**Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

21st October 2018

‘Jesus, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.’

How often is this my prayer? ‘Jesus, I need some money to pay for a new car.’ ‘Jesus, please make this interview go well.’ ‘Jesus, give me this.’ I want Jesus to do whatever I ask Him to do.

Many of us know from experience that often our prayers are not answered in the way we expect them to be. There have been many occasions I have prayed for one thing and received a totally different gift from the Lord; He always answers prayers in His abundant and surprising ways.

Today’s Gospel shows one of these more unexpected answers. When James and John petition Jesus, they receive a promise very different to the one that they wanted. Instead of a guarantee of a place at Jesus’ side, He offers them an opportunity to share in His own passion.

It is a reminder that in order to follow Jesus, to be His friend, to converse with Him in prayer and hear His voice, we must pick up our own crosses and follow Him.

Sophie

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