

Title: Nelson Mandela

Scripture



Luke 7:11-17

A Pharisee invited Jesus to have dinner with him, and Jesus went to his house and sat down to eat. In that town was a woman who lived a sinful life. She heard that Jesus was eating in the Pharisee's house, so she brought an alabaster jar full of perfume and stood behind Jesus, by his feet, crying and wetting his feet with her tears. Then she dried his feet with her hair, kissed them, and poured the perfume on them. When the Pharisee saw this, he said to himself, "If this man really were a prophet, he would know who this woman is who is touching him; he would know what kind of sinful life she lives!" Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Yes, Teacher", he said, "tell me." "There were two men who owed money to a moneylender", Jesus began. "One owed him five hundred silver coins, and the other owed him fifty. Neither of them could pay him back, so he cancelled the debts of both. Which one, then, will love him more?" "I suppose", answered Simon, "that it would be the one who was forgiven more." "You are right," said Jesus. Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your home, and you gave me no water for my feet, but she has washed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You did not welcome me with a kiss, but she has not stopped kissing my feet since I came. You provided no olive oil for my head, but she has covered my feet with perfume. I tell you, then, the great love she has shown proves that her many sins have been forgiven. But whoever has been forgiven little shows only a little love." Then Jesus said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven. The others sitting at the table began to say to themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" But Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Prayer to St Julie Billiat

Saint Julie, through your great devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, you were miraculously cured and favoured by many graces.

By your powerful intercession, obtain for us above all, a great trust in God in all the difficulties of life, the strength to accomplish in all things the adorable will of God, and the special grace we now ardently ask of you.

"We must have courage in the times we live in. Great souls are needed, souls having the interest of God at heart"

St Julie Billiar

The Church asks us to pray for people who are living in countries and situations where they are oppressed or persecuted and their human rights are denied them. As I write this we are receiving daily media updates on the health of someone who lived for much of his life in a place where non-white people were treated as inferior beings, kept apart, given the worst places to live, denied a decent standard of living, etc. Nelson Mandela dedicated his life to changing that situation in South Africa, he spent a great amount of his life imprisoned by a white leadership that was determined to keep black South Africans 'in the corner'. Mandela eventually became South Africa's first black President and worked hard to bring equality to oppressed people in his country. Sunday's Gospel reading (opposite) reminds us that we shouldn't judge people, it reminds us that we are all loved by God; Nelson Mandela fought to remind the world that race and skin colour should never be an excuse to treat anyone differently. It is our duty as Christians and as civilised human beings to ensure that no one is denied dignity or respect whoever they are, wherever they were born, whatever their beliefs. How well do you treat people who are 'different'?

Father in heaven, we give you thanks for your servant Nelson Mandela.

We praise you as we recollect his life and cherish his memory.

We bless you that, in bearing your image, he brought light to the lives of your rainbow people and hope to everyone who is imprisoned by prejudice and fear; for we have seen in his leadership reflections of your compassion, in his integrity demonstrations of your goodness, in his faithfulness glimpses of your eternal love.

Grant to each of us the grace to follow his good example.

So that we with him may come to your everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Who died and rose again and opened the gate of glory, to whom be praise for all eternity.

Amen.



Lord, help us to be the people you want us to be by protecting the rights of ALL people: locally, nationally and internationally.

Amen

N'kosi sikelele

God bless Africa

From Psalm 72 (Of Solomon)

For he delivers the needy when they call,

The poor and those who have no helper.

He has pity on the weak and the needy,

And saves the life of the needy.

From oppression and violence he redeems their life;

And precious is their blood in his sight.

(vv 12-14)

Lord, it is our responsibility to act as examples to others. Help us to do this always: in our thoughts words and actions.

Amen

Lord, be with those who work tirelessly on behalf of our brothers and sisters throughout the world whose human rights are violated. May we follow their example and strive to do our "bit" to make a difference.

Amen

Heavenly Father, maker of all things and giver of life, have mercy on all nations of the world.

Send down your peace on every creature.

Let there be calm where there is violence; peace where there is war; freedom where there is imprisonment; love and unity where there is strife; abundance of food where there is starvation; good health where there is sickness; and life where there is death. We ask this in Your name, Amen.