

Reflection and Prayers for 23rd Sunday Ordinary Time

**WHATEVER
YOU BIND ON
EARTH
SHALL BE BOUND
IN HEAVEN**
-MATTHEW 16:19

Jesus is gently reminding us that by being members of the church community, we are responsible for one another, and one of our tasks of love may be that of correcting our brother or sister who errs. This is never an easy task in our relativistic times, and our advice risks being rejected. Fraternal correction must always be inspired by real charity - it is one of the spiritual works of mercy. I pray to be given this love and the wisdom to find the right way to carry out this task of love.

Because Jesus shares his own spirit with us, the connection between the community of believers and Jesus is very close: what we bind or loose here is bound or loosed in heaven, and whatever we ask in union will be given to us by the Father. I ask for this insight and for a stronger faith in the presence of Jesus in the midst of the Church. Excerpt from Sacred Space

Dear Parishioners, let us remember whenever two or three gather in Jesus' name, he is there as he promised. With this in mind, let us pray with hope and faith.

We pray for mediators and peace-makers, that their wisdom and expertise will make the world a safer place. **Lord, hear us.**

We pray for fathers, step-fathers, grandfathers and all who have a fatherly role, that they will be blessed in loving those entrusted to their care. **Lord, hear us.**

Lord, we pray that our parishes be continuously made safe so that children and vulnerable adults can grow and learn with our faith communities. **Lord, hear us.**

We pray for those at greater disadvantage in this health crisis, especially people with disabilities and members of border communities that they will be given the extra support they need. **Lord, hear us.**

We pray for all at risk of taking their own lives, that they will reach out for the support that family, friends or the community can offer them. **Lord, hear us.**

We pray for the makers of environmental law in our land, that they will ensure the protection of species under threat of extinction. **Lord, hear us.**

We pray for the recently deceased and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that they will know the fullness of God's love and mercy. **Lord, hear us.**

God of everlasting kindness, in your Son Jesus Christ you have reconciled the world to yourself. Make us true apostles of your mercy. We ask this through Christ our Lord.