

PARISHES OF  
**ST PIUS X, ALDERLEY EDGE, ST BENEDICT'S, HANDFORTH**

**AND**

**SACRED HEART & ST TERESA'S WILMSLOW**

**WEEKLY REFLECTION**

**Sunday 9th November 2025: Dedication of the Lateran Basilica  
Remembrance Sunday  
Prayer (4)**

**PRAYER OF PETITION AND REPENTANCE**

**Prayer of Petition**

Our Lord said "Ask and you shall receive, seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you" Matthew 7:7-8 is a key part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Jesus continued, "For everyone that asks will receive, he that seeks will find; and to him who knocks it shall be opened." But in our daily experience we find that our prayers are not always answered. Sports fans may pray for the success of their team, but do remember that the Lord is not going to favour Manchester United when they play Liverpool and vice versa! But that aside, there are many prayers said for good reason, for example prayer for the recover of a sick person, that are not always answered as we would like.

Well God may not always answer prayers in the way or timing we expect due to various reasons rooted in scripture. These include praying with wrong motives, lack of faith or not being aligned with God's will. Sometimes unanswered prayers can be a test of faith, a lesson in patience or a catalyst for what is best for us. Some people go to Lourdes with many requests in their prayers. They come home, their list of requests may be forgotten and unanswered but, as they leave Lourdes, for many their hearts are transformed and they have a deep peace and conversion. Their prayers have been answered but not in the way they first expected.

**Prayer of repentance**

Dear God,  
I confess that I have sinned against you  
and with the help of your grace I promise to avoid the occasion of sin in the future  
and not to sin again.  
Amen

In the Psalms, words of repentance are beautifully summed up in Psalm 50:

"Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
And cleanse me from my sin.

My offences truly I know them;  
my sin is always before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;  
what is evil in your sight I have done.

That you may be justified when you give sentence  
and be without reproach when you judge,  
O see, in guilt I was born,  
a sinner was I conceived.

Indeed you love truth in the heart;  
then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom  
O purify me, then I shall be clean;  
O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear rejoicing and gladness,  
that the bones you have crushed may thrill.  
From my sins turn away your face  
and blot out all my guilt.

A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,  
that I may teach transgressors your ways  
and sinners may return to you.

O rescue me, God my helper,  
and my tongue shall ring out your goodness.  
O Lord, open my lips  
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

For in sacrifice you take no delight,  
burnt offering from me you would refuse,  
my sacrifice, a contrite spirit.  
A humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.

Kevin H.