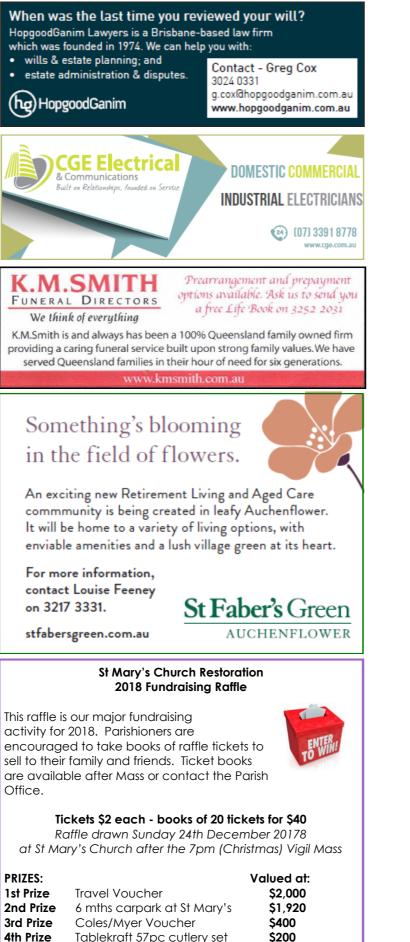


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EMBRACING THE COMMUNITIES OF: St Mary's - South Brisbane; St Ita's - Dutton Park; St Francis of Assisi - West End & Our Lady of Perpetual Succour - Fairfield. Under the care of the Capuchin Franciscan Friars

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B) 28th October 2018

Dear Parishioners,

One of the questions I often get asked about prayer is: Why should we pray when God already knows our needs? Why tell God what He already knows or ask Him to do what He already wants to do?

I think we all struggle with this question in prayer. First of all, there are two reasons we don't pray:

- We don't pray to impress God. You don't have to use poetic language or be an amateur Shakespeare. If an earthly child can speak to an earthly father, you can speak to your Heavenly Father. We're told to cry out to Him as our "Abba" Father - literally translated, "Daddy." (Rom 8:15, Gal 4:6). We're not praying to impress Him.
- We don't pray to inform God. You can't tell God anything He doesn't know.

So if we don't pray to impress or inform God, why then do we pray?

Today's Gospel gives a good answer to our question. St Mark says a huge crowd was following Jesus as He left Jericho. A blind beggar named Bartimaeus was sitting beside the road as Jesus was going by.

When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was nearby, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" They tried to stop him but he yelled out even louder. Finally Jesus allowed him to approach to Him.

Then Jesus asked him, 'What do you want me to do for you?'

Anyone watching would no doubt have thought that it must be obvious that the man wanted Jesus to restore

MASS TIMES

St Mary's Church (20 Merivale St. South Brisbane) Mon-Fri 7am; Sat 8am *(Rosary after Mass)* Sunday 9am and 5pm

St Francis' Church (47 Dornoch Tce., West End) Mon-Fri 10am (*Rosary before Mass at 9.30am*) (*Anointing:1st Friday*); Sunday: 9am

St Ita's Church (Pope St., Dutton Park) Saturday (Vigil) 5pm; Sunday 8.00am

Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour (Victoria St., Fairfield) Sunday 7am (*Anointing:1st Sunday*)

Confession

St Mary's Church: Fri 7.30am—8am Sat 8.30-9.30am; Sun 4-4.45pm **St Ita's Church:** Sat 4-4.50pm



his sight and yet Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you." (Mark 10:51)

Why in the world did Jesus ask the blind man this question? Didn't He already know what the man needed? Couldn't Jesus read his mind? Didn't he know what the man's problem was? Absolutely. So why in the world would Jesus look at him and ask, "What do you want me to do for you?"

Prayer, like everything else in the Christian life, is for God's glory and for our benefit, in that order. Everything that God does, everything that God allows and ordains, is in the supreme sense for His glory. It is also true that while God seeks His own glory supremely, and we benefit when God is glorified. We pray to glorify God, but we also pray in order to receive the benefits of prayer from His hand. Prayer is for our benefit, even in light of the fact that God knows the end from the beginning. It is our privilege to bring the whole of our finite existence into the glory of His infinite presence.

Jesus was actually doing it for Bartimaeus' benefit. By asking the question, 'What do you want me to do for you?' He allowed Bartimaeus to publicly announce his faith. Bartimaeus said, "I want you to heal me!" You don't ask a person to heal you unless you believe and have faith that He can do it. Bartimaeus was saying that he believed Jesus was who He said He was, that Jesus had the power to change him, and that Jesus would do just that. It was a statement of faith.

And so Jesus asks us the very same question: "What do you want me to do for you?" If Our Lord were to come

PARISH OFFICE

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Parish Priest: Fr. Lam Vu OFM Cap Ass. Parish Priest: Fr. Bollar Barreto OFM Cap Parish Pastoral Co-Ordinator: Sr Salvacion Bunao SFI Parish Secretary: Bernadette Maguire Sacramental Administrator: Kate Dart Safeguarding Officers: Sarah Grealy (0434 889 110) Chris Bolger (0407 480 205)

ST ITA'S SCHOOL

Phone: (07)3838 8400 Email: pduttonpark@bne.catholic.edu.au Web: www.stitasduttonpark.qld.edu.au to you right now and ask that question, how would you answer? God wants to use you. He wants to bless you. He wants to do incredible things in your life. But you have to ask in faith.

So be a believer of Jesus Christ! Announced your faith publicly, live it publicly and do not be afraid to be a follower of Christ.

Finally, this weekend we are having a third collection in all of our churches. This important collection will seek to raise much needed funds for the earthquake victims in Indonesia. I ask that you please give generously.

Pax et bonum

Fr Lam Vu OFM Cap

PARISH ACTIVITIES

BAPTISMS

Saturday | 9.30am | monthly 1st Saturday St Francis' 2nd Saturday St Mary's **3rd Saturday** St Ita's Family preparation sessions are held at St Ita's church on the first Thursday night of each month at 6.30pm

> St Mary's Church Adoration Sunday | 4-5pm Church open 12-2pm | Monday to Friday

Awaken: Together in Christ Every Tuesday | 7pm St Francis Hall, 47 Dornoch Terrace, West End website: awaken.org.au

St Francis Cake Stall Third Sunday of the month After the 9am mass | baking on the Saturday prior

St Francis Table Every Monday | 10am - 1pm St Francis Hall, 47 Dornoch Terrace, West End

Anointing of the Sick and Morning Tea First Friday of the Month | 10am | St Francis First Sunday of the month |7am | OLPS Fairfield

Morning Tea

First Sunday of the month | after 9am mass | St Francis

St Ita's Family Mass

Fourth Saturday of the month | 5pm | St Ita's Church (school term only)

This Week's Liturgical Calendar (Psalm Responses) 30th Week in Ordinary Time

Monday 29th: R/ Behave like God as his very dear children. Tuesday 30th: R/ Happy are those who fear the Lord. Wednesday 31st: R/ The Lord is faithful in all his words. Thursday 1st: All Saints Day (Solemnity) R/Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face. Friday 2nd: The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day) R/ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Saturday 3rd: St Martin de Porres (Memorial) R/ My soul is thirsting for the living God.

Entrance Antiphon

cf. Ps 104:3-4 Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

Jeremiah 31:7-9 First readina I shall lead them back in mercy - both the blind and the lame.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 125.R.v.3 R/ The Lord has done areat thinas for us; we are filled with joy.

cf. 2 Tim1:10

Second reading Hebrews 5:1-6 You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Our saviour Jesus Christ has done away with death, and brought us life through his gospel. Alleluia!

Mark 10:46-52 Gospel As Jesus left Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (that is, the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and to say, 'Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me.' and many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he only shouted all the louder, 'Son of David, have pity on me.' Jesus stopped and said, 'Call him here.' So they called the blind man. 'Courage,' they said, 'get up; he is calling you.' so throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus spoke, 'What do you want me to do to you?' 'Rabuni,' the blind man said to him, 'Master, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has saved you.' And immediately his sight returned and he followed him along the road.

Cf. Ps 19:6 Communion Antiphon

Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

Next Sunday's readings: 1st reading: Deut 6:2-6; 2nd reading: Heb 7:23-28 Gospel: Mk 12:28-34

Excerpts from the Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL)" and "Excerpts from Universalis © 1996-2017 Universalis Publishing Limited: see www.universalis.com

Last Month's Collection Totals (September 2018)	
<u>South Brisbane</u>	
1st Collection:	\$3,351.30
2nd Collection:	\$2,376.65
Dutton Park	
1st Collection:	\$4,606.50
2nd Collection:	\$4,384.15

All Saints and All Souls Mass Times

All Saints, Thursday 1st November

7am St Mary's Church 8.45am St Ita's School Mass 10am St Francis Church 6.00pm St Francis Church ***please note church change***

All Souls, Friday 2nd November

7am St Mary's Church 10am St Francis Church

2 Minute Catechism Why have a Mass for a Deceased Loved One?

Before we can answers this question we need to ask a few different questions including:

- Can you pray for the dead?
- What is the Mass? And why is it valuable?
- Can we pray for the dead? If so, why?
- And finally, if we can pray for the dead, is the Mass the greatest prayer we can make for them?

We will explore these questions and answers over the next couple of weeks...

Can you pray for the dead?

It has become guite common when people die to display flowers or candles to remember their passing. This gesture is done instinctively to honour their memory, perhaps even as a way of offering a prayer for them. We seem to all want to find a fitting way to remember those who have left us. Unfortunately, some have come to question why we pray for the dead. They believe that once someone has died there is nothing else that can be done for them. They think it is more important to pray for those who are grieving, who are suffering now.

The Tradition of Praying for the Dead

Prayers for the dead have been offered for many centuries. The earliest reference in the Bible is found in the second book of Maccabees. Judas Maccabees was an important Jewish general of the second century before Christ. He led his army to success in a hard fought battle. The following day he, along with his soldiers, returned to the battlefield to gather together the bodies of the soldiers who had fallen in battle. They wished to give them a respectful funeral. To their surprise, they found that the soldiers were wearing pagan amulets and had hidden them under their tunics. They had been taken from enemy soldiers who had died in a battle in Jamnia (1 Maccabees 5:58). According to Deuteronomy 7:25-26, these items should have been burned. Instead, these soldiers hid them, most likely out of greed.

Judas Maccabees and the surviving soldiers knew that they had committed a grave sin, an action that was forbidden by the Law. Yet they also knew that these men were otherwise good people, people who had died virtuously by courageously defending the law of God. They immediately offered prayers and sacrifices for these Jewish soldiers who died wearing pagan amulets. The second book of Maccabees states:

Turning to supplication, they prayed that the sinful deed might be fully blotted out... He then took up a collection amona all the soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an explatory sacrifice. In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection in mind ... Thus he [Judas Maccabees] made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from their sin (2 Maccabees 12: 42-43, 46).

Judas and his companions prayed that God might deliver these soldiers from their sin and assist them on their journey to eternal light. This is the first indication we have in the Bible that the prayers of the living can help deliver the dead from any sin that might separate them from God's presence and prevent them from finding eternal peace and life. The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council mentioned that the Church has honoured the memory of the dead from the beginning (Lumen Gentium 50). The Christian community in Rome gathered in the catacombs under the city to pray for those faithful followers of Christ who had been buried there. They believed that their prayers served to assist those who

had died, just as the prayers of the dead could also aid the living members of the community. Pope St. Gregory the Great (540-604) would often offer Masses on behalf of the souls in Purgatory. He recounted the story of a monk who repented of his sins while lying on his deathbed. St. Gregory, who was the abbot, instructed that Masses should be said in his favour. After 30 days, his soul appeared to a brother announcing that he was now free of Purgatory and had entered heaven.

The Catholic Church has taught for centuries that our prayers are of assistance to those who have died. We commend their soul to God's mercy and pray for them. We can help them not only by our prayers, but also by offering a Mass in their name, by giving alms, by indulgences or other works of penance done for their benefit.

Excerpt taken from: http://www.catholicstand.com/praying-for-the-souls-ofthe-dead-a-catholic-tradition/

St Francis Cake Stall - Last Weekend

THANK YOU to all who purchased goods and to the bakers who donated their goods to the bake stall last weekend. All proceeds are heading out to the Roma Parish to help rural families in need.

> St Mary - Sunday 4th November There will be no morning tea

as the parish is having a sausage sizzle after the 9am and 5pm masses to raise funds for Church Restoration Projects

Awaken Together In Christ Tuesday 30th October - 7pm Meditation

Final Week of Drought Appeal

If you would like to donate towards this fund please do so before Sunday 11th November. With thanks.

November Masses

These are offered for the living and the dead, our deceased relatives, friends and benefactors, and for those other deceased in need of God's mercy.

In November, the month of the Holy Souls, we especially pray for the Faithful departed. You can find the November envelopes at the entrance of the church or on the pews. The recommended minimum stipend for one November Mass (by Archdiocesan law) is \$20.

Please put the names of the deceased you wish to be remembered on the envelopes provided and place them in either Sunday collection.

VOCATION WEEKEND WITH THE CAPUCHIN FRIARS



Visit www.capuchin.org.au

For young men (18-35 yrs) to come away and reflect on those most important of questions: "Lord, what are you asking of me? How are you calling me to give?"

A great opportunity to pray and reflect on the vocations of the priesthood &/or religious life.

Venue: Marian Valley (near Canungra) When: 16-18 November 2018 Cost: \$30

Mass on Sat & Sunday; Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction; Talks to guide your reflections; Quiet time for prayer; Vocation testimonies; Opportunity to ask Qns & seek guidance. Spaces are limited so vou must register.

Contact Fr Thomas: 0432 362 052 or email vocations@capuchinfriars.org.au