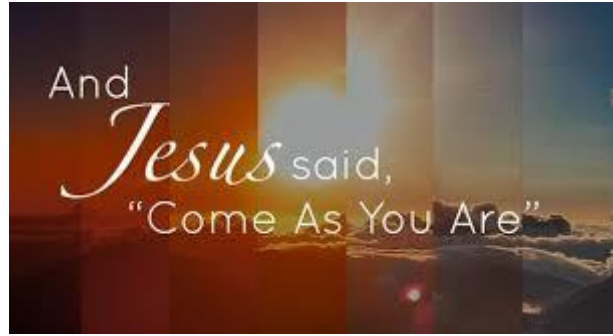


Reflection and Prayers for 14th Sunday Ordinary Time



Whatever demands Jesus may make on our following of him, he wants to be at all times truly a source of comfort, of consolation and of forgiveness and reconciliation. Whatever demands life may be making on us, he is there too, to be called on. When we are in difficulties and pain, we can ask him to take them away. He may not always do so, but we can expect him to restore our peace. For we need to remember that Jesus is not to be seen as an escape from our problems. Sometimes, he will give us peace not from our pain, but within our pain. There can be the danger that we expect Jesus or his Mother or some other saint or the Church to be there to wave a magic wand that wipes away all our problems, all difficulties, all obstacles.

Happy are those who carry the 'burden' the yoke of the Gospel. Jesus has the secret of living well. Is it not time that we Christians discovered this wonderful secret and begin to share it with others? (excerpt from Living Space commentary)

With trust in the promises of Jesus, we now offer our prayers.

We pray for church communities around the world, that they be gentle, humble of heart and welcoming to all. (Pray in silence)

We pray for people in places already suffering from violence, poverty or corruption, that the added burden of the coronavirus pandemic not overwhelm them. (Pray in silence).

We pray for Australia's indigenous peoples, that their ancient and modern history be learned throughout the nation and lead to pathways for a new future. (Pray in silence).

We pray for political and business leaders, that the post-virus policy decisions they make are in harmony with Pope Francis' manifesto for the environment, *Laudato si'*. (Pray in silence).

We pray for all who suffer from a serious mental illness, that with the support of family, friends and health services they can lead fulfilling lives. (Pray in silence).

We pray for the recently deceased, . . . , and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that the Spirit of God will raise their mortal bodies to life. (Pray in silence).

God, our Creator, you are the source of wisdom. We ask you to grant our prayers through Jesus our Lord and Brother who lives with you and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.