



SUNDAY 27 JULY 2025

DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

The Parishes of: Bishop Auckland || Newton Aycliffe & Shildon || Willington
Crook, Tow Law & Wolsingham || Tudhoe || Coundon, Ferryhill & Windlestone

ESCOMB PARTNERSHIP NOTE

17th Sunday of the Year—Luke 11:1-13

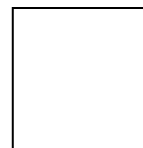
“You can’t email God”, the young teenager said. And I felt something of a generation gap big time. Being brought up well before internet days, prayer was and is about spoken words and silence. The novel idea of the possibility of emailing God caught me on the hop, and apart from being an exciting thought, it reminded me strongly how so much of our communication has now become wrapped in technology. But we do communicate. Even not communicating is giving a message.

We still have much to learn from giving God our time - or indeed giving anyone our time. Consciously attending to the presence of someone else is sacred stuff though we carry most of it lightly.

Today’s Gospel is about praying. Jesus, our God and human brother, lived in contact with the Father through the Holy Spirit all the time. The Gospels show us moments of connection where he shares something of the intimacy he has with his Father - and our Father. His relationship is unique. So is mine, yours and everyone’s. Our God chooses to live within us, but our awareness of his presence can and does differ wildly. Praying is a crafty way of being drawn into the intimacy of God’s love. Jesus prayed, honouring and delighting in his Father and the Spirit. And he comes for us, to take us into the wonder and creative power of God. He wants us to pray and to help us to pray. It’s the language and daily traffic of relationship.

We might often try to make things work before reading the instructions. So Jesus gives us a template for prayer. No matter how many years we’ve been praying, The Lord’s Prayer gives us a ‘How to’ pattern not to be ignored. Notice the language - we do not pray alone. It’s our Father, and give us our daily bread. It’s we not just I, seeking forgiveness as we forgive, and It’s together that we ask to be led away from temptation and delivered from evil. Jesus’ instruction is social. God is ours, we are his. Praying with others in church or anywhere says so much about relationship. It all started with God who made the first move. Our God came to live with us. He now lives to intercede for us. What a joy!

Jesus’ insistent examples of the Father who is in love with us are given to help us appreciate that God always responds, though not always in line with our detailed requests. Prayer is God’s business. He is the source and definition of relationship. Joining Jesus in prayer supports our requests to the Father. It’s why we ask ‘in Jesus’ name’ or ‘through Christ our Lord’. He gives us the assurance that the Holy Spirit is given to us, seeing us through every request and episode of our days. It’s yet a further reminder we are being loved now and always. It’s time to give thanks.



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Another Word from Pope Francis

I dream of a “missionary option”, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation. The renewal of structures demanded by pastoral conversion can only be understood in this light: as part of an effort to make them more mission-orientated, to make ordinary pastoral activity on every level more inclusive and open, to inspire in pastoral workers a constant desire to go forth and in this way to elicit a positive response from all those whom Jesus summons to friendship with himself. As John Paul II once said to the Bishops of Oceania: “All renewal in the Church must have mission as its goal if it is not to fall prey to a kind of ecclesial introversion”.

- *The Joy of the Gospel para 27*