

The Our Father

Today Jesus Christ himself, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, teaches us how we should pray. We say this prayer so often, that for many of us, it has lost the freshness it had for those who heard it first, from the lips of Jesus.

Although many themes of his prayer would have been familiar to his listeners, a most radical element is contained in the very first phrase, 'Father'.

To the modern ear the term 'Father' sounds rather formal. The particular form of 'Father' used by Jesus however - , 'Abba', is an intimate expression still used by 'Adult' children today when addressing their father.

By addressing God in this way, we are reminded of the most profound truth, we are God's children, we are God's family. Through baptism we have become partakers in the sonship of Jesus Christ. We are the adopted daughters and sons of God the Father, sisters and brothers of Jesus Christ and of one another. All of this rich meaning is contained in Jesus' use of 'Father' - 'Abba'.

In this coming week let us learn to meditate anew on the prayer Jesus gave us. Let us meditate on what it means to acknowledge that God is our true Father and that we are truly his children, for, 'In him we live and move and have our being' (Acts 17:28)