



**FATHER ANTON'S WORDS OF WISDOM:** This week's Gospel speaks to us of faith. A young man is presented to Jesus to be healed, most likely suffering from Epilepsy. His disciples could not cure him, so his father brought him to Jesus, and he was cured. His disciples taken aback asked Jesus "Why could we not cure him?" Jesus response was straight and to the point..."How long must I endure you! This kind can only be cured through prayer and fasting." Faith believes that what we ask for in prayer will be given to us. Prayer is not the opportunity to be self-centred, but rather to open ourselves up to the love and power of God. Of course we pray for our needs, especially those that will help us on our spiritual journey, but the idea of asking God for money, a bigger house, a nicer car... all these are wants, not needs. Materially, what we have is up to us, and for many, life is about living from week to week. It is not these material things that bring us joy or show God's blessings... nor is what we have sign that God loves us more than others... this is very childish thinking and in some ways selfish. We can ask God to guide us in the situation we are in, but it is up to us to do the work. If debt is our problem we need to put the credit cards away and learn to live within our means. If we feel deprived because we don't live in a mansion, we need to be grateful we have a place to come to every day, since 85% percent of the worlds populations still lives in poverty and homelessness. If we aren't happy with our car, perhaps park it for a week and walk everywhere, I'm sure the perspective will change. This young man's father knew and believed that Jesus could make a difference in his son's life. Jesus, always in tune with His Father was able to do what he asked. You and I need to learn that prayer is less about words than it is about finding a quiet place to sit in the presence of God and in the stillness and quiet listen to His voice. It is a voice that is gentle and kind; calling us to "come, all who are heavily burdened". We need to fast not just from food, but more importantly from those things that cause us to move farther from our identity as God's children. Fast from judgement of others, hatred, dissension, violence, prejudice, self-importance and self-righteousness. Fast from the foolishness of a world that tells us happiness and success in only measured by what you have, rather than who you are. Faith is the gift and ability to believe in that which is not seen, and often that which we are told is impossible. With God all things are possible. United with Jesus, conscious of His presence in our daily living makes faith a part of everyday living. We live this faith not even conscious of it because it has become a way of life. In this way nothing can bring us down... "For all things work unto good, for those who love God" says St. Paul. We may not always get what we ask for... no one does, you don't even to that for your children. That which we need is provided and the rest is up to us, but if our happiness depends on what we have we are doomed for a life of disappointment, because we are insatiable... what we have is never enough... this is evident all arounds us... I need the "latest", iphone, ipad, computer, tv, appliances, furniture, designer clothes and accessories. The list is endless. Don't buy into the commercialism of the world, but rather believe in the stability of life with God. Live your life in faith and you will never be disappointed.

**Let us pray:** Lord Jesus, you came into world to that our joy could be complete. Forgive for those time when I have looked for fulfillment in all the wrong places and lead me to the place of light, where faith shines brightly in the knowledge that Your love and mercy is enough. Amen.