

Living the Word: Psalm 121

This psalm seems to be formed of two voices having a conversation. Reading or listening to it carefully could well remind us of the kind of conversation we might have with a spiritual director or confessor. When we sin, we often need a reminder that God knows our every breath, and that his protecting hand will catch us when we fall. When we make our confession, it should be with the reminder that, through the priest, God will forgive our sins. But we should also be reminded that when we leave, it is incumbent upon us to try as hard as we can to stop ourselves from sinning again. Keeping God ever in mind – ever before us – is a good way for us to approach this. Regular confession is also a good way to keep ourselves grounded in the loving forgiveness of God. Being reminded regularly that he loves us, and of our own folly of trying to live without him, can make our own journey home to him that much easier.

Saints and Heroes: St Ignatius of Antioch – Feast Day 17th October

St Ignatius was the third bishop of Antioch and claimed to have received his episcopal consecration at the hands of St Peter himself. Ignatius was a defender and great leader of his people at a time of persecution. He was arrested and brought before Trajan in chains where by all accounts he eloquently and bravely defended the Christian faith. He was taken to Rome for his martyrdom. His writings are principally concerned with the Church's teaching on Christ's two natures, and with the theology of the Mass. May St Ignatius strengthen us in our faith.

Sunday 19th October 2025
18th Sunday after Trinity
or 29th in Ordinary Time
Gospel: Luke 18: 1 – 8



Persistence in prayer

‘When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?’ Resistance to the life of faith is found in many aspects of our daily living, not only in the trends of contemporary society (so hostile to religious faith) but in our own weakness and laziness. A resilient spirit is needed in all aspects of the Christian life; this is especially true of prayer. In this parable, the widow pleads doggedly despite the approach of the judge, who is seemingly impervious. Sheer bloody-mindedness born of a deep sense of injustice wins the day. God is just and merciful. He is not like the unjust judge of the parable. Our heavenly Father's will shall be done, and it is with this hope in our heart we should never abandon our prayerful search for truth and justice. May the Lord give us grace to remain faithful in all circumstances and be fearlessly persistent in prayer.