

I wonder if you've ever been to a protest march? Experienced what it feels like to join together with a massive group of like-minded people because there is something you feel incredibly strong about that needs to change? Protest marches usually happen because someone somewhere feels like those who hold all the power just aren't listening to our voices. So even though we may feel like we can't change a particular situation on our own, it can often be the case that if we band together with others in protest to persist and persist in asking for what we believe is right, eventually we get justice. This sort of thing rarely happens overnight but if we feel strongly enough about the situation, we are willing to keep on going until things change.

In our gospel this week, Jesus told us that we should be exactly the same when we pray. He used the example of a widow (a person who had absolutely no power or agency in the society of her day) standing up against an unjust judge and pleading her case again and again until the judge finally relented and ruled in her favour. Jesus is making a 'compare and contrast' argument here because he's saying that if even the most unjust of judges will eventually relent and deliver justice, then surely God who loves us, wants the best for us and wants to see justice in this world, surely that God will be even more minded to grant our requests.

So when you pray, if it seems like you don't at first get an answer, then don't give up! Keep on persisting (and protesting!) in prayer just like this widow did in Jesus' story. If you see an injustice in the world, then go along and share in the protest because that can be an act of prayer too.

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel marched in the famous civil rights marches in America in 1965 and of that time, he said this: "I felt like my legs were praying!" Sometimes prayer is about words, sometimes prayer is about action – working together with others to change this world to become more Christlike and more just. So in whatever way you pray, keep on praying and don't give up! That is central to our Christian faith.



### **Prayer:**

*Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world as your love would have it: a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor; a world where the riches of creation are shared, and everyone can enjoy them; a world where different races and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect; a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love. Give us the inspiration and courage to pray for it and then to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*



### **Gospel Reading: Luke 18:1-8**

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: 'In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, "Grant me justice against my adversary."

'For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, "Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!"'

And the Lord said, 'Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?'