

## Reflection and Prayers for 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time



*It is wonderful that the first thing Jesus does, after calling his apostles to follow him, is to try to take away their fear? Jesus knows that fear is the enemy of generous, heroic service. If Jesus is to call others to follow in the path before him, he must first en-courage them. He gives courage to replace fear. The courage he gives comes from a confidence in his promises.*

*When Jesus says, "Don't be afraid," he is telling us that we can place our lives in his hands. He is telling us that he has already taken care of the ultimate "self-preservation." No one can ever take that away. We will live forever. We are only here on this earth, in this life, for a brief time. In helping us keep our ultimate goal and meaning in perspective, Jesus is empowering us with great freedom. Our hearts need not be occupied with ourselves. If we are liberated from this debilitating self-pre-occupation, we are freed to give our lives away, in great and heroic acts of love and service.*

**Time and again Jesus tells his disciples not to be afraid. Taking his word to heart today, let us pray with confidence as God's trusting children.**

For all the baptised in Christ, that the gift of grace they have received will be an unfailing wellspring of joy in their lives. (Pray in Silence)

For the citizens of democratic nations, that they will recognise, cherish, and defend the freedoms and rights they enjoy. (Pray in Silence)

For the state and federal governments of Australia, that the economic recovery they promote will be inclusive, fair and eco-friendly. (Pray in Silence)

For the homeless and poorly housed, that the coronavirus pandemic and the onset of winter will prompt concerted action to provide adequate social housing. (Pray in silence)

For children whose reception of the sacraments of reconciliation, confirmation and Eucharist has been delayed, that they will look forward all the more to these occasions of grace. (Pray in silence).

For all who have been unable to farewell loved ones as they would have wished, that they will draw comfort from the sympathy of family and friends. (Pray in Silence)

For the recently deceased, . . . , and all the faithful departed, that they will see God face to face in the kingdom prepared for them. (Pray in silence)

**God of all grace, in the beginning you fashioned us in your image and in time made us a new creation in Christ. Keep us ever faithful and true. We ask this through Christ our Lord.**