



Current Issues in Prayer

July 2017

Welcome! The Pope invites people of different faiths to come together and pray:

That our brothers and sisters who have strayed from the faith, through our prayer and witness to the Gospel, may rediscover the merciful closeness of the Lord and the beauty of the Christian life.



Getting started:

Choose a comfortable place. Try to recollect yourself in the presence of God. Feel the closeness of God at this very moment and in your life. Thank God for the gift of faith and for his presence and love in your life.



Short story:

Samuel, a young man, had lost his father when he was fifteen years old. Together with his mum, they had prayed heartily to God to heal his father from cancer but it was as though God did not hear their prayers. Samuel felt that God had abandoned him. Time passed and he seemed to have accepted his father's loss. However, he did not want to have anything to do with God anymore. Recently, Samuel saw no purpose in his studies and all he wanted to do was to go out and enjoy himself. His mother was worried about him and prayed constantly for his conversion. One night, while out with his friends, he got drunk. On their way home, they had a serious traffic accident. Samuel woke up to find himself in hospital with his mum beside him full of tears in her eyes. She was praying for him and his friend Mark who lay on the bed beside him, clinging weakly onto life.



Mark did not make it and Samuel's recovery took several months. This set Samuel reflecting on why his life had been spared. The feeling of emptiness in his life had by now become a complete abyss. His mum visited him in hospital every day and prayed constantly for him to find peace in his life. One day, a priest visited him and talked at length to him. He promised he would pray for him. The priest's visit was an expression of care and mercy that left a mark on Samuel's life. He felt consoled, calm and serene. From that day onwards he started praying. Prayer helped Samuel rediscover Jesus again and gave him hope for a fresh start. His mother was very happy that her prayers were heard.



Time to reflect:

Am I letting something in my own life harming my relationship with Jesus?

Do I find it hard to support through prayer and witness to the Gospel, those who have lost their faith? Am I ready to offer them concrete help?



Let us pray:

Dear Lord, thank you for your continuing presence in my life. Help me to remember your love and your infinite mercy for me whenever I falter and feel like giving up.



Inspiration:

To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.

Martin Luther



Hands on:

During this month, pray for someone who is passing through hard times and who has lost his/her faith in the Lord. Try to be a witness of God's love for this person.