

# “Lord, teach us to pray.”

(Luke 11: 1)

The disciples' plea is as relevant today as it was 2000 years ago; we still desire that mysterious encounter with God, which we call prayer. We are still learning to pray and, moved by The Holy Spirit, yearn to enter into that deep relationship with Jesus, which overwhelms us with his love and brings us his peace.

During Lent we probably spend more time in prayer. As Lent draws to a close and we celebrate Easter, we invite all parishioners to embark on an extended period of prayer.

Almost fifty people in our parish have just completed an eight-week course on prayer, entitled “**Oremus**” (Latin: “Let us pray”), which started on 13 February. We hope to repeat this course during the year for those who were unable to join the first one; and offer a variety of opportunities for parishioners to deepen their understanding of prayer and to discover different forms of prayer.

## Invitation from Pope Francis

The opening words in the Pope's first major document, (**Evangelii Gaudium – The Joy of the Gospel**) published in November 2013 are: *“The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus ... with Christ, joy is constantly born anew.”*

The Pope then says: *“I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord.”*

Every parishioner is invited to answer this call and embark on a time of personal and communal renewal of faith.

We begin with prayer.

Parish Team (Easter 2017)

“Always be joyful; pray constantly.” 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-17