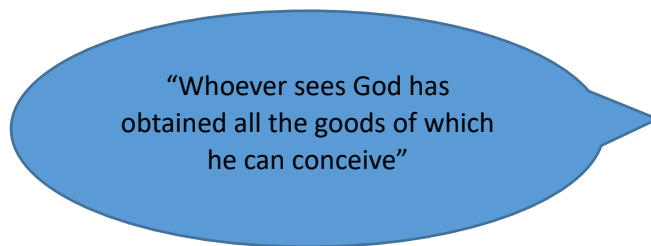


What is the greatest human desire ?

The greatest desire of the human person is to see God. “I want to see God” is the cry of our whole being. We realise our true and full happiness in the vision and beatitude of the One who created us out of love and draws us to Himself with infinite love.

**Christian Prayer****What is prayer ?**

Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God, or the petition of good things from Him in accord with His Will. It is always the gift of God who comes to encounter man. Christian prayer is the personal and living relationship of the children of God with their Father who is infinitely good, with His Son Jesus Christ, and with the Holy Spirit who dwells in their hearts.

Why is there a universal call to prayer ?

Because through creation God first calls every being from nothingness. Even after the Fall man continues to be capable of recognising his Creator and retains a desire for the One who has called him into existence. All religions, and the whole history of salvation in particular, bear witness to this human desire for God. It is God first of all, however, who ceaselessly draws every person to the mysterious encounter known as prayer.

Old Testament**How is Abraham a model of prayer ?**

Abraham is a model of prayer because he walked in the presence of God, heard and obeyed Him. His prayer was a battle of faith because he continued to believe in the fidelity of God even in times of trial. Besides, after having received in his own tent the visit of the Lord who confided His plan to him, Abraham dared to intercede for sinners with bold confidence.

How did Moses pray ?

The prayer of Moses was typical of contemplative prayer. God, who called to Moses from the burning bush, lingered in conversation with him often and at length, “face to face, like a man with his friend” (Exodus 33:11). In this intimacy with God, Moses attained the strength to intercede tenaciously for his people: his prayer thus prefigured the intercession of the one mediator, Christ Jesus.

In the Old Testament, what relationship do the king and the temple have to prayer ?

The prayer of the People of God developed in the shadow of the dwelling place of God – the Ark of the Covenant, then the Temple – under the guidance of their shepherds. Among them there was David, the King “after God’s own heart,” the shepherd who prayed for his people. His prayer was a model for the prayer of the people because it involved clinging to the divine promise and a trust filled with love for the One who is the only King and Lord.

What is the role of prayer in the mission of the prophets ?



The prophets drew from prayer the light and strength to exhort the people to faith and to conversion of heart. They entered into great intimacy with God and interceded for their brothers and sisters to whom they proclaimed what they had seen and heard from the Lord. Elijah was the father of the prophets, of those who sought the face of God. On Mount Carmel he achieved the return of the people to the faith, thanks to the intervention of God to whom he

prayed: “Answer me, O Lord, answer me!” (1 Kings 18:37).

What is the importance of the Psalms in prayer ?

The Psalms are the summit of prayer in the Old Testament: the Word of God become the prayer of man. Inseparably both personal and communal, and inspired by the Holy Spirit, this prayer sings of God’s marvellous deeds in creation and in the history of salvation. Christ prayed the Psalms and brought them to fulfilment. Thus they remain an essential and permanent element of the prayer of the Church suited to people of every condition and time.

It is essential that every Catholic has access to good Catechesis to be able to deepen their faith. The Diocese of Plymouth recommends the many Catechetical Workshops from 'Franciscan at Home,' for more information on access to these and online or real group sessions contact deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk