



# RCIA

Rite of Catholic Initiation of Adults  
Prayer 1 - Introduction



Opening Prayer



## Prayer

- What is prayer?
  - Conversation with God
- Why do we pray?
  - Peace, Wisdom, Strength, other help – prayer is useful
  - Expression of love
  - Awareness of God
- Everything that increases ones awareness of God is prayer
  - Work, applying our God-given talent for the betterment of community and society, is a form of prayer



## Prayer Formats

- Spontaneous prayer: simply talking to God
  - “And in praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.” (Matthew 6:7-8)
- Formula prayers: Lord’s Prayer, Hail Mary, Rosary, Apostles’ Creed, etc.



## Prayer Attitude

- With Humility, Joy and Confidence
  - With Humility. Remember that you are in conversation with the Almighty God.
  - With Joy. He love us and he wants us to talk to him.



## Prayer Attitude

- With Confidence.
  - God always answer our prayer
  - “Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.” (Matthew 7:7)
  - “Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, ‘Father, I thank you for having heard me. **I know that you always hear me**, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.’ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth.” (John 11:38,41-44)



### Is God Prepared To Grant Us Our Every Wish?

- Matthew 7:7-14
- Luke 11:9-13

#### Matthew 7:7-14

(God is prepared to grant our every wish?)

7 “Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. 9 Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? 10 Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? 11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him! 12 In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets. 13 Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. 14 For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

#### Luke 11:9-13

(God is prepared to grant our every wish?)

9 “So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. 11 Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? 12 Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? 13 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”



### Is God Prepared To Grant Us Our Every Wish?

- No
- In Matthew 7:7-14, the Evangelists was referring to the heavenly gift of salvation
  - “In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets. Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”



### Is God Prepared To Grant Us Our Every Wish?

- In Luke 11:9-13, the Evangelists was referring to the heavenly gift of the Holy Spirit
  - “How much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”
- God always answer our prayer
  - But remember, “No” is also an answer



### Is God Prepared To Grant Us Our Every Wish?

- Yes
- No
- Not now



### Danger of My-Needs-Only Prayers

- “You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.” (James 4:2-3)



### Prayer Disposition

- With a discerning heart. More listening, less speaking.
  - The advice that high priest Eli gave to young Samuel: “Speak, Lord, your servant is listening” (1 Samuel 3:9)
  - Don’t fall into the trap of saying: “Listen, Lord, your servant is speaking” !



### Prayer Disposition

- Be prepared to accept God’s will  
 “He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, ‘I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.’ And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, ‘Abba,’ Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, **not what I want, but what you want.**’” (Mark 14:33-36)



### Types of Prayer

- Adoration
  - Contrition
  - Thanksgiving
  - Supplication (Petition and Intercession)
- A C T S



### Styles of Prayer

- Vocal Prayer
  - “Heart” Praying: talking to God from the heart
  - Conversation with God
- Meditation
  - “Mind” Prayer
  - Probe an idea with the mind
  - Hear and respond to God



### Styles of Prayer

- Contemplative Prayer
  - “Soul” Praying: talking to God from the heart
  - Resting in God’s presence
  - Be alone with God, contemplating his love for us
  - Be aware of the Holy Spirit dwelling within



## Silent Prayer

- Meditation and Contemplation
- Deepen our understanding and awareness of the sacredness of life
- “The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. And he [i.e. God] who searches the hearts of men knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints [i.e. us] according to the will of God.” (Romans 8:26-27)



## Prayer Settings

- Personal prayer
- Prayer in a small group
- Prayer in a community



## Jesus' Prayer Life

- Jesus prayed alone (personal prayer):
  - “And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone.” (Matthew 14:23)
  - “In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.” (Mark 1:35)



## Jesus' Prayer Life

- Jesus prayed in a small group. He prayed for his disciples after the Last Supper:
  - “Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray.” (Luke 9:28)
  - “After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, ‘Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ...’ (John 17)



## Jesus' Prayer Life

- Jesus prayed in a community:
  - “Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.” (Matthew 14:19)
  - “When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read.” (Luke 4:16)



## Jesus' Prayer Life

- Jesus prayed for others:
  - “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” (Luke 23:34)



## Jesus' Prayer Life

- Jesus prayed for his Church:
  - “And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth. I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of **those who will believe in me through their word**, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” (John 17:19-21)



## Who Wants To Be The Kingdom's Heir?



### 1. What is prayer?

- a. Raising one's heart and mind to God
- b. Allowing God to know the depths of a human heart
- c. A response in faith to the promises of God
- d. A covenant relationship between a person and God
- e. All of the above



### 2. What prayer is the source and summit of all graces?

- a. The Mass
- b. The Morning Offering
- c. The Consecration to the Holy Spirit
- d. Our baptismal vows



### 3. What book of the Old Testament could be called the masterwork of prayer?

- a. Wisdom
- b. Proverbs
- c. Songs of songs
- d. Psalms



### 4. Where in the New Testament can we find the perfect model of prayer?

- a. Mary's pronouncement at the Annunciation
- b. The filial prayer of Jesus
- c. The Our Father
- d. The Gloria in Excelsis Deo sung by the angels at the birth of Jesus



5. Is it better for personal prayer to be spontaneous or formula prayer?

- a. Spontaneous
- b. Formula prayers
- c. A combination of both
- d. Pray as your heart dictates - whatever form it takes



6. Why do we pray to Mary and the Saints?

- a. We worship them in conjunction with God
- b. We want them to pray with us and for us
- c. It's a mark of respect for people who have lived as Jesus commanded
- d. They are able to answer our prayers



7. When is the prayer of thanksgiving appropriate?

- a. When we see something good, even though we didn't ask for it
- b. When we experience pain and suffering because we know that's when we grow in relationship with God
- c. The third Thursday in November
- d. In all circumstances



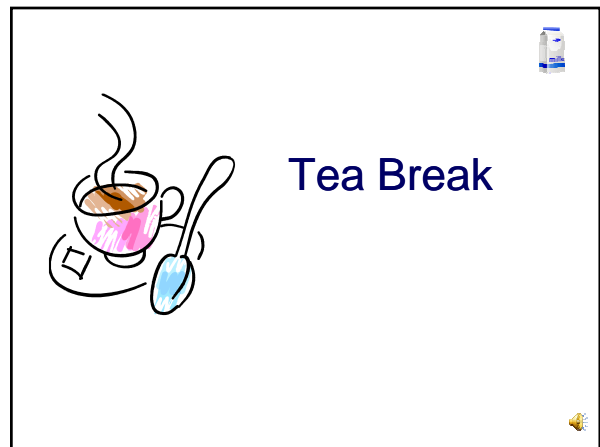
8. What form of prayer recognizes most immediately that God is God?

- a. Adoration
- b. Contrition
- c. Thanksgiving
- d. Supplication (Petition and Intercession)



9. What does "Amen" mean?

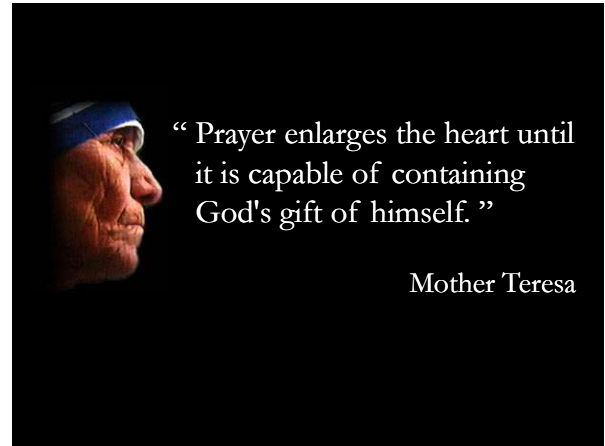
- a. Thank you
- b. So be it
- c. The end
- d. It doesn't really mean anything; it just a reverent way to end a prayer





## Discussion

- Do you have an experience where you felt that your prayer has not been answered?
  - How did you react?
  - How did things turn out?
- Compose a simple prayer and share it with the group.  
[Hint: It doesn't have to be "fancy". Remember, all you are doing is speaking to a friend or a loving father.]



“Prayer enlarges the heart until it is capable of containing God's gift of himself.”

Mother Teresa



## Recap

- Prayer – increases our awareness of God
- Format – Spontaneous, Formula
- Attitude – Humility, Joy, Confidence
- Disposition – Discerning Heart, Accepting
- Types – A C T S
- Styles – Vocal, Meditation, Contemplative
- Settings – Personal, Group, Community



## Q&A




## RCIA Commitment

- Attendance at all evening sessions
  - Evening sessions on every Tuesday, 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm. Please be punctual.
- Attendance at all weekend masses (from Week 7)
- Inform RCIA Coordinator (Howard) if you are unable to attend any session.
- Support and pray for each other




## Contacts

- Name list will be prepared midway through this Pre-Catechumenate (Finding Out) period.
- In the meantime, any questions/problems/issues, contact:  
Howard Ong                      Neicha Sequeira  
Mobile: 0412 177 378              Mobile: 0405 592 429  
Home: 9455 6447                  Home: 9332 0563  
Email: [howard.ong@aurora-consult.com.au](mailto:howard.ong@aurora-consult.com.au)  
Alternatively, you may also contact the Parish Priest.




## Further Readings

- *Path Through Catholicism*  
(ISBN 0-7829-0971-X)  
Chapter 17

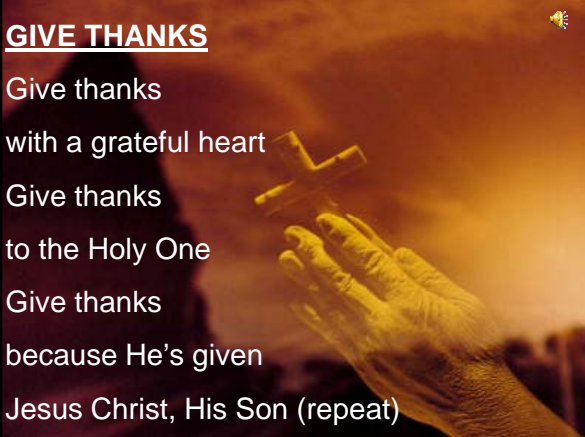


## Notices



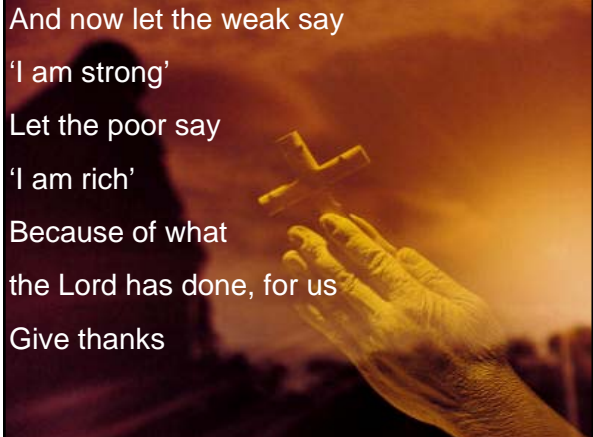
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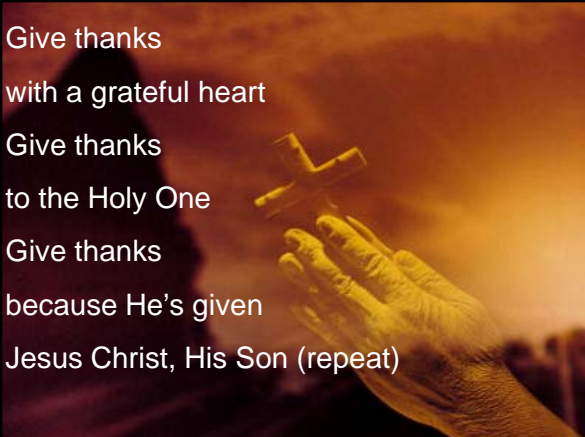


## GIVE THANKS

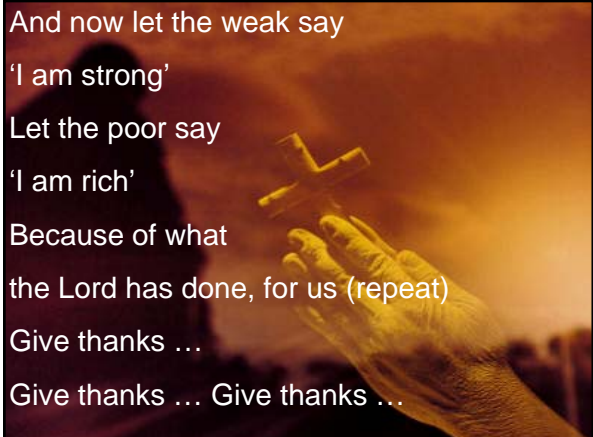
Give thanks  
with a grateful heart  
Give thanks  
to the Holy One  
Give thanks  
because He's given  
Jesus Christ, His Son (repeat)



And now let the weak say  
'I am strong'  
Let the poor say  
'I am rich'  
Because of what  
the Lord has done, for us  
Give thanks



Give thanks  
with a grateful heart  
Give thanks  
to the Holy One  
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Jesus Christ, His Son (repeat)



And now let the weak say  
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Give thanks ...  
Give thanks ... Give thanks ...