

# 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 27th September

Mt 21: 28-32

“What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’ ‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. ‘Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go. ‘Which of the two did what his father wanted?’ ‘The first,’ they answered. Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.’”

## 3. Reflection and Quiet Time

The day prior, Jesus was clearing out the temple and overturning tables from the godlessness that had crept in. It was like he had taken a scraper blade and was removing the barnacles off the pilings as the boat was coming in to anchor. In this encounter the Pharisees had questioned Jesus by what authority he was teaching as he was evoking change and renewal which made them feel uncomfortable. These barnacles had built upon the hearts of the Pharisees who had been ignoring the state of their boat. Jesus, seeing in them their unbelief and hardened hearts, teaches them this parable and suggests to them and to us to keep looking inwardly at ourselves to see where we are ‘missing the mark’, where we have become stagnate, blind and comfortable. Let us in humility look inwardly more often and reflect on the state of our soul. Let us identify where the barnacles are building up, and through personal repentance and sacramental grace, ask Jesus to restore our temple and steer us back to truth, beauty and goodness. Let us risk discomfort for the glory of salvation and let Jesus anchor in our hearts.

## 4. Pray for Your Intentions

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

## 5. Closing Prayer

Lord,  
Open the eyes of my heart and take me to new depths.  
Help me to decrease so that you may increase.  
Make me new in your Spirit and anchor in my heart.

Amen.

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