [Malta page](http://www.watermeadapostolate.co.uk/pilgrimages) on our website for general info.

For more general information on pilgrimages please do visit our
[pilgrimage page](http://www.watermeadapostolate.co.uk/pilgrimages) and read the conditions of travelling with us.

<https://www.watermeadapostolate.co.uk/pilgrimages>

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Wishing you a
Peaceful and Happy



www.watermeadapostolate.co.uk

Keeping Christ in Christmas

Envelope labels for your greeting
cards and general seasonal post.
These are 'free' and if you like
some, phone or email - or see our
shop website for how to obtain.

Last word from Fr John

SUBSCRIBE TO ALL RECORDINGS Each time a
new recording has been edited it is uploaded onto our
update page and the previous recording moved to an archive
page, which has all recordings so far shared.

If you would like to join this page then contact watermead-community@outlook.co.uk giving the email address with
which you would like to subscribe.

You can then listen back to all recordings.

For all information and the latest featured homily
visit: [The Lord's Day page](http://www.watermeadapostolate.co.uk) of our website.

