

Prayer 3 (Friday commissioning)

“A Church which goes forth is a Church whose doors are always open”

Pope Francis

“A Church which ‘goes forth’ is a Church whose doors are open...” (EG, 46).

Scripture

Scripture speaks of the most extraordinary open door of all: At Jesus’ burial place Mary Magdalene discovers that the stone has been removed from the entrance of the tomb (See John 20:1-18).

“Early on the first day of the week. While it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb...” (John 20:1).

Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni’ (which means Teacher). (John 20:16).

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’ (John 20:18).

A place of darkness, death, becomes a place of resurrection, life, joy, mission...

Prayer & Commissioning

As we go forth from here, we draw strength from the powerful image of the empty tomb and the reality of Christ’s resurrection. Placing our trust in the risen Jesus, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray:

Lord, send us forth,
as a church of open doors;
as a people with open hearts;
as teachers who show the way to you, for the children under our care.
Deepen our faith, strengthen our resolve.
Re-create us as your missionary disciples who never tire of going out to others in your name, opening doors that lead people to you. Amen.



***“The door of the Lord
is always open”***

Prayer Moments

Staff Reflection Day

Our Lady Star of the Sea School, Terrigal

2014

Prayer (Thursday evening)

“The door of the Lord is always open”

Pope Francis

“The door of the Lord is always open... Jesus himself approaches us. He always opens the doors and gives us hope.” (Vatican Radio, 12 Oct 2013).

Scripture

In Scripture, a common way that people experience Jesus is through hospitality - opening the door of their home to him, inviting him and his disciples to a meal. Jesus also offers hospitality. Jesus also invited people to his home. John’s Gospel tells us that Jesus asked Andrew and another disciple:

What are you looking for?”

They said to him, “Rabbi, where are you staying?”

Jesus said to them, “Come and see.”

They came and saw where he was saying, and they remained with him that day.

It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.

(See John 1:35-39)

Hospitality is the way we begin this reflection day. We ‘open the door’ to God and to one another through a spirit of welcome, lifegiving conversation and a shared meal.

Prayer

Lord, be with us this evening as we ‘open the doors’ of our hearts and invite you into our evening together.

- Fill us with a spirit of welcome.
- Help us to be attentive to the uniqueness and gift of each person.
- Give us listening hearts, a sense of ease, and a spirit of joy.
- Bless our families and loved ones this evening.
- *Your intentions?*

Lord, we thank you for bringing us to this place for a holy purpose. Open us to the gift of this time together and time with you. We make this prayer in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Prayer 2 (Friday morning)

“No to closed doors, Yes to open doors.”

Pope Francis

“The Church is called to be the house of the Father, with doors always wide open” (Evangelii Gaudium, 46).

He is not just speaking of the doors to a building, but doors to our hearts. It’s not always easy to open the doors of our hearts and lives, to God and to each other.

Scripture

Remember the parable of the paralytic in (Mark 2:3-4). The friends of the paralytic broke open the roof in order to get their friend to meet Jesus. They were persistent. They couldn’t enter through one door, so they made another.

Remember, too, the parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke’s Gospel. Despite the hurt and betrayal that the Father must have felt, his heart was big enough to throw open the doors, and his arms, to the prodigal son who returned.

“While he [the son] was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the Father said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe - the best one - and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get a fatted calf and kill it; and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.” (Luke 15:20-24)

Prayer

We pray for bigness of heart and persistence of purpose, that we might open ourselves to God’s love, trusting that God will bless our efforts. And so we pray:

Lord, we praise you for this morning... for the gifts and opportunities it offers Open us to your desires for us this day. Gift us with insight into your plan for our lives. Fill us with the joy of your love. Fill us with the desire to reach out beyond ourselves, beyond all fears and doubts. We make this prayer with confidence, in Jesus’ name. Amen.