

PARISHES OF  
**ST PIUS X, ALDERLEY EDGE, ST BENEDICT'S, HANDFORTH**  
**AND**  
**SACRED HEART & ST TERESA'S WILMSLOW**  
**WEEKLY REFLECTION**

**Sunday 19th October 2025: 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Prayer (1)**

Today, and for the following few weeks, the theme of the Sunday recollection will be Prayer. As I am not an expert I shall quote from those who are or were. I shall also illustrate by quoting from scripture or other sources. I will endeavour to acknowledge my sources but if I fail to do so I apologise.

**PRAYER OF LOVE OF GOD**

We all want to be loved. In his Confessions, Saint Augustine said "The single desire that dominated my search for delight, peace and contentment was simply to love and to be loved".

We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God and this hope doesn't disappoint because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit whom he has given us (Romans 5:5). God is love, and the greatest commandment is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and strength and our neighbour as we love ourselves. (Bible Alive)

In chapter 4 of his 1<sup>st</sup> letter, St John tells us "As long as we love one another God remains in us and His love comes to perfection in us..... God is love and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in Him.... In love there is no room for fear but perfect love drives out fear because fear implies punishment and no one who is afraid has come to perfection in love. Let us love then because He first loved us. Anyone who says they love God and hates his brother is a liar since no one who fails to love the brother whom he has seen can love God whom he has not seen. Indeed this is the commandment that we have received from Him that whoever loves God must also love his brother".

**PRAYER OF PEACE**

Prayers for peace should be on the lips of everyone in the world as we hear daily of the atrocities, starvation and famine stemming from the wars in Sudan and Gaza and the great suffering from the war of attrition in Ukraine. The Sudanese power seeking factions see millions displaced and thousands dying of starvation. The war of Gaza has seen the destructions of cities and everything in between.

What better prayer for peace is there than the prayer of St. Francis, a prayer incidentally quoted by Margaret Thatcher on the night of her election as Prime Minister. Here I quote it as in the hymn:

Lord make me a channel of your peace  
Where there is hatred let me bring your love  
Where there is injury your pardon Lord  
Where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace  
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope  
Where there's darkness, only light  
And where there's sadness, ever Joy

Oh Master grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood as to understand  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned  
In giving of ourselves that we receive  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Kevin Hanrahan