

October 1st

Let us imagine seeing Jesus walking decisively on his final journey towards Jerusalem and his inevitable fate, and ask for the grace to have the courage to follow Him closely.

October 2nd

Jesus told us to be like children, not considering ourselves self-sufficient, but in need of help, of love, of forgiveness. Lord, help us to forget our pride, and be like children.

October 3rd

Jesus said to his disciples, *"The harvest is abundant, but the labourers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out labourers for his harvest."* Lord, show us what to do, to do your will.

October 4th

Jesus said to them, *"Woe to you, Chorazin and Bethsaida! If the mighty deeds done in your midst had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would long ago have repented. But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you."* Lord, help us to realise that hearing your word and not acting on it is not an option.

October 5th

At that very moment Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I give you praise, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your

gracious will." Lord, give us the grace to set aside the wisdom of mankind and trust in you as a child would.

October 6th

When Jesus saw this, he became indignant and said to the disciples, "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Lord, give us the grace to trust you utterly.

October 7th

After telling the scholar the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus said this to him, *"Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbour to the robbers' victim?"* He answered, *"The one who treated him with mercy."* Jesus said to him, *"Go and do likewise."* Lord, give us the grace to be merciful to everyone, not just to those who we think deserve mercy.

October 8th

Referring to when Jesus visited Martha and Mary, Lord, give us the grace to value listening to your words as much as Mary did.

October 9th

Jesus said to the disciples, "Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." Lord, let us never forget that we are the lights that must shine.

October 10th

Jesus said to his disciples, ... "If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?" Lord, give us the grace of hope and to never tire of coming to you for help.

October 11th

Jesus said to those around, *"Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters."* Father, help us to realise that being passive in our faith is not an option.

October 12th

It happened that as he was speaking, a woman ... said, 'Blessed the womb that bore you and the breasts that you sucked!' But Jesus replied, 'Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!' Lord, instil in us the importance of acting on your words.

October 13th

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Lord, help us to accept that though we will always fail in some way to give you the total commitment you demand, we should rejoice that you offer us eternal life as a free gift of your divine grace.

October 14th

When the apostles were arguing about which of them was the greatest, Jesus said, *"Let the greatest among you be as the youngest, and the leader as the*

servant. Lord, help us to rid ourselves of pride and acknowledge that we are here to serve, not be served.

October 15th

Jesus said to him, "Oh you Pharisees! Although you cleanse the outside of the cup and the dish, inside you are filled with plunder and evil." Lord, you know us inside out; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit.

October 16th

Jesus said, *"Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."* Lord Jesus, let us rest in your arms.

October 17th

St Paul wrote, *'In Christ we have redemption by his Blood, the forgiveness of transgressions, in accord with the riches of his grace that he lavished upon us.'* Father in Heaven, take away from us the idea that we have to somehow earn your forgiveness; rather, let us simply live and rejoice in your free gift.

October 18th

The Lord Jesus appointed 72 disciples whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is abundant, but the labourers are few." Lord Jesus, we are the labourers now; fill our hearts with the Holy Spirit to guide us in this.

October 19th

Jesus said to his disciples: "I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man will acknowledge before the angels of God. But whoever denies me before others will be denied before the angels of God. Lord Jesus, let us always be confident to acknowledge our faith before others.

October 20th

Let us do as the writer of Hebrews says, "We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin. So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help."

October 21st

Jesus said to the crowd, "Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions." Lord, help us to get our priorities right.

October 22nd

Jesus said to his disciples: "Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks." Father in Heaven, every time we say the Lord's prayer, we say "Forgive us our trespasses." Give us the grace to never put off repentance.

October 23rd

St Paul wrote, "Christ indeed died for all, so that those who live might no longer live for themselves." Father, give us the

grace to live to do your will and not for ourselves.

October 24th

Let us say, "Amen" to St Paul's prayer for us all: "This, then, is why I bend the knee to the Father, from whom every fatherhood, in heaven or on earth, takes its name. According to the wealth of his glory may you be strengthened in power through the Spirit with regard to your inner being, so that through faith Christ may live in your hearts as you are planted and founded in love, so that with all the saints you may have the strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and the depth; and to know the love of Christ, which transcends all knowledge, so that you may be filled with the whole fullness of God. To him whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine be the glory from generation to generation in the Church and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen."

October 25th

Lord, give us the grace to live as St Paul says: "I urge you to live ... with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace; one Body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

October 26th

Jesus said to the people, "Do you think that because these Galileans (killed by Pilate) suffered in this way they were greater sinners? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!" Father, give us the grace to take Jesus' urgent warning to our hearts.

October 27th

Jesus said to Bartimaeus (the blind beggar who wouldn't stop calling out to him), "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man replied to him, "Master, I want to see." Jesus told him, "Go your way; your faith has saved you." Immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way. Father, give us the grace of faith as strong as Bartimaeus'.

October 28th

Jesus went up to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God. Jesus felt the need to spend the night in prayer; how much time do we spend in prayer?

October 29th

From Ps 128: Blessed are you who fear the LORD, who walk in his ways! For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork; blessed shall you be, and favoured. Father, give us the grace to walk in your ways.

October 30th

Jesus answered them, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough". Father, while

we rejoice in your free gift of salvation, give us the strength to continue striving to enter the narrow gate.

October 31st

St Paul wrote: "Put on the full armour of God to be able to resist the devil's tactics. Our struggle is not against human enemies, but against rulers, authorities and the cosmic powers of this darkness, the spirits of evil in the heavenly places. Take up the full armour of God so that you may be able to resist on the evil day, and with full exertion stand your ground. Stand your ground, with truth a belt round your waist, and wearing the breastplate of righteousness, on your feet readiness for the gospel of peace, and in all circumstances bearing the shield of faith with which you will quench the burning arrows of the Evil One. Take up the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Keep praying in the Spirit on every possible occasion, alert to the Spirit in all perseverance and intercession for all the saints.

Churches Together in Fordingbridge and District Prayer Link

October 2024

Inspired by the Bible readings for the day. Prepared by the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows and St Philip Benizi