**Morning Praise @ Home 24th July 2022**

**Opening prayer**

Blessed are you, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have blessed us with every spiritual blessing; enable us by your power to be true to our calling and live holy and blameless lives before you all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen**

**Confession** Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us.

**Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and**

**repent.** **Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us**

**from our sin.** **Renew a right spirit within us** **and restore us to the joy of your salvation,** **through**

**Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen** cf Psalm 51

**Absolution** May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image

to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### Bible Readings Psalm 80 Luke 11: 1 – 13

**Reflection from Ruth**

There are two versions of the Lord’s prayer. The shorter version is in Luke and the longer version is in Matthew. The two versions share the same contexts but are addressed to different ethnicities.  ﻿

﻿The evangelist Luke wrote his gospel to the Gentile Christians who did not learn to pray like their Jewish counterparts.

The Twelve Apostles’ teaching or Didache instructs Christians to pray the Lord’s prayer three times a day, it also adds at the end of the prayer, “for Thine is the power and the glory forever…Pray this three times each day”. Since the early Church Fathers’ time, Christians recited the Lord’s prayer during the liturgy, especially before Holy Communion. The Lord’s prayer is a Jewish prayer in its structure and content. There are parallel phrases between the Lord’s prayer and the prayer Amidah (which means standing) or the Shemoney Esreh (which means eighteen) of Jewish liturgy. Observant Jews pray the Amidah three times a day.

The basic structure of this prayer was well-established in Jesus’ time, and the final form was canonized a century after Christ. Luke’s Gentile Christian audience’s experience with their fathers differs from their Jewish counterparts. The fathers in the Greco-Roman culture enjoyed complete control over their children and grandchildren. For example, a father decides whether his newborn child will be raised in the family, sold, or killed. Luke introduces the Gentiles to God, who is generous, loving, and attentive to God’s children’s needs. Luke changes his audience’s perspective on fatherhood by presenting God as “the Father who cares for his children and acts redemptively on their behalf. The father-child relationship is based on the confidence of the child. This relationship is centred on love, not fear. God the Father in the New Testament is a personal, intimate, sacred, and trusted authority. Jesus invites his disciples to be brave in approaching God, who is already close to them.

Jesus supports his teaching with two parables: the parable of the insistent friend, which is not found in Matthew, and the parable of invitation to ask. The common theme between the parable of the insistent friend and the Lord’s prayer is the concept of prayer and repeated references to bread. This parable encourages the disciples to persist in their supplication to God. What motivates a person in need to appeal to his friend at night to give him a loaf of bread is their friendship. One does not hesitate to ask a close friend for help in a challenging situation. However, the bond that connects the disciples with God is more vital than friendship; it is a familial and intimate relationship. This relationship invites the believers to persist in prayer.

**Affirmation of faith**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ

known in the world? **We believe and trust in him. This is the faith of the Church.**

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

**Prayers of intercession led by Philip**

As we look forward to the arrival of our new vicar, John Coyne and his wife Sue, we thank you Father for your guiding hand and that you have helped John hear your calling to the parishes in Burton & Shotwick. We ask that you will continue to guide us as we prepare for his arrival and that we might all welcome him with friendship and warmth.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

We continue to remember those caught up in the war in Ukraine. We particularly think of those who have fled the country as refugees, in many cases leaving family members behind. We ask you to give strength and support to the people of Ukraine.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

We have experienced some of the hottest weather ever recorded in this region. We think of all those adversely affected by the heat here and abroad. We ask for your guidance, Lord, as we seek to find the right way to tackle climate change when also dealing with an energy crisis and global inflation.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

We know you appointed us as stewards of this world and all that is in it – forgive us our greed and neglect of your creation. We ask that it might not yet be too late for us to make the necessary steps to reduce our carbon emissions, as individuals and as a country.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

We pray for any we might know who are unwell. We pause as we bring them before you now in prayer.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

**The Lord’s Prayer** As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

***Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come,******Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen***

**Closing prayer**

God give you grace to become the people He has called you to be,

that you may live and work to his praise and glory,

and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

be with us and remain with us always. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen**