



17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 11: 1-13

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." And he said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.'"

And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything'? I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Some things to think about...

When we are unsure of things, we can ask Jesus to teach us, just like the disciples did. In our work as Mini Vinnies we may come across people who need help but we are not sure how we can help them. This is when we ask for Jesus' help.

Sometimes, when we are working to help people, we may not see a change straight away, but if we have patience and keep going it will make a difference.

By helping people as Mini Vinnies, we are able to be God's hands and God's feet.

Activity

Collect a cut out hand and write down something you know that one of your family members needs or has asked for. This needs to be something you can give or provide yourself, for example a hug when they are sad, some help with the dishes etc. Try to do the things that you have written down for your family member. After the week is over discuss the response of the people who you have assisted.

Also this week try and pray the Our Father slowly each day as a reminder of your task to bring about God's Kingdom through your work as Mini Vinnies.

Materials needed for the activity:

Hand template

Teacher's Notes

In this scripture the disciples ask Jesus to teach them how to pray. After telling them how to pray, Jesus begins to speak to the disciples about persistence. He uses a story to help us understand what he means. In the story he talks about a man who needs some assistance, but his friend is comfortable and does not want to be inconvenienced by him. However, he really needs help so he continues to ask. Because of his persistence the man receives what he needs.

When we serve the poor we are being God's hands and feet in the world. Sometimes we may find ourselves in the situation of being the voice for the poor. It may feel like people are very comfortable in their world and do not want to be disturbed, but if we keep persisting they will realise the urgency and the need. St Teresa of Ávila teaches:

'Christ has no body now but yours

No hands but yours, no feet but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion is to look out into the world.

Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good.

Yours are the hands through which he is to bless us now.'