

## Reflection Monday Week 24 – 2023

While Paul calls us to pray and to pray for everyone without exception, Luke shows us a Jesus who wonders at the faith of a Roman Centurion – an example of faith to us all. Does our faith help us see Jesus in this way? When our prayers for others who are sick, seriously ill, facing an operation, down on their luck, facing immense difficulties are answered the answer is obvious - of course we do. However, what happens when our prayers seem to go unanswered and those we pray for seem not to receive any help? This is a real challenge to our faith.

Jesus gives us the answer at the most difficult time of his life in the Garden of Gethsemane. He has asked his Father not to have to accept the chalice from which he is asked to drink but concluded *“Not my will but thy will be done!”* Our prayer for others is best when we pray that God’s will be done for that person. Often when our prayer seems to go unanswered the person receives an unexpected gift of grace that people do not think could happen beforehand. Maybe our prayers should include a plea to help us see how God works in those difficult times even when the good does not surface until some time later.

Dear God, take my hand and walk with me.

Gently show me your plan.

Help me understand the lessons I can learn from every situation.

Open my heart to see that each trial can lead me closer to you.

Help me to accept and appreciate the great wisdom,  
compassion and mercy with which you hear all requests.

Remind me that you love each person more than I ever can  
and that you always treat people with the greatest care.

Help me recognise that you answer all prayer exactly how they need to be answered. Amen.