

## **Saturday 5 & Sunday 6 October**

This weekend is Saturday the 5 and Sunday the 6 October, beginning the 27th week of Ordinary Time.

Veni, lumen cordium, veni sancte spiritus. Come Holy Spirit. Come, light of our hearts. When we do not know how to pray, the Holy Spirit prays in us. As I begin my prayer today, I pause for a few moments to ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten me, to invite the Holy Spirit into my life, into my mind and into my heart.

Looking back over the readings this week can you see a pattern or theme emerging? The readings at the beginning of the week from the prophet Zechariah, focussed on the repeated promises of God to be with his people even in the midst of their current hardships. And the reality of God's presence in their midst, would draw many other people from widely different backgrounds to join in seeking the Lord's favour. The reading from the Book of Exodus continued this theme of God's providential care for God's people as they journeyed through the wilderness. The account of Jesus sending out the seventy to proclaim the coming of the Kingdom reminded us that the Lord takes the initiative - it is the Lord's mission and message, not ours. They were encouraged to put their trust in the Lord. Attentiveness to God's word, putting it into practice and trusting in the loving goodness of God were epitomised by the saint we recalled yesterday: Francis of Assisi. We end this week of prayer with a reading from the Second Letter to Timothy.

The letter's special characteristic is the writer's awareness of being a prisoner for Christ's sake, destined for execution, and the vibrant plea he makes to his young disciple to carry on the work of preaching the gospel. The tone of the letter is warm, personal, even emotional. The writer recalls how Timothy has come from a Christian family and hopes that he will remain loyal to this heritage. He urges Timothy to persevere courageously in pastoral work, even at the cost of personal suffering.

As you listen to the reading again, reflect on the gifts God has given you.

What am I thankful to God for? Am I sometimes afraid to stand up for what I believe in? What would I want to ask God to rekindle within me at this present time? Ask for the grace to rely more on the power of God and the help of the Holy Spirit.