



CELEBRATING AT HOME

**30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

*We've all met them! (Luke 18:9-14)*



## CELEBRATING AT HOME

# 30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The Lord is here, present among us.

**We are gathered with the whole Church  
in this moment of prayer.**

### Preparing to hear the Word

Lord Jesus,

**you call us into loving relationship with God.**

Lord Jesus,

**you call us into loving relationship with one  
another.**

Lord Jesus,

**you form us in humility and truth.**

### Scripture Reading *(Luke 18:9-14)*

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else.

‘Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, “I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get.”

The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner.” This man, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted.’

### Reflection - *We've all met them!*

We've all met them: people who only seem to be able to bolster their self-image by putting everyone else down. We meet such a character in the Pharisee in the Gospel for this Sunday.

Like the Pharisee in this week's Gospel, we can sometimes see religion as a set of personal rituals, actions and prayers that cause us to think we have been faithful to God's calling because we have done this or that.

Spirituality, however, is about practising our 'faith' with a profound sense of God's presence, God's love for us, and ours for one another. We live work and pray out of our relationship with God, deeply aware of God's gift of abiding love and mercy that surrounds us.

The background for the Gospel is set in the First Reading from Ecclesiasticus (35:12-14, 16-19) – God's judgement is not fooled by outward appearances of wealth, or power, or religious shows of piety. God cannot be fooled into judging against the injured, the poor, the widow or orphan.

It is the person 'who with his whole heart serves God' whose prayers are accepted.

The parable in this Gospel, we are told, is addressed to 'people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else'.

The Pharisee (people well respected due to their personal piety) prays to God, reminding God (and himself) what a good person he is and all the religious things he has done. He has thus fulfilled the duties of a 'religious' and 'righteous' person – unlike, he says, the tax collector.

However, the tax collector (considered a sinner in Jesus' time), doesn't see himself worthy to even lift his eyes to God and acknowledges that he has sinned and considers himself unworthy to be in the presence of God. But, as Jesus says, he leaves the temple 'at rights with God'. His relationship with God is from the heart. Overcome with a deep awareness of God's love for him, and his own unworthiness of it, he does not dare to even lift up his eyes. Whereas the Pharisee, through his lack of humility and apparent self-righteousness, leaves *assuming* that he is at rights with God.

Our prayer and worship should never be empty words or merely symbolic actions. They must truly come from our hearts and so lead us not only into a deeper relationship with God but also into the willing service of all.

## CELEBRATING AT HOME

# 30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Prayers of Intercession

Lord, give us the wisdom and energy  
to proclaim the Good News to the world.

Transform our hearts:  
may the gospel break through hatred, racism,  
greed and violence.

We pray for those deprived of home,  
freedom and opportunity;  
and those harmed by exploitation and fear.

### Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus,  
we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

### Closing Prayer

Lord God,  
fill us with the spirit of your Son  
that we may witness his love in our families,  
our parishes and our world.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### Blessing

May the blessing of God be among us,  
and remain with us for ever. **Amen.**





# Journey into the Light

This resource is presented by the Carmelites of Australia & Timor-Leste at a time when many cannot gather together as we usually do to celebrate the Eucharist. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

As you use this prayer know that the Carmelites will be remembering in our prayer all the members of our family at this time.



**The Carmelites**  
Australia & Timor-Leste

PRAYER • COMMUNITY • SERVICE

[www.carmelites.org.au](http://www.carmelites.org.au) | [Facebook.com/CarmelitesAET](https://Facebook.com/CarmelitesAET)  
[Instagram.com/carmelitesaet](https://Instagram.com/carmelitesaet)



[www.ocarm.org](http://www.ocarm.org)  
[Facebook.com/ocarm.org](https://Facebook.com/ocarm.org)