
'LORD, TEACH US
HOW TO PRAY'

When the apostles and disciples came to Jesus and made this request of him what were they asking and why? It would seem that they had observed the disciples of John the Baptist in a different kind of prayer from that with which they were familiar in the Temple and the synagogue where prayer was often loud and accompanied by raised hands. Perhaps they had also observed that Jesus seemed to be in constant prayer to the Father which made Him different. In answer to their request Jesus gave them what we call the Lord's Prayer, a profoundly simple and direct prayer to the

Father. We of course still pray the Lord's Prayer. But we are bound to ask ourselves what else do we pray?

It is a Christian duty borne out of the love of Christ to pray for the needs of others, not simply our own needs, hence we pray the Intercessions at every Parish Eucharist on Sunday. We also pray the Intercessions for others every morning and evening in The Divine Office. Necessarily these prayers have a formula. Yet within that formula we are asking Our Heavenly Father for the needs of others.

Therefore, as we go on through life we should always be praying God for the needs of others, as we become aware of them. And those prayers

should be offered in Church as well. So, when you pray for the needs of others, drop a line or an email to your parish priest and he will include your intercessions with the general intercessions at Morning and Evening Prayer in Church. In St. Martin's there is a box on the sideman's table which is checked daily for prayer requests, and an email to the Church Office will always find its way to me.

