



14th Sunday Ord. Time Yr A

Lectio Divina

Lectio: After instructing the twelve, Jesus went on to sort out the role of John the Baptist's witness and the resistance to listening to John. Now he prays a short prayer to the Father which invokes the example of the innocence and openness of children/simple people. Jesus pointedly refers to the proud, over-rational and self-sufficient (i.e. '*the learned and the clever*'). By 'burden' they would understand: the Divine teachings that they taught and, by 'yoke': the phrases they learnt by heart. Note also that Jesus does not pray that he would take away the load (the Divine teachings) but give refreshment i.e. the means to carry the load. If we are to be followers of Jesus, we must take up Jesus' ways (the load). He has explained his way. His prayer is that we will be open to living his way.

Read: **Matthew 11: 25 – 30**

Meditatio: How open am I to listening to others, to Jesus? Does pride limit my openness to others and their ways of thinking? How do I balance understanding things and living by faith? Is my belief in Jesus just a rational thing (knowing about Jesus) or a living relationship (believing in Jesus and thus following him)? How much do I realize I need my relationship with Jesus rather than thinking I am self-sufficient? Do I appreciate the gift I have been given in the gift of my faith? Do I find living my faith a burden? What challenges me at these times to continue living my faith? Do I turn to Jesus seeking his help, especially help to be a Christian now? Do I truly trust that through 'carrying my crosses' I'll find life and life to the full by the simplest, i.e. easiest, way?

Oratio: Pray for a simpleness/directness in living our faith. Pray for a better listening to self, others and to God. Pray for theologians and teachers of the faith. Pray for those whose lives are limited by excess pride, over-rationalization (especially scruples) or self-sufficiency. Pray for children and simple people especially that they may not be put-down or disregarded. Pray in thanks for the gift of faith. Pray for gentleness and humility in heart. Pray for an understanding of the way of the Cross. Pray for an openness to belief in Jesus and a readiness to follow.

Contemplatio – Dwell in stillness, simply aware of the boundless expanse of mercy that surrounds you.

After your prayer – Make time to listen to what God is saying to you especially as regards following Jesus.

✍ Fr Joe

Matthew 11: 25 - 30

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children.

Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do.

Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest.

Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'