

1408
1624
2090

Friday Prayer - 954

5. 4. 84
23. 3. 87
22. 3. 93

Hells once again: and this morning let's begin with this prayer from the letters of Lent:

O Sacred Head
(Love Divine 1st)

Remember in
Reclines [Byrd]

Father, all-powerful & ever-living God, we do call always & ever again to give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. More fervent in prayer, more generous in works of charity, more eager in celebrating the mysteries by which we are reborn, may we come to the fullness of grace that belongs to the sons of God. Expressed in that prayer are things we ask for, would like to have or to be ... more fervent, more generous more eager, may we come. It's a community prayer, that one, one of the special Lent-time preface prayers of the Eucharist. Because it's a community prayer, you might say its sentiments and its petitions have to be generalised, inclusive. Then it's up to each one of us to make the prayer our own, to personalise it. But, trying to do that will challenge you to make it really your own - challenge by, perhaps, setting out an aspect of faith, an attitude to God and other or to life itself which you maybe hadn't given any thought to before... or maybe even haven't wanted to hear or live by. Like the scriptures, in one sense, the public prayer of the church just because it's ^(necessity) not what we ourselves want to say privately to God, is a challenge ... to listen, to respond, to join with. It is for this reason a useful and valuable spiritual aid and exercise, for the church at prayer (not just scattered individuals on their own), the church at prayer is also a measure, guide, a guarantee of the Christian faith. So we pray both privately, individually, in our own personal relationship with God and together in community as the people of God. How we pray those moments, what we pray for and about in each, will most likely be quite different. But there shouldn't be a conflict between them: and if there

heard or read it
all, not just a
shortened version
for,

seems to be, then a little more reflection and self-examination may be called for. So, to return ^{nearest} to the topic I wanted to suggest for your meditation & personal prayer today, what is it that you really want, really pray for? What do you most want for? You know, it's a phrase we often enough use in a throw-away fashion: I will that..., I will for. Now, this Lent-time, approaching the season of the passion and death of Christ, and His resurrection, what do we most seriously want for? ^{Next yesterday's} ~~Last~~ Sunday's gospel-reading in our churches ^{will be} ~~was~~ that long ^{hope you} ~~was~~ ^{It's a} chapter of St John (cl9) about a man born blind who was cured by Jesus. It's a marvellous story in itself, told with an amazing wealth of detail and of psychological observation, if you listen carefully enough to it. It's about faith, and the light of faith, the enlightenment which Christian baptism is, about Christ the Light of the world ... and it's also about a man who experienced what must surely be one of life's extraordinary miracles, to have sight given to eyes that had never seen before. It's in another gospel incident, though, that Christ asked a blind man who called out to Him by the roadside, what did he want: and he said, Sir that I might see. The scripture words are, perhaps, familiar: but what if we read it in the expression that (in English anyway) is maybe a more natural way of saying it: "I wish I could see". How deeply, strongly and simply that sounds ... and how real it is for someone who is actually blind - it's something most of us won't ever really appreciate. "I wish I could see" - "I wish ..." for what? Let that be the focus of your thoughts & prayer today

Pueri Hebraeorum
#13 2:20
ABB.E.14 14

as we listen, first, to this prayer in music: ["Ubi Caritas et Amor" - when there from Partisimbine "Gloria, laus et honor tibi s: b"] is charity = love. Story, prayer & answer to you. ^{XX} Redeem ^{PRAYERS}

"I will" : how often have you said that for something quite trivial or unimportant, or else perhaps very self-centred? "I wish I could see" — we say that, too, sometimes, in a metaphorical or figurative sense, tho' it's a very literal prayer too, for many people around us. The man born blind that Jesus sent off to wash & so be cured, he tho' found that being able to see landed him in a lot of trouble, just because of Jesus and the power He exercised for him. Let us indeed make it a prayer of sincerity, before the Lord: "I will..." Let us pray that we may see, too, with the eyes of faith, see more clearly the way we are going, see and understand. But by the same token, may we also prepare ourselves to get into trouble because of Jesus who heals our vision, to have to share with Him the blame and accusations, the criticism and scorn which (like for Him) may even lead on to suffering, cruelty, death. To see God and His world more clearly, to see His providence and purposes at work, in events and in people, to have the vision that Christ has from His cross of the real worth and value, beauty and truth, of people and of this world of ours --- to wish for this, and to see things through faith in Christ is already a great gift of God's grace: let us pray for this, pray for the things that the Lord Himself wishes to give us if only our hearts and lives were fervent, eager and generous enough to receive them. But don't be afraid to see visions or dream dreams — the Holy Spirit is with us who've been baptised into Christ: let Him who inspires our hearts' and minds' desires guide us and go with us in the fulfillment of everything we wish for, in Christ.