



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

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29th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year C. 16th October 2022

The Gospels make explicit God's Word to us, through the teachings of Jesus Christ.
We are disciples of Jesus!

Gospel: Luke 18: 1-8

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. *'There was a judge in a certain town' he said 'who had neither fear of God nor respect for man. In the same town there was a widow who kept on coming to him and saying, "I want justice from you against my enemy!" For a long time he refused, but at last he said to himself, "Maybe I have neither fear of God nor respect for man, but since she keeps pestering me I must give this widow her just rights, or she will persist in coming and worry me to death."' And the Lord said 'You notice what the unjust judge has to say? Now will not God see justice done to his chosen who cry to him day and night even when he delays to help them? I promise you, he will see justice done to them, and done speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth?'*

Summary

Jesus tells a parable about prayer – do not lose heart, for God hears our prayers.

At that time, judges were a law unto themselves but even they could be persuaded to act, in the face of persistence. God hears us and will answer our prayers. **The real test of our faith is to accept that God sometimes answers our prayers in ways we do not expect, nor, even desire.** In our prayers, we must not make demands of God – instead, we must be open to the presence of God in our lives and a willingness to accept His demands of us, whatever they may be. So, be like the persistent widow, staying in relationship with God, confident that God hears and answers our prayers. Jesus concludes, ***"But when the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth?"*** - in this lament, Jesus cautions how easy it can be, for us to lose heart and faith!

This reminds me of St Padre Pio's famous saying: "Pray, hope and don't worry."

Tuesday 18th October is the Feast of St Luke the Evangelist

Evangelist. An evangelist is a proclaimer of the Gospel. To evangelize is to spread the Word of God to others. The New Testament uses the term to describe a traveling missionary (Acts 21:8; Ephesians 4:11; and II Timothy 4:5). As such, it denotes a function rather than an office. Since the third century an evangelist has come to mean principally one of the writers of the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, or, John.

Introduction. In this liturgical year, we have been reading the gospel of Luke, so, it behoves us to honour St Luke the Evangelist and to know more about him.



Who is St Luke the Evangelist? *St Luke was a physician and companion of St Paul, whose gospel preserved the most extensive biography of Jesus Christ. St Luke wrote a greater volume of the New Testament than any other single author, including the earliest history of the Church. Ancient traditions also acknowledge Luke as the founder of Christian iconography, making him a patron of artists as well as doctors and other medical caregivers. Luke came from the large metropolitan city of Antioch, a part of modern-day Turkey. In Luke's lifetime, his native city emerged as an important centre of early Christianity. During the future saint's early years, the city's port had already become a cultural centre, renowned for arts and sciences. Historians do not know whether Luke came to Christianity from Judaism or paganism, although there are strong suggestions that Luke was a gentile convert.*

Educated as a physician in Antioch, Luke was among the most cultured and cosmopolitan members of the early Church. Scholars of archaeology and ancient literature have ranked him among the top historians of his time period, besides noting the outstanding Greek prose style and technical accuracy of his accounts of Christ's life and the apostles' missionary journeys. Other students of biblical history adduce from Luke's writings that he was the only evangelist to incorporate the personal testimony of the Blessed Virgin Mary, whose role in Christ's life emerges most clearly in his gospel. Tradition credits him with painting several icons of Christ's mother, and one of the sacred portraits ascribed to him – known by the title "Salvation of the Roman People," survives to this day in the Basilica of St Mary Major.

Some traditions hold that Luke became a direct disciple of Jesus before His ascension, while others hold that he became a believer later. After St Paul's conversion, Luke accompanied him as his personal physician-- and, in effect, as a kind of biographer, since the journeys of Paul on which Luke accompanied him occupy a large portion of the Acts of the Apostles. Luke probably wrote this text, the final narrative portion of the New Testament, in the city of Rome where the account ends. Luke was also among the only companions of Paul who did not abandon him during his final imprisonment and death in Rome. After the martyrdom of St Paul in the year 67, St Luke is said to have preached elsewhere throughout the Mediterranean, and possibly died as a martyr. However, even tradition is unclear on this point. Fittingly, **the evangelist whose travels and erudition could have filled volumes, wrote just enough to proclaim the gospel and apostolic preaching to the world.**

Reference: Catholic News Agency

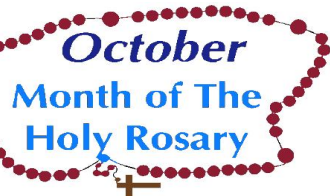
Portrait "Salvation of the Roman People" in the Basilica of St Mary Major.



This portrait (ascribed to St Luke) is in a side chapel of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major, in Rome. The image got its name (*Salus Populi Romani*) because in the 6th century Pope Gregory I, carried the icon in procession through the streets of Rome begging the Virgin to end a plague. Our Lady granted the prayers of the Holy Father and the people of Rome. Since then, the image has become the centre of Marian devotion in the Eternal City. It was to this same Church, that Pope Francis went in pilgrimage, to pray before the *Salus Populi Romani*, to protect Rome, Italy and the rest of the world, at the start of COVID, in March 2020.

At this time of pandemics, wars and upheavals, let us pray to the mother of God, who is our mother as well, to protect us from harm and to bring us closer to her Son!

In the Month of October, We Honour Our Lady of the Rosary.



In the month of October, we can get back to the practice of praying the rosary, or to praying it more often, or, to praying it more deeply. The rosary is esteemed because it involves the body and the soul. As each Hail Mary is prayed, a bead is physically touched and the person moves through the rosary reflecting on each mystery. The beads are helpful and remind us

to focus our minds and heart on prayer. Even if we are distracted, the beads call us back. **Pope Francis has highlighted the ease of praying the rosary and called on believers to pray, or, at least to carry the rosary with them: "I invite you to pray the rosary, and to carry it in your hands or in your pockets. The recitation of the rosary is the most beautiful prayer we can offer to the Virgin Mary; it is a contemplation on the stages of the life of Jesus the Saviour with his Mother Mary and is a weapon that protects us from evils and temptations."**

The rosary has been called our "link to heaven," by some saints, since the rosary keeps us connected to prayer, to Mary, and to our Lord Jesus Christ. We can say the Rosary quietly and individually, or, as a family, or, as a group of parishioners at our Marian Chapel at church. **Holy Rosary prayer cards are always available at our Marian Chapel.**

When Mary speaks, God listens.

Parish Worship Schedule

A parish is a community of disciples of Jesus, who gather to celebrate the Mass and to "live the Gospel." **We are a community of Jesus' disciples and our church is here for our collective and individual worship and prayers.** We welcome the faithful to our Mass, or, to light a candle at our Marian chapel, or, to just pray in silence; and to grow spiritually.

Mass Times	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu & Fri	8.00 am (the Rosary after)
Mass Time	Saturday	6.00 pm
Mass Time	Sunday	9.30 am
Reconciliation	Saturday night	5.15 – 5.45 pm
Anointing of the Sick	Liaise with Fr Greg	
Baptisms, marriages and funerals	Liaise with Fr Greg	

Our Prayers of the Faithful

The Church expects that each parish community would prepare their own prayers so that all the community can join in the sacred intercessory prayer (Prayers of the Faithful) at Mass. In our parish prayers of the faithful, we pray to the Lord, to help and comfort our sick and suffering. We also pray for the souls of our recently departed, as well as, for those whose anniversaries, we remember at Mass today.

Prayers for Our Sick and Suffering

Tony Galvez, Jenny Cassin, Betsy De Wass, Frank De Luis, Nigel, Christina Sim, Maria Marshall, Claire Webster, Ivan Fletcher, Fabian Edmunds, Celia, Crowley family, Joe Sundaram, Thilak, Diana Scully, Bluey Thompson, Celeste Vicensoni, Carla, Annette, Joe Gibson, Georgina and Ronnie Ghosh, Gemma Altieri, Fred Kara, Reg Brown, Mary & Derrick Jansen, Marie Webster Viola, Gerry and Maisie Prendergast, James Rydqvist, Annie Magdalena Rydqvist, Anne Rydqvist, Dr Andrew Chilufya Snr, Robbie Iliffe, Donna Green, Horatio Hill, Ilean Wright, Cathy and Peter Ghouse, Jimmy Olivero, Kaye McIntyre, Jeff and Tony Francis, Fr Andre, Sheila Vanwieringan, CD Joseph, Marina Lim, Wendy Price, Julie Pinto, Christopher Jaffer, Bonnie Sullivan, Joslyn De Sylva and Philomena Rodrigues.

Prayers for our Recently Deceased

Bertha Lyddy.

"God blesses those people who grieve. They will find comfort" (Matthew 5:4).

Anniversaries of our Beloved Departed

Norbert La Fontaine (13 Oct), Geoffrey Patience (14 Oct), Giuseppe Patullo (15 Oct), Stan Lorenc (15 Oct), George D'Souza (16 Oct), Richard Urch (16 Oct), Gladys Burgess (17 Oct), Gwen Michael (18 Oct), Umberto Musumeci (18 Oct), Paddy Prendergast (19 Oct) and all our departed relatives and friends.

Jesus assured Martha at the tomb of Lazarus: "I am the Resurrection and the life; whoever believes in Me will live even though he dies" (John 11: 25-26).

Note: Parishioners may email Cliff at: cliffordgerard@bigpond.com, for any additions (or deletions) to our lists of sick, recently deceased and anniversaries, whom you wish to be included in our "Prayers of the Faithful."

Everyone has a name, and if we are to pray for them, we should say their name.

Our Next Parish St Vincent de Paul Donations is 05th/06th November



For parishioners who may wish to contribute to this worthy program, any non-perishable food in tins, packets or boxes will do (but no glass please). In addition to a food hamper, a \$30 Woolworths voucher is usually provided to enable the purchase of essentials like; fresh fruit and vegetables, baby food and more. **Cash donations may be deposited in our SVDP/poor donation box at the entrance of the church, to enable the purchase of cash vouchers.**

Parishioners who may need a "helping hand," may contact the SVDP Society for assistance, or speak with our local SVDP representatives: **Bruno George (mobile: 0470571041)** at Wilson Parish, or, **Sister wCharla (telephone: 93545083)** at Riverton Parish. **The names of those requesting and receiving assistance is always confidential.**

