

MONDAY
1 NOVEMBER
 Romans 11:29-end
 Psalm 69:31-37
 Luke 14:12-14

TUESDAY
2 NOVEMBER
 Romans 12:5-16
 Psalm 131
 Luke 14:15-24

WEDNESDAY
3 NOVEMBER
 Romans 13:8-10
 Psalm 112
 Luke 14:25-33

THURSDAY
4 NOVEMBER
 Romans 14:7-12
 Psalm 27:14-end
 Luke 15:1-10

FRIDAY
5 NOVEMBER
 Romans 15:14-21
 Psalm 98
 Luke 16:1-8

SATURDAY
6 NOVEMBER
 Romans 16:3-9.
 16. 22-end
 Psalm 145:1-7
 Luke 16:9-15

REFLECTION

This week our Gospel readings tell us quite a lot about the kingdom of God.

We hear Jesus telling his host (and us) that he should invite

to his dinner party people on the fringes of society – those who are poor or marginalised in some way. And perhaps we feel a little uncomfortable if the people we invite into our homes are not usually those on the fringes of our society today.

But then we hear that God invites those people on the fringes of society to feast in the heavenly kingdom. And if we ourselves feel lost, lonely or unloved, that is good news for us.

And there is more good news: God doesn't just wait for us to find our own way home, but actively goes looking for each one of us and rejoices in finding us. The only thing God needs from us is a wholehearted commitment to the kingdom – a commitment that means that anything else in our lives is worthless unless it too is used for God's purposes. Are we willing to make that commitment?

PRAYER

God of those who are dispossessed,
 we thank you for the good news we hear down the ages.
 Show us ways of reaching out to those on the fringes
 of society,
 and be with us in those moments when we feel lost
 and lonely.
 We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.



PRAYER AND HEALING

PART I – A MINISTRY OF PRAYER FOR HEALING

“All those who had any who were sick with various kinds of diseases brought them to him; and he laid his hands on each of them and cured them” (Luke 4:40).

Today's followers of Jesus still bring to him all who suffer and they pray that he will heal them. In doing so they are following the example of the earliest Christians. In the letter of James we find guidance for the young Church about prayer, healing and forgiveness: “Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord” (James 5:14).

As we reflect on the subject of prayer and healing, let's think about some aspects of the healing ministry of Jesus:

- Luke says that Jesus laid hands on and healed people one by one. To Jesus every single person is important and he gives them his full attention even when he is surrounded by a huge crowd.
- Jesus is often described as being moved with compassion towards someone. He is alongside them in their suffering and cares about them deeply.
- In caring about anyone who is suffering, Jesus is caring for the whole person and wants to heal not just the obvious physical dis-ease, but also the inner person with his or her emotional pain, fear and guilt. James, too, recognises the need for people to be released from that inner burden of guilt.
- The Church today is called to a ministry of prayer for healing which is compassionate and sensitive to both the physical and the emotional and spiritual needs of individuals. In the coming weeks we'll be reflecting on aspects of this ministry that affect both those who pray and those who are prayed for.



LIVE
 the WORD

SUSTAINING YOU
 THROUGH THE WEEK

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