

# Formed in Prayer

For use in personal or staff prayer



## 1. Beginning

- Be still and ask the Holy Spirit to be with you.
- Give thanks to God for the blessings in your life.
- Ask for forgiveness and surrender worries to God.
- Pray the opening prayer.

## Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, I/we ask that you be present in this space. I/we pray that you speak to us through the words of scriptures, forming us through this prayer. I/we ask that the Holy Spirit guides us closer to your likeness.

## 2. Listening to the Gospel - Sunday 20th September

Matthew 20:1-16

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius[a] for the day and sent them into his vineyard. “About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. “He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’ “‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered. “He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’ “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’ “The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’ “But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

## 3. Reflection and Quiet Time

There are two key insights that speak to me from this Gospel;

The first being that there is nothing we can do by any human effort to earn, negotiate or buy the unconditional love of God. A love given freely and undeservedly through creation, life’s blessings and His mercy; to anyone who opens their arms to receive it.

The second key insight happens to feature a lot recently, particularly in more secular thinking, however, it is focused on this timeless truth that a key element to human flourishing and finding deep joy is found in understanding what it means to live life with a spirit of gratitude. At the heart of gratitude is this reality check that I am blessed and a sense of gratefulness for what I have and the blessings in my life. The challenge is to not let hardships or negative experiences prevent us from seeing these gifts.

Ultimately gratitude is the realisation that what each one is offered is what each one needs: what Jesus calls ‘our daily bread’ (6:11). In this reality we are to wonder at God’s generosity. There is no place for envy. For to not live in this spirit of Gratitude is bound to lead one down the spiral of never feeling content.

## 4. Pray for Your Intentions

- Yourself, family and friends
- School or ministry
- Strength, courage or guidance
- Any other needs

## 5. Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus,

When you walked this earth you healed many, gave speech to the dumb and sight to the blind. Jesus heal my blindness, that at times prevents me from seeing the way that you love me and have provided me each day with your daily bread.

Thankyou for you unfailing and unconditional love that you have for me, may I bear witness to those in my community that do not know you or these truths.

In your name we pray. Amen.

“The world offers you comfort. But you were not made for comfort. You were made for Greatness!”

- Pope Benedict XVI