



Praying the Novena

Make time each day, either on your own or with others, to pray the novena.

Find a quiet, comfortable space, light a candle, play music, perhaps visit a church.

Begin and conclude with a blessing.

+ In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Read the scripture passage slowly and prayerfully.

Take time to meditate on God's Word.

Use the questions to guide your reflection.

Conclude with the novena prayers, perhaps adding an Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be.

Daily Prayers

As part of the novena, we encourage you to pray these prayers each day

VOCATION PRAYER

Lord, make me a better person,
more considerate towards others,
more honest with myself,
more faithful to you.

Make me generous enough
to want to do your will,
whatever it may be.
Help me find my true vocation
in life and grant that through it,
I may find happiness myself
and bring happiness to others.

Amen



DIOCESAN VOCATIONS PRAYER

God, our Father,
at the very beginning of your Church
your Son Jesus chose twelve apostles
to continue the work he had begun.
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
they continued to bring the Good
News of your love to our world.
Send that same Holy Spirit into the hearts
of those you are calling to serve as priests
for your people in our diocese.

Fill them with your gifts of wisdom,
understanding, piety and knowledge
as they discern your will.
Give them the gifts of right judgment
and courage in following their call.
Through the outpouring of your grace
may many come to the joy of knowing
and responding to the invitation of
Jesus to 'Come, Follow Me!'

Amen

GOD'S WORD

Jeremiah 1:4-9 - *The calling of Jeremiah*

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.'

Then I said, 'Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know
how to speak, for I am only a boy.'

But the Lord said to me,

'Do not say, "I am only a boy";
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.
Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the Lord.'



A vertical strip on the left side of the page features a mosaic of a face, likely a religious figure, composed of small, irregular tiles in shades of white, gold, and brown. The face is partially visible, showing the eye and forehead area.

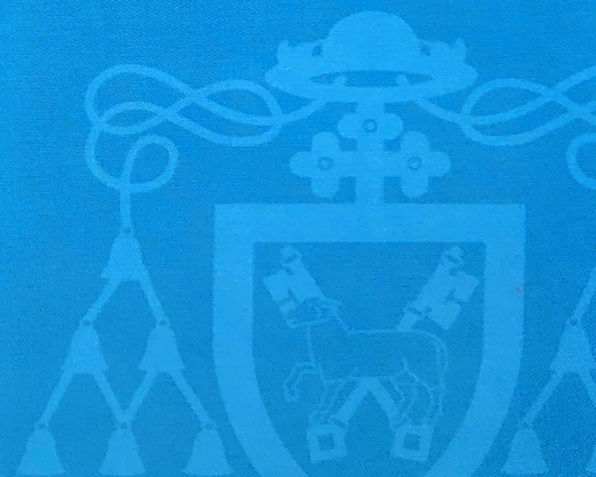
QUIET TIME AND REFLECTION

- God's words to Jeremiah are meant for you too. Take time to reflect on how intimately God knows you and how before you were formed God knew and loved you. What do you experience when you dwell in this truth?
- Jeremiah had doubts about his worth. Do you sometimes doubt?
- God provides. What is it that you might be asking God for today?

Day 1

PRAYER

Faithful God, help us to live out our mission in the Church. Help your people know their vocation in life and prepare for it. Give those whom you call to be priests and religious the grace to respond generously and to persevere faithfully. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen**



GOD'S WORD

John 15:9-17 - *You are my friends*

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.





Day 2

QUIET TIME AND REFLECTION

- Know that you are loved by God.
- Friendship with Jesus gives life and brings joy. What is it like to be a friend of Jesus?

PRAYER

We praise you for your goodness, O God. Strengthen us to live in love and service of others after the example of your Son. Help us to see our vocations as a journey towards you. Make us faithful signs of your presence in our world.

Amen

GOD'S WORD

Luke 1:21-36

- *The calling of Mary*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most

High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.



Day 3

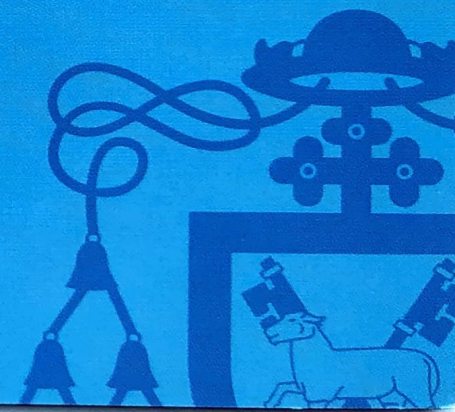
PRAYER

Lord Jesus, your mother continues to shine as one who fully responded to God's call. May young people throughout the world be graced to follow her example of doing God's will in their lives. Help them understand the joy that comes from serving God and others.

Amen

QUIET TIME AND REFLECTION

- Sometimes when God asks something of us it can leave us fearful and confused. Mary too was afraid and took time to think before she said Yes.
- Take time to think through your fears. Pray for the courage to say Yes to what God asks of you.



GOD'S WORD

Ephesians 4:1-9, 11-13 - *Unity in the Body of Christ*

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, 'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.'

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

QUIET TIME AND REFLECTION

- Reflect on the grace and gifts that have been given to you.
- How can you use your gifts to build up the body of Christ?





Day 4

PRAYER

Almighty and everlasting God, you are the source of all life. We praise you for the beauty of creation and the gifts that surround us. Bless us with an enduring sense of unity as each one of us shares our unique talents and abilities to serve you and build your kingdom. **Amen**



GOD'S WORD

Luke 5:1-11 - *Jesus calls the first disciples*

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.' When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!' For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.' When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

QUIET TIME AND REFLECTION

- Simon Peter was exhausted. He had given his all and had nothing to show for it. Can you identify with this experience?
- God asks us to dig deep and give more of ourselves, even when we feel like we have nothing more to give. If we trust him, God amazes us. Do not be afraid! Follow him!



Day 5

PRAYER

Gracious God, you sent Jesus to proclaim salvation to the world. Make us mindful of those who have not heard the Gospel and bless the efforts of all missionaries. May more of our sons and daughters seek and follow your call to discipleship. **Amen**

GOD'S WORD

John 20:1-18 - *Sharing the Good News of the Risen Christ*

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.



Day 6

PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts and minds with the fire of your love. Make us courageous witnesses to the death and resurrection of Jesus. May the Eucharist enable us to live faithfully the vocation we have received. Inspire more of us to dedicate our lives in service to the Gospel. **Amen**

QUIET TIME AND REFLECTION

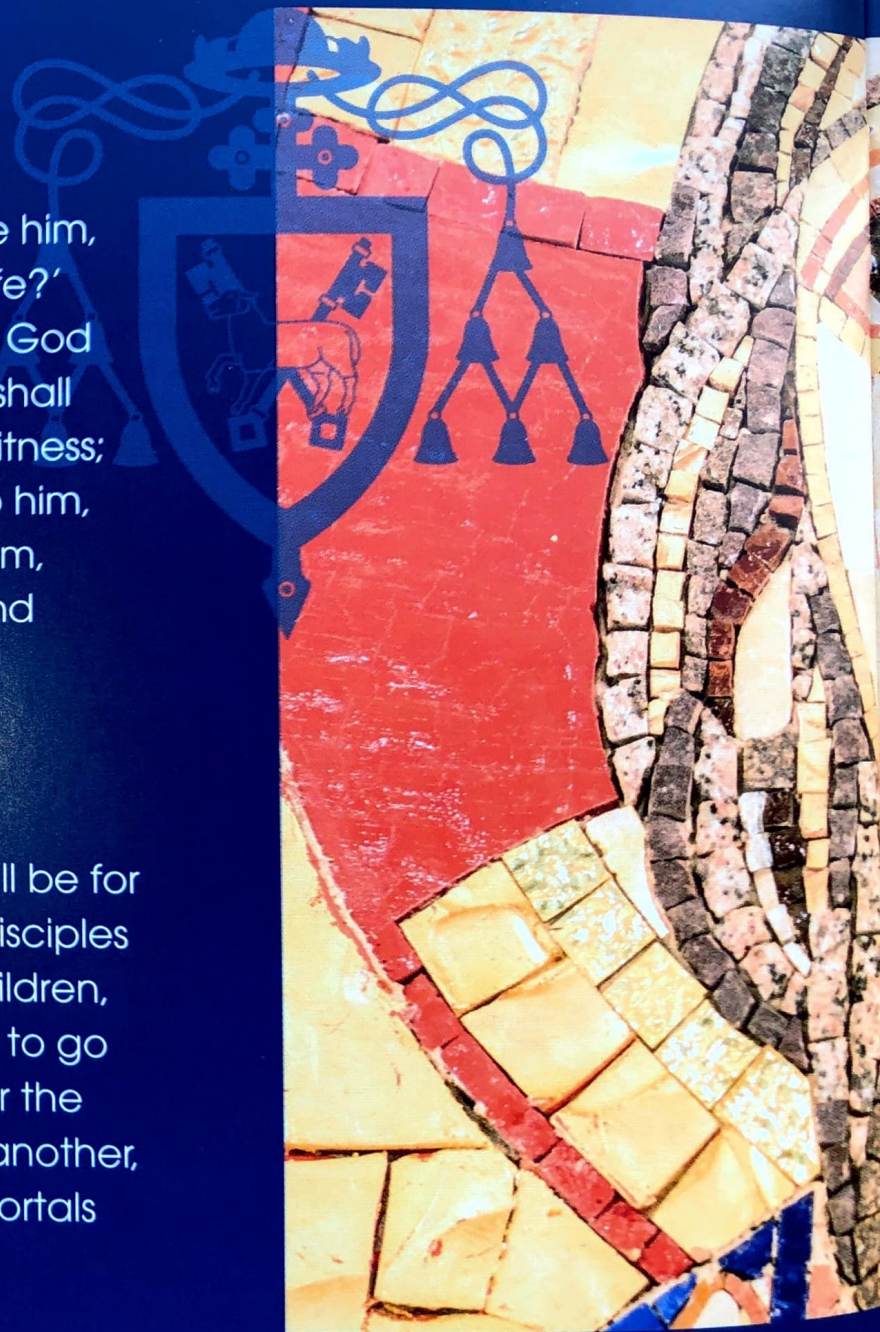
- Mary recognised Jesus when he called her by name. Reflect on the name that was given to you at your baptism. Know that Jesus calls you by name.
- It is natural that Mary should want to hold on to Jesus. But Jesus tells her to share the Good News. Be generous! Share Jesus with others.

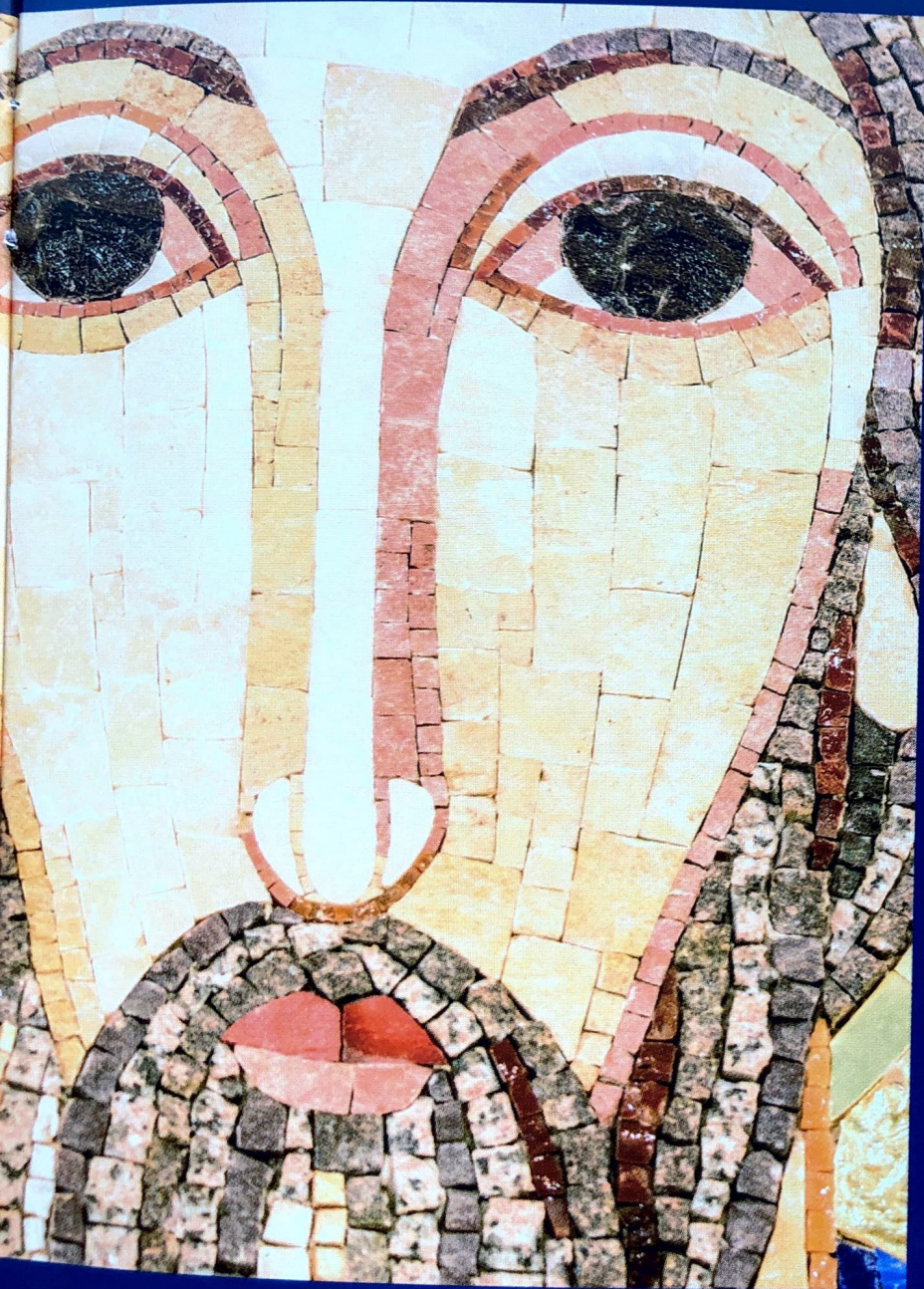
GOD'S WORD

Mark 10:17-27 - *The rich young man*

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother."' He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!' And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' They were greatly astounded and said to one another, 'Then who can be saved?' Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.'





Day 7

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, fill us with a desire for true wisdom. Bless all pupils, students, teachers, chaplains and those who serve in education. Help us understand how you call us to Christlike service. Call forth many priests and religious. **Amen**

QUIET TIME AND REFLECTION

- What would you ask Jesus if you were to meet him face-to-face?
- What might he ask of you?
- What is it that you are holding on to that prevents you from following Jesus more closely?
- Remember that with God all things are possible.

Day 8

GOD'S WORD

Matthew 9:35-37 - *The harvest is great, the labourers few*

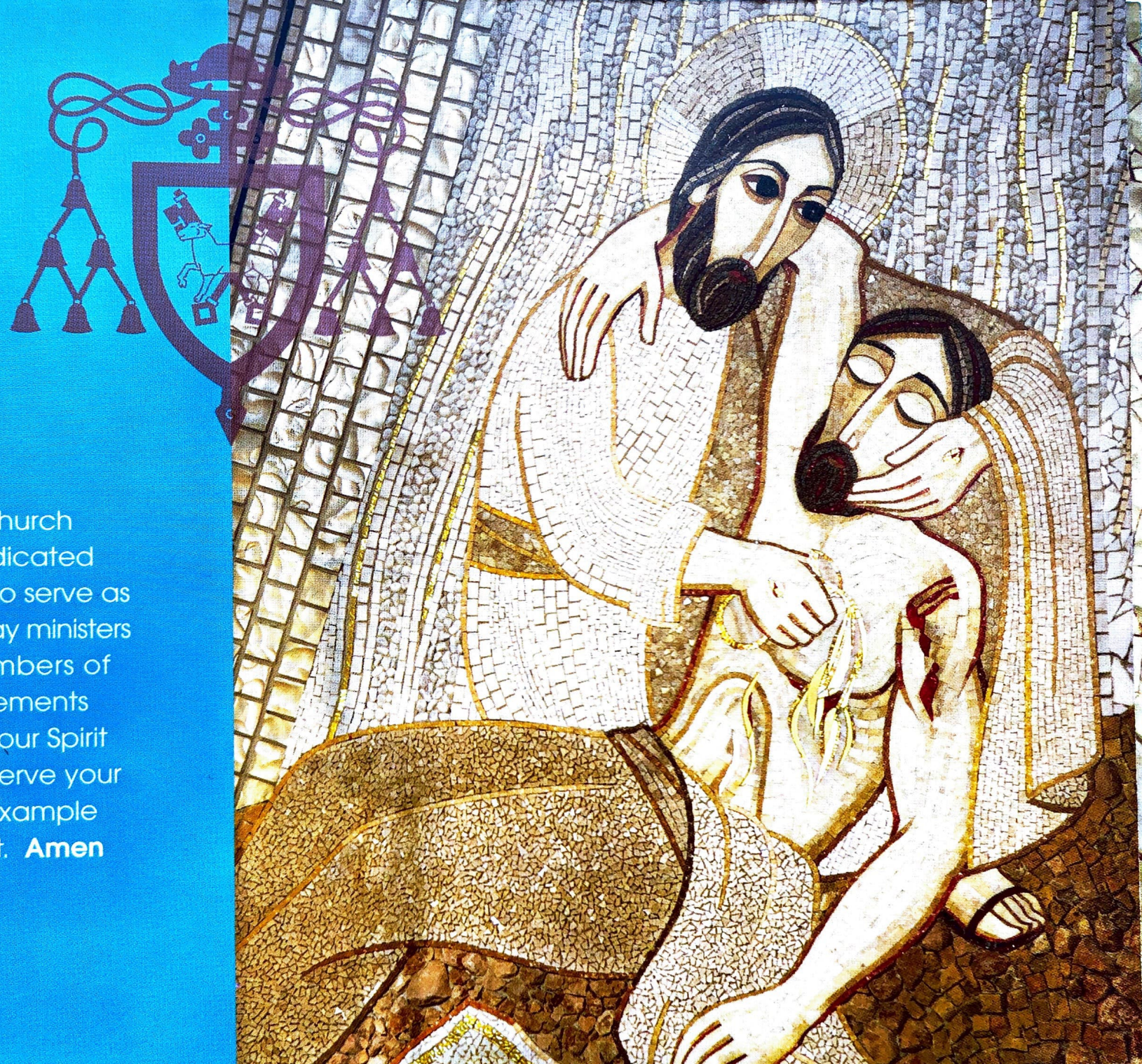
Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

QUIET TIME AND REFLECTION

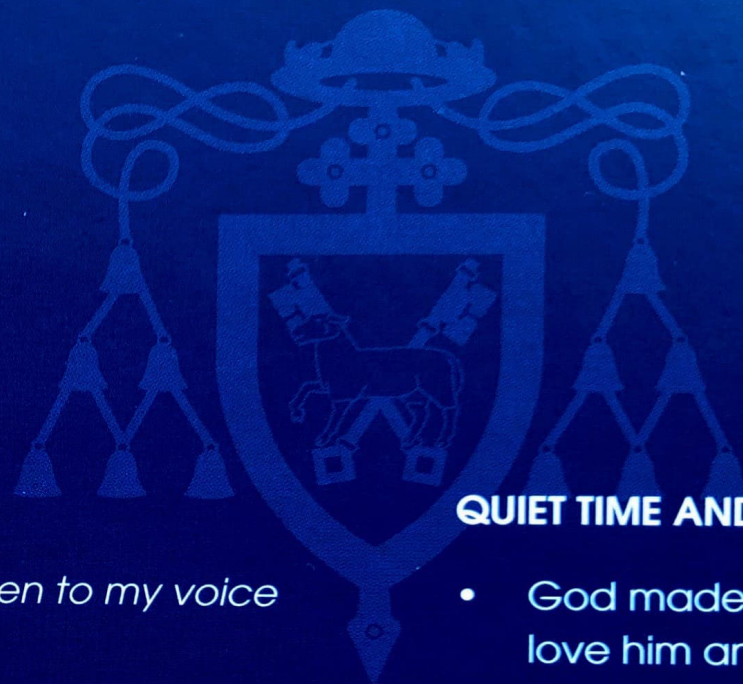
- Our world today has much suffering. People need the help and compassion that only Jesus can give. Who will help him?

PRAYER

Dear God, bless your Church with love. Raise up dedicated and generous leaders to serve as priests, sisters, brothers, lay ministers and consecrated members of the new ecclesial movements in your Church. Send your Spirit to strengthen them to serve your people, following the example of your Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen**



Day 9



GOD'S WORD

John 10:27-30 - *The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice*

Jesus said:

'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;

I know them and they follow me.

I give them eternal life;

they will never be lost

and no one will ever steal them from me.

The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone,

and no one can steal from the Father.

The Father and I are one.'

QUIET TIME AND REFLECTION

- God made you to know him, love him and serve him in this life and be happy with him in the next.
- How can you find ways to listen to his voice so that you can know and love him better?
- How is God asking you to serve him?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who never leaves his flock untended. As we are nourished by your Word, help us to share our faith with others. Send more labourers into the harvest to serve as priests, deacons, sisters and brothers. Amen

