Rom 11:6

cf Eph 5:2

## **Praying with St Paul**

(This is one continuous prayer. Readers might like to personalise this prayer by incorporating in it various texts of St Paul that have particular meaning to them.)

#### The Church's Year of St Paul: June 2008 - June 2009

Brother Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC Pentecost 2008

#### **CHOSEN TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS**

We thank you, Father Gal 1:15 that each of us is your work of art, Eph 2:10

chosen specially long ago

to live through love in your presence Eph 1:3-4

and be joyful envoys, radiant ambassadors for Christ, 2 Cor 2:17; 2 Cor 5:20

reflecting your brightness like mirrors 2 Cor 3:18

in conveying Good News to the people you love. 1 Thess 2:4; Rom 1:7

May your Spirit enable us

to shine in the world like bright stars Phil 2:16

in offering it the word of life.

We proclaim 'Christ among us, our hope of glory', Col 1:27; cf Acts 28:20

appreciating that Jesus fulfilled the scriptures

as well as people's hopes, cf Acts 28:20; 1 Cor 15:3 in all that he said and did.

### **FREELY-GIVEN GRACE**

None of us can 'earn' salvation. Father:

nobody can 'earn' your healing and forgiveness.

It is by your freely-given grace that we are saved, and our good deeds are simply a response

to your loving actions.

Our relationship with you, Father, is 'made right'

through the abundant and free gift of your grace Rom 3:24: 5:15 which you shower upon us, redeeming us in Christ. Eph 1:7; Rom 3:24

#### RECONCILED, JUSTIFIED, AT ONE WITH YOU

To be restored, to live 'at one' with you, Father, needed the offering of a perfect sacrifice.

That sacrifice was offered by our brother, Jesus the Lord, 1 Tim 2:5; cf Rom 5:15-19; Gal 1:4

whom Paul also describes

as the only Son of God. Acts 9:20; Col 2:9 And so in Jesus - fully human and fully God - we are fulfilled and 'justified', Father, made right and reconciled with you.

Col 2:9; Rom 3:24-26

#### **BOUGHT AND PAID FOR**

Through the life, death and resurrection of your Son you have dealt with sin and death, Father, Rom 8:14 taking away the power that they had over us.

To you, Father,

each of us must give an account of ourselves

and we thank you for giving us the victory

Rom 14:12

1 Cor 15:57

through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The cross, after all, is your power to save. 1 Cor 1:18

You do not hold our sins against us, Father, 2 Cor 5:19

and Jesus, by nailing them to the cross, cf Gal 2:19-21

has done away with

every record of the debt that we owed. Col 2:14

In a sermon of his,

St Paul is the only one to mention that Jesus said:

"There is more happiness in giving than in receiving" Acts 20:35

- and we rejoice that in Jesus, we gain our freedom,

the forgiveness of our sins, Col 1:14

and we acknowledge

that we have been bought and paid for. 1 Cor 6:20; 7:23

#### **ENCOUNTERING JESUS**

Paul declared that nothing can happen Phil 3:8-9

that can outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing, of relating to, Christ Jesus our Lord.

Christ is our life Col 3:4

and we are called to encounter him personally.

We join Paul in proclaiming

that all we "want is to know Christ Phil 3:10

and the power of his resurrection".

#### **EVERYDAY LIFE**

In our everyday life, Father,

we pray for the Spirit to inspire and empower us that we may show forth our faith in action.

1 Thess 1:3

beside all the people you love in our world of today.

It is in our everyday lives

that we are planted in love and built on love, to follow Christ by loving as he loved us, Eph 5:2

and we ask that your Spirit may enable us, Father,

to encourage each other in our common faith, Rom 1:12; 1 Thess 5:11 putting fresh heart into your people. Acts 14:22; Phlm 1:7,20

We are conscious, too,

that your goodness, Father,

is meant to lead us to repentance. Rom 2:4

May our minds be filled

with everything that is true and noble, good and pure, Phil 4:8ff

and all that is virtuous and worthy of praise.

We pray that our love may never be a pretence Rom 12:9

but that we may have a profound respect for each person, 2 Cor 1:12; Rom 12:10-13

resisting evil and conquering it with good.

Rom 12:21

May we be kept firm and strong in the faith.

Rom 12:21

#### **JESUS IS LORD; RESURRECTION; WE ARE HEIRS**

We proclaim the Good News, Father,

that Jesus is Lord. Rom 10:9: Acts 23:6

and that you raised him from death.

He is the first-fruits of all who 'fall asleep' 1 Cor 15:20

- and so each of us can consider Jesus

as our eldest brother: Rom 8:29

the one to lead us through what he first experienced.

Being heirs to an inheritance reminds us

of so much that really matters, that is precious,

of pride in heritage,

of treasuring family love and memories, of us belonging to something greater

which, at the same time, belongs to us.

And so we are proud to say, Father,

that we are your heirs, Rom 8:16-17

called to inherit great riches cf 2 Cor 4:14; Rom 8:34

and have promises fulfilled:

for no reason except your own compassion! Titus 3:5-8

#### THE SPIRIT IN US

We rejoice that your love, faithful God,
has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
who has made his home in each of us,
enabling us to turn to you and pray intimately:

"Abba, Father".

God 2 Thess 3:3

Rom 5:5

Rom 8:9

Gal 4:6-7

Rom 8:15, 26-27

It is by co-operating with your Spirit,

that we can put to good use

the various gifts with which you have lovingly graced us. cf 1 Cor 7:7; 12:11; 2 Cor 6:1
You lavish us with your riches, Father, Phil 4:19; 1 Tim 6:17

You lavish us with your riches, Father, Phil 4:19; 1 and there is no limit to the blessings you send, 2 Cor 9:8 enabling our witness to Christ to be strong. 1 Cor 1:6

There are times, in fact,

when the love of Christ overwhelms us, 2 Cor 5:14 and we remain convinced cf Rom 8:28-39

that nothing can ever come between us

and your love, Father,

made visible in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Many are the trials through which we triumph Rom 8:37-39

by the power of him who loved us.

#### **SUFFERING**

Each of us knows, Father, that your power is at its best when our own weakness is evident,

2 Cor 12:9-10

and we pray that we may retain the lived conviction

that to suffer in your way 2 Cor 7:10

means changing for the better,

and leaves no regrets.

Paul reminds us that what we suffer in this life Rom 8:18; 2 Cor 4:17

can never be compared

to the glory which is waiting for us and adds that, if we have hope

- if we truly have conviction - Rom 12:12; cf Titus 2:13-14

then that will make us joyful.

In all our sorrows, Father,

there can be benefit for other people:

you give us inexhaustible comfort 2 Thess 2:16-17

and such sure conviction that we are enabled

to bring your own comfort and consolation to others. 2 Cor 1:4

**APPRECIATION** 

We pray that, for each of us,

our attitude may always be Col 1:3; 3:16; Eph 1:16; Phil 1:3; that of appreciation and thankfulness. 1 Thess 1:2; 5:17; 2 Thess 2:13

We thank you

that you have enriched us in so many ways,

especially in those people

who have embodied qualities of the Spirit: Gal 5:21-22

showing love, joy and peace, patience, kindness and goodness, trustfulness, gontleness and self-col

trustfulness, gentleness and self-control.

**MESSENGERS OF THE GOOD NEWS** 

Bless, Father,

the people to whom we hand on your Good News 2 Tim 2:3 that they may have much joy and peace in their faith Rom 15:13

so that they in turn

will be able to proclaim to others

that the Good News is 'the power of God

saving all who have faith'. Rom 1:16
Then the message of Christ in all its richness Col 3:16

will find a home, Father,

in all those for whom you have created a place

in the Kingdom of your dear Son. Amen.

Prayer written for the Church's 'Year of St Paul' (June 2008 – June 2009) by Brother Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC: written for the Diocese of Salford at the request of the Diocesan Centre for Evangelisation.

Col 1:13

A free electronic version of the prayer is available on request by writing to Nicholas@prayingeachday.org

## SIX BOOKS by Nicholas Hutchinson

To look at the author's six books, go to the publisher's website at <a href="https://www.matthew-james.co.uk">www.matthew-james.co.uk</a>

Click on 'Catalogue'
Against 'keyword' type in the word 'praying'.
There, amongst others, the author's six books can be viewed:
'Lord, Teach us to Pray'
'Praying Each Day of the Year' – 3 volumes
'Walk In My Presence' – 2 volumes.

# A BOOK ABOUT LIVING WITH TERMINAL ILLNESS AND ACCOMPANYING LOVED ONES WHO ARE DYING

In late 2008 or early 2009 Dominican Publications in Ireland will be printing a resource book to which Brother Nicholas Hutchinson and others will have contributed. The book explores living with terminal illness and accompanying loved ones who are dying. Queries can be made at <a href="https://www.dominicanpublications.com">www.dominicanpublications.com</a>

This text was found at the homepage of www.prayingeachday.org where there are also texts and prayers regarding being terminally ill as well as prayer and educational resources.