

## Presence

Lord, you are the Good Shepherd who knows me by name and promises to be with me always. In these times of uncertainty and distress, help me to *really* know this, in a place beyond words - in the depths of my being.

## Freedom

There are very few people who realise what God would make of them if they abandoned themselves into his hands, and let themselves be formed by his grace, (St Ignatius of Loyola). I ask for the grace to entrust myself totally to God's love.



## The Word of God     **Matthew 10:17-20**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Beware of men: they will hand you over to sanhedrins and scourge you in their synagogues. You will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the pagans. But when they hand you over, do not worry about how to speak or what to say; what you are to say will be given to you when the time comes; because it is not you who will be speaking; the Spirit of your Father will be speaking in you.'

Some thoughts on today's scripture

- We have probably not been dragged before governors or kings, but we may well have experienced occasions when we felt out of place and perhaps even made fun of because of our faith. Lord, when we are under pressure, help us first to pray for your guidance, and then trust that you are with us.
- On 4<sup>th</sup> May 1535, at Tyburn in London, the first of many martyrs of the English Reformation died for their faith. They were three Carthusian monks. Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May, the day of this Gospel passage is the Feast of the English Martyrs. These martyrs came from every walk of life: men and women, rich and poor, married and single, religious and lay persons. May their example inspire us to be people strong in faith and may their intercession strengthen our resolve.
- Sadly, every day an increasing number of Christians are being persecuted for their faith. It "is so frequent that we are now used to it. It has become acceptable for Christians to be persecuted for their faith. It is not acceptable." (Archbishop John Wilson's homily at an Aid to the Church in Need Mass for Persecuted Christians, 18/2/2020). Today let us pray for people around the world who, even in the most hostile of circumstances and with steadfast faith and great courage, continue to follow Christ's call. Let us pray also for those who work to protect and support today's persecuted Christians, especially the charity Aid to the Church in Need, ([www.acnuk.org](http://www.acnuk.org)) .
- Last Sunday was World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. Let us pray for those in formation, for those who are discerning and for those who have not yet recognised the Lord's call in their lives. In these days of isolation and locked churches, may a deeper devotion to the Eucharist grow within us all.

## Conversation

Lord, you are always there waiting for me. Sometimes I get bogged down with the concerns of this life. Grant that I may be still more often to now your peace, your calm.

## Conclusion

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.