

## Sermons at All Saints, Luxembourg

Preached by Rev Canon Geoff Read on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2026

LICC Front line series - whoever we are

Text: Matthew 6:5-14

In 1666 a terrible fire swept through the London destroying everything in its path including St Paul's Cathedral

Just five years later rebuilding began under the architect Sir Christopher Wren.



The story is told of how one day in 1671, Christopher Wren observed three bricklayers on a scaffold, one crouched, one half-standing and one standing tall, working very hard and fast. To the first bricklayer, Christopher Wren asked the question, "What are you doing?" to which the bricklayer replied, "I'm a bricklayer. I'm working hard laying bricks to feed my family." The second bricklayer, responded, "I'm a builder. I'm building a wall." But the third brick layer, the most productive of the three and the future leader of the group, when asked the question, "What are you doing?" replied with a gleam in his eye, "I'm a cathedral builder. I'm building a great cathedral to The Almighty."

Our frontlines are those places and roles where we spend most of our days and that sense of bigger purpose can be transformational to how we approach what we do

But an even deeper transformation of how and what we do comes through growth in our sense of identity, usually understood as about Who we are

Identity for the Christians isn't just Who we are,  
but **Whose** we are



"Our Father" means  
we are His  
daughters and sons

For the followers of Jesus who had started to ask about this bigger purpose, He offered them another answer about identity - not just, who we are, but whose we are in the words of what we now call The Lord's Prayer

He said start with "Our Father ..."

And the "our" refers not just to other disciples but to Jesus too which makes us sons and daughters with Jesus of God the Father, and sister and brothers of Jesus, part of the family of God

and it's with this identity that Jesus speaks about praying and acting for our 24/7 lives, our frontlines

Frontlines where we are involved in not just doing things for God but joining in with our Father's work in the world through these activities that we explored last time using these 6 Ms

## 6Ms

- ...Modelling godly character
- ...Making good work
- ...Ministering grace & love
- ...Moulding culture
- ...Mouthpiece for truth & justice
- ...Messenger of the gospel

Not For but **With** our Father



I don't know what comes to mind when you hear the word "Father"

I am truly sorry if it is something difficult, painful or sad because of your experience in your family of origin

Even when it is something positive

In both cases we need to suspend as far as we can that association and allow Jesus to reshape our understanding

We find out what that means here in the Lord's prayer and I want to focus on three things

### Our Father ....

- Your Kingdom come ... on earth as in heaven
- give us today our daily bread
- forgive us ... as we forgive



Your Kingdom come on earth as in heaven - we have already thought about that in this sermons series, the invitation to see whatever we do as potentially contributing to our Father's bigger purposes for us, those we interact with, the whole created order

To know God as Father is going ever deeper into Give us today our daily bread, the abundance of God - daily bread is about trusting God for the physical needs of life, but its also about so much more

As you look at these six Ms, I wonder which one excites you

What is it you are currently lacking to actually do that consistently

Maybe it's that you are a perfectionist - at best that does make for good work, but it may be at the expense of grace and love. The efforts of others are never good enough - you always see the blemish, and feel the need to say

So your daily bread will be asking God for ministering grace and love

What is lacking for you to model godly character or mould culture?



I was talking to a lady at Diocesan synod from another church. She works in what she described as a “toxic” team culture but didn’t dare to actually name it as such. I told her about the LICC material we are using and as we talked she began to wonder if she was being called to mould culture.

Maybe daily bread for her was to pray for the right words at the right time for the right people?

**Our Father ....**

- Your Kingdom come ... on earth as in heaven
- give us today our daily bread
- **forgive us ... as we forgive**



And thirdly, what about this thing of forgiving as we are forgiven, what is that saying about God our Father

I think it’s about going ever deeper into the freedom from fear, particularly fear of failure

Jesus doesn’t say if you pray, but when you pray say Father

Which suggest to me that asking for forgiveness is not if we fail, but when we do - and that our Father lovingly anticipates that

And when we do fail, we can expect from Him loving understanding and forgiveness

This phrase works from both ends

As we forgive, so we grow deeper in the joy of being forgiven

As we are forgiven, so we grow in the freedom to forgive others

And this can be transformational in moulding culture

We still offer feedback, opinion, and name mistakes - our own and others

But its always with a view to life, growth, the things of our Father, never putting others down

Serving God on our frontlines is not about ‘trying harder’. It’s about learning to allow the resurrection power of God to work in and through our lives as we embrace the things that God has asked us to do.

But it all begins with a clear and deepening sense of our identity - of Whose we are.

