

## Here's a text if you've only a minute ...

Father, your love for us passes all our hopes and desires.  
(First Opening Prayer)

God's gift was .... the Spirit of power, and love, and self-control..  
So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord.  
( 2nd Letter to Timothy 1: 6-8)

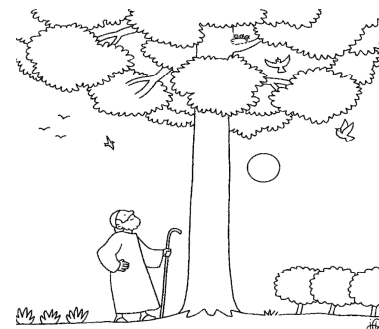
Keep as your pattern the sound teaching you have heard from me,  
in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.  
(2nd Letter to Timothy 1: 13-14)

The Apostles said to the Lord: 'Increase our faith.'  
( Gospel - Luke 17 : 5)

## *Looking towards next week*

What does next week hold for me, and how do I feel God may be calling me?

And so, what do I want to ask of God for myself & others?



27th Sunday in  
Ordinary Time - Year C  
3rd October 2010

**O that today you would listen  
to his voice!  
Harden not your hearts.**

### Opening Prayer (1st Version)

Let us pray before the face of God, in trusting faith:

Almighty and eternal God, Father of the world to come,  
your goodness is beyond what our spirit can touch  
and your strength is more than the mind can bear.

Lead us to see beyond our reach  
and give us the courage to stand before your truth.

- \* I begin my prayer by turning to God with faith, asking him to draw me into the silence of his loving presence.
- \* I read the prayer once or twice, assenting to its truths and making its desires my own.
- \* I recall how God has shown his goodness to me in my own life through the gift of faith and the love and care of family, friends and others. I thank God for this and ask God's blessing on all who have led me closer to him.
- \* I ask God to fill me with the strength to live faithful to him and to have the courage to witness always to his truth, goodness and love. I end with the Our Father.

### **Second Reading - 2nd Letter of St.. Paul to Timothy**

I am reminding you to fan into a flame the gift that God gave you when I laid my hands on you. God's gift was not a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power, and love, and self-control.

So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord, or ashamed of me for being his prisoner; but with me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God.

Keep as your pattern the sound teaching you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. You have been trusted to look after something precious; guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

**These words of encouragement from Paul to Timothy, his convert, are a reminder to us all of the precious gift of faith God has given us and of the need to witness to it in our daily lives through the power of the Spirit living in us.**

= I read the passage slowly and thoughtfully, stopping where a word or phrase touches my heart and moves me to respond. I ask God to 'fan into a flame' his Spirit of love within me now.

= I look at how I witness God's love, through the ways I act, speak and think.

= Am I ashamed or embarrassed to be known as a catholic in my workplace or when people mock my Christian faith? I ask to be strong in my faith but to act gently.

= I reread the passage thanking God for whatever message it has for me and asking to be open to his word and his call. I end with thanksgiving and praise.

### **The Gospel - Luke 17: 5-19**

The Apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.' The Lord replied,

'Were your faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea," and it would obey you.

Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, "Come and have your meal

immediately?" Would he not be more likely to say, "Get my supper laid; make yourself tidy and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink yourself afterwards?" Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told?

So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say "We are merely servants; we have done no more than our duty." '

**As they shared Jesus' mission the Apostles realised that what they most needed was a deeper faith in the God of Jesus and so they ask for this. Using the parable of the mulberry tree Jesus reminds them that genuine faith can bring about extraordinary things. He also teaches them - and us - that doing our duty does not *earn* God's love which is always a free gift.**

I read the Gospel, pondering its message for me and asking God to increase MY faith. Perhaps I put myself in the scene with the Apostles as they listen to the teaching of Jesus and try to understand it. I share my thoughts and desires with Jesus and ask to hear his voice. I wait in silence and openness.

I speak with Jesus about all that is in my mind and heart. I thank him that through my Baptism he has called me to be his disciple and I ask to follow him more closely and faithfully.

I end my prayer, offering myself & my love & my service to him.