

**Subject:** Daily Prayer 29th August 2020  
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Good morning everyone

I thought I would share with you the joy which I get from putting together these prayers every day. I don't normally prepare them in advance because I like to pray about them and wait.....

The readings are the appointed one's for the day and I do not have a fantastic memory and consequently cannot remember Bible verses very well. So each time I look up the reading it is like an adventure, wondering which verses are to be my gift for the day and what the Lord puts on my heart to share. It helps me as I hope that it helps you to understand and enjoy the readings and teachings of our Lord every day.

Let's begin with a few moments of stillness and silence.....

Lord, we seek you until we find you.  
When we find you, help us to know you,  
For when we know you then we can find love.  
Help us to come before you through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

### **Psalm 11**

#### **Song of Trust in God**

To the leader. Of David.  
In the LORD I take refuge; how can you say to me,  
    'Flee like a bird to the mountains;  
for look, the wicked bend the bow,  
    they have fitted their arrow to the string,  
    to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart.  
If the foundations are destroyed,  
    what can the righteous do?'

The LORD is in his holy temple;  
    the LORD's throne is in heaven.  
His eyes behold, his gaze examines humankind.  
The LORD tests the righteous and the wicked,  
    and his soul hates the lover of violence.  
On the wicked he will rain coals of fire and sulphur;  
    a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup.  
For the LORD is righteous;  
he loves righteous deeds;  
    the upright shall behold his face.

### **Matthew 14:1-12**

#### **The Death of John the Baptist**

At that time Herod the ruler heard reports about Jesus; and he said to his servants, 'This is John the Baptist; he has been raised from the dead, and for this reason these powers are at work in him.' For Herod had arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because John had been telling him, 'It is not lawful for you to have her.' Though Herod wanted to put him to death, he feared the crowd, because they regarded him as a prophet. But when Herod's birthday came, the daughter of Herodias danced before the company, and she pleased Herod so much that he promised on oath to grant her whatever she might ask. Prompted by her mother, she said, 'Give me the head of John the Baptist here on a platter.' The king was grieved, yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he commanded it to be given; he sent and had John beheaded in the prison. The head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, who brought it to her mother. His disciples came and took the body and buried it; then they went and told Jesus.

## Reflection

I have always found this to be such a tragic story. That Herodias hated John the Baptist so much and that she could influence her daughter to obey her to even contemplate asking for HIS HEAD ON A PLATTER? This is so alien to me that I really cannot understand it. But sadder still is Herod actually agreeing because he didn't want to upset his guests. But then.....How often have we done something unacceptable and un-Christian because our reputation depended on it? Maybe we had made a promise without thinking through the consequences first?

But rest assured, we are not alone, many people have done some terrible deed at some time but today our blessing is that if we truly repent, Jesus forgives us. We are so blessed!

Then by comparison to Herod, Herodias and Salome, we have the only ever perfect human being Jesus. He loves. He provides. He cares.

So if you had to make a choice now between pleasing others and guarding your reputation - or being loving, caring, providing and compassionate towards others, which would it be?

What would you choose? I hope that it would be the right option. AMEN

## The Lord's Prayer

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 this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. AMEN

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. AMEN

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

Blessings and love  
Vicky