

**Lectionary readings: Jeremiah 31: 27-34; Psalm 119: 97-104; 2 Timothy 3: 14 - 4: 5; Luke 18: 1-8**

**For reflection and prayer**

- **Jeremiah 31:** *'I will be their God, and they will be My people.'* These are the words of God to us, our God who has pledged Himself to us forever. He is for us; He is on our side; He loves us; He accepts us as we are. He wants us to know Him - not just about Him - but know Him intimately. He wants us to receive His forgiveness and be set free from our guilt. Is this the God we know and worship? Have we received His forgiveness which He is holding out to us as a gift? Do we know this loving God who dwells in our heart?
- **Psalm 119:** Here are a few verses from 'Psalms for Praying' for us to reflect on: *'O how I love Your friendship! I walk with You wherever I go.... As we surrender ourselves to Your living Presence, we will be filled with the radiance of Love.... As we open our hearts to the spiritual life, we will be filled with wisdom, freedom and joy.... O how glorious are the ways of the Spirit! How wondrous are Your works!'*
- **2 Timothy 3:** Verse 17 struck me in The Message: *'Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us.'* It filled me with a longing to be 'put together' and be made whole. What does this say to you? Scripture shows us how God wants us to live. How important, then, it is for us to read the Scriptures and know how God expects us to live. Paul also urges Timothy to *'accept the hard times with the good; keep the Message alive; and do a thorough job as*

*God's servant.'* How easy do we find it to accept the hard times and to find God present with us at such times so that our faith grows as a result?

- **Luke 18:** We could interpret this passage as being about persevering in prayer. I wonder how we would describe our prayer life? Non-existent, except when we are in a spot of trouble? Or regular, daily, part of a deep, loving relationship with God, as natural as breathing? Unfortunately, busy-ness characterises a lot of our lives today so that prayer occupies a position of low priority. Perhaps it's time to review our priorities and to ask ourselves: Where does God feature in my daily living? One thing is certain: each one of us is top of God's priority, for He loves us dearly and He waits longingly and patiently for us to engage with Him in a relationship of love and entrust ourselves to Him. Let this be part of our reflection this week.

**A prayer** (by Charles de Foucauld)

***Into Your hands***

*Father, I abandon myself into Your hands; do with me what You will.*

*Whatever You may do, I thank You. I am ready for all; I accept all; let only Your will be done in me, and in all Your creatures. I wish no more than this, O Lord.*

*Into Your hands I commend my soul and offer it to You with all the love of my heart; for I love You, Lord, and so need to give myself, to surrender myself into Your hands without reserve, and with boundless confidence, for You are my Father. Amen.*