

Intercessions Sunday 2nd August 2020

Take a moment to imagine the scene on the shore of the lake. Listen to the water gently lapping on the shore.

Listen to the hum from the crowd as we wait.

As we pray today, we wait for Jesus, wanting to be near him, wanting to be with him.

We pray for all those who are searching for Jesus, working out ways in which we can help them to come to him.

Pause

Imagine you are on the shore of the lake, the sun is beating down.

You have walked many miles you have been out in the heat all day. What do you hunger for?

Heavenly Father, we pray for those who don't have access to clean water or enough food to sustain them.

We pray for aid agencies such as Christian Aid who work in many countries where there is famine and drought.

Help us to play our part in supporting their work and to be good stewards of the earth's resources.

Pause

The boat carrying Jesus comes into the shore. We are in the middle of a great crowd. Sense the excitement and anticipation.

Heavenly Father, fill us with excitement and anticipation in our lives; to look and listen for you in everyday activities;

to show your love to those around us for the whole of your creation.

We pray for your mission in our parish, for the work of the Mission and Discipleship group.

Give us all strength and perseverance to share the good news.

Pause

A boy pushes through the crowd. He brings forward five loaves and two fish to Jesus.

Put yourself in the place of the disciples, worrying about how they are going to feed this big crowd.

Heavenly Father, help us not to worry whether we have enough but to share generously what we do have with those who are in need.

We pray for the work of local organisations like the Little Brothers and the Haven

who support those who are homeless, hungry, living in fear. Help us to support them with our prayers and words and actions.

Pause

Jesus takes the bread, looks up to heaven, and breaks it. Imagine the feeling of holding fresh bread and breaking it.

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for the sacrifice you made for us, which we remember in the breaking of the bread.

We thank you for providing for all our physical and spiritual needs.

Help us to not take that for granted and to praise you each day for all that we receive from you.

Pause

Imagine the disciples sharing out the loaves and fish. Everyone receives; everyone is fed. There is plenty left over.

Heavenly Father, you know and love each one of us. Your love knows no limits; you care for us and watch over us.

Help us to follow your example, so that we love and care for one another.

Help us to care and love those who are unwell at this time and are known to us and for those who have suffered the loss of a loved one.

Hold them and us in your loving arms.

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