

St Ignatius of Antioch

Today is Thursday the 17 October, the feast of St Ignatius of Antioch, in the 28th week of Ordinary Time.

The St Thomas Music Group sing the Kyrie by Margaret Rizza: Kyrie eleison; Christe eleison: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy. These imploring words, which have been sung for centuries, are a reminder of the inexhaustible mercy of God, of God's unfailing compassion and forgiveness. As I listen, I might think for a moment about my need for that forgiveness, and the need, too, for me to show that same forgiveness to others.

Today's reading is from St Paul's letter to the Romans.

'All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God', Paul states emphatically here. Do you recognise yourself in that description? If so, what's that like?

The good news, though, is that God has taken care of this sad situation. Not by making us perfect, but by sending us his Son. This has been described as knowing yourself to be a 'sinner, yet loved'. Sit quietly, for a moment, in God's presence, knowing yourself to be a loved although sinful person.

Notice, as you hear Paul's words again the place that faith plays in his explanation of how God works.

As this prayer comes to an end, return to that image of yourself as a loved sinner. Speak to God in whatever ways that suggests to you.