

# Formed in Prayer



*Let us be still  
and ask the Holy Spirit to be with us.*

Dear Father, be with us as we pray.  
Open our ears to hear your Word in the Gospel.  
Unite us in faith, hope and love as we pray together.  
Send your Holy Spirit to inspire  
and sustain us in our mission.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Gospel

Luke 11:1-13

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.’ He said to them, ‘Say this when you pray:

“Father, may your name be held holy, your kingdom come;  
give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins,  
for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us. And do not put us to the test.”

He also said to them, ‘Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, “My friend, lend me three loaves, because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him”; and the man answers from inside the house, “Do not bother me. The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it to you.” I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it him for friendship’s sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants. ‘So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. What father among you would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or hand him a snake instead of a fish? Or hand him a scorpion if he asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!’

*What words or phrases struck you in Sunday’s Gospel reading?*

*What might God be prompting you to consider or inviting you to do in and through the Gospel?*

## Reflection

In this week’s Gospel there are three key things that stand out. Firstly the call to prayer and to be in communication with God; not so much formally but in the way that I best hear God’s Word and am drawn out of the monologue that can sometimes be my repetitive (safe) approach to prayer. Because what if I was to hear God’s Word spoken to me? Secondly, the desire of our God to give good things to those that ask and seek Him out. The Gospel speaks of the provident hand of our God; a God that wants to give us more than our earthly parents could possibly give us. Thirdly a call to be steadfast and seek our God out and to be consistent in our petitions that we lay before Him, particularly in the intercession of people and concerns that we pray for; a sentiment Pope Francis recently discussed in calling us to be more like little children who never seem to take their parents NO for an answer put with an innocent persistence keep asking please Mum, please Dad, can I have... “seek and you will find”. (*Lidia Galea, CSYMA Curriculum Leader*)

## Prayer

Heavenly Father I continue to lay down before you my intercessions  
(Pause for 20 seconds of silence and call to mind the people and loved ones that need your prayers)  
I lay these friends, family and concerns at your feet.  
May you provide and fill them with your blessing and a special grace to give them what they need.  
Amen.