

## Resources on the Sunday Readings – Easter 7

Picture Reflection (p1+2), Bible Reading & Study Questions (p2+3)

See separate families' sheet.

### Picture Reflection

The potential of prayer - John 17: 6-19

*This week we are in the season of **Thy Kingdom Come** a time when we take some time to explore the breadth and potential of prayer in our lives. Our gospel reading is Jesus' prayer for his friends in the uncertain times ahead for them when he knows that he will no longer be with them in person. Our relationship with God, through prayer, continues to shape and inform everything we encounter in our daily lives.*



- This image was created by an artist in response to Jesus' prayer for his friends...

You might like to read the Bible passage **John 17: 6-19** and see how the artist used that passage...

- Spend a few minutes with the image....what can you see?
- What might the 'invading darts and arrows' have been for Jesus' disciples? What might they be in our lives?
- What comfort is shown in the image when we are attacked by the darts and arrows?
- How does prayer help us in uncertain times? Reflect on one or more occasions in your life when prayer has helped you...
- Reflect on the potential for prayer in our lives and how prayer may help us go out into the world to follow God's will....**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done...**

*The Lord's Prayer:*

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;*

***Thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.***

*Give us this day our daily bread.*

*And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.*

*And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.*

*For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen*

## **Bible Study Questions.**

### **Points to ponder for a Bible Study for Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

#### **Acts 1: vv,15-17, 21-end**

<sup>15</sup> In those days Peter stood up among the believers<sup>[d]</sup> (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, <sup>16</sup> 'Friends,<sup>[e]</sup> the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— <sup>17</sup> for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.'

<sup>21</sup> So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup> beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.' <sup>23</sup> So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. <sup>24</sup> Then they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup> to take the place<sup>[g]</sup> in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' <sup>26</sup> And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

In the Acts reading we hear that the eleven needed to appoint a successor to replace the traitor Judas, and to fulfil the word of the psalmist David (PS 109:8). They drew up a short list of two from those who had also accompanied Jesus in his ministry – Joseph, and Matthias. They prayed for guidance in the final selection, but, in the end, they decided by casting lots.

How strange that seems to us, that something this important would be decided by the toss of a coin, although we sometimes have to do that to decide a draw or dead-heat.

Imagine you were one of the eleven, and think about making this choice.

- How would you have made the decision about the best candidate to become the twelfth disciple?
- What characteristics would you look for in choosing an apostle, an ambassador, a messenger?
- How would you describe the difference between a disciple and an apostle? (If you didn't hear this Sunday's sermon!)

## John 17: vv. 6-19.

<sup>6</sup> 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup> for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. <sup>12</sup> While I was with them, I protected them in your name that <sup>[a]</sup> you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, <sup>[b]</sup> so that the scripture might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup> But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. <sup>[c]</sup> <sup>14</sup> I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>15</sup> I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. <sup>[d]</sup> <sup>16</sup> They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

In our other reading we learn that Jesus prayed for his disciples as he was about to leave them. In a way this concluded any other unfinished business, and gave them guidance and hope for their future role without his physical companionship. He prayed that they might be one, with themselves and with God.

- What essential function was expected of the twelve, after Jesus left them at his Ascension?
- Jesus prayed that they might succeed. His confidence would be gratefully accepted, by it would also put pressure on them not to let him down. How do you react to the knowledge that God has faith in us, that Jesus has confidence in us to be his Church?
- How unified are today's disciples? What holds them/us together in God's name?