

New and Corrected Translation of the Mass – Part 23

The Our Father – Part A: The Our Father itself

Our Father, Who art in heaven,	<i>Matt 6.9-13; Luke 11.2-4</i>
(1) Hallowed be Thy Name.	<i>Neh 9.5; Ps 113.2; Lk 1.49; Jn 12.28</i>
(2) Thy Kingdom come.	<i>Mk 1.15; Lk 10.9; Rev 12.10</i>
(3) Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.	<i>Mt 7.21; Acts 21.14</i>
(4) Give us this day our daily bread.	<i>Ex 16.4,31; Acts 2.46</i>
(5) And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.	<i>Mt 6.14f; 18.21-35; Col 3.13</i>
(6) And lead us not into temptation,	<i>1 Cor 10.13; Hb 2.18; James 1.13</i>
(7) but deliver us from evil.	<i>Lk 1.74; Gal 1.4; Col 1.3; 1 Th 1.10</i>

In response to the disciples' request, 'Lord, teach us to pray,' Jesus teaches them the Our Father. This is a prayer from the heart of Jesus, from the Son to the Father. He gives it to us because He makes us part of His body; so we can only pray the Our Father as members of Jesus' Body. In other words, praying it makes us more and more into sons (in the image of the Only-Begotten Son), and we are never alone when we pray the Our Father. That is why above all it is a Communion prayer.

The priest introduces it saying, '*At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say.*' The Our Father requires boldness, a Christian boldness, because we dare to call God our Father – and we do it because Jesus told us to.

The Our Father has seven petitions, numbered above. The first three seek God's honour and glory. This reminds us that before all else, before all our own needs and petitions, our greatest need is the need to worship God – to honour, sanctify, glorify, praise and adore Him. So Our Lord tells us, '*But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things [that you need] shall be yours as well*' (Mt 6.33).

The last four petitions focus on our needs: (a) bread, above all Jesus in the Eucharist, sacrificed for us once and for all, (b) forgiveness – while committing ourselves to forgiving others, (c) endurance in temptation, and (d) deliverance from evils too great for us, including Satan and his demons.