

# The Virtue of Prudence

## MORNING PRAYER

Monday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### REFLECTION

In our prayers, we ought to pray that the leaders of the world show '**prudence**' in their decision making. Prudence is a virtue: It is something to admire in others and something to acquire for yourself.

But what does Prudence mean? Does it mean more than thinking to cover your head if its going to be very hot, or taking an umbrella if it might rain?

St John Henry Newman described Prudence as the virtue which '*discerns the end in every beginning, the origin in every end, and knowing how the path lies from one to the other*'.

In other words, Prudence is the ability to make decisions based on the reality of things, of things as they really are, in order to achieve what is good.

So what do you need to be prudent?

First, you need to learn from what has happened in the past.

Then you need to be open-minded to the future; what are the likely consequences of any action you might take.

And lastly, you need to be prepared to accept good advice from those who know better than you.

### PRAYERS

Let us pray that the leaders of the world act with true prudence, in order to bring about the betterment of society.  
Lord, hear us...

Let us pray that we be helped to acquire the virtue of Prudence in our time at school and in our preparations for life beyond school.

Lord, hear us...

St. Philip: **Pray for us.** *House Saint:* **Pray for us.**

In the name of the Father...

# The Virtue of Prudence

Tuesday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## REFLECTION

Notice the picture of the virtue of Prudence in the school library. You'll see that the artist Giotto imagines the virtue of Prudence as a student sitting at her desk, thoughtfully looking at herself in a mirror.

In this way, Giotto suggests Prudence means being *grounded in reality*, not in a fantasy world, or in wishful thinking.

The prudent person is someone who can see things clearly, who is living in the light of truth, 'warts and all' rather than the darkness of ignorance and wishful thinking.

The subjects which you study at school are all designed to help you understand and appreciate the truth, and then to learn lessons from those in history or in literature who have acted prudently or imprudently according to the truth.

That is why the virtue of Prudence is the foundation of all the other virtues which you need to acquire as you seek to be a

## PRAYERS

We pray for those who teach us in school and for our parents;  
May they help us to appreciate the importance of acting with prudence.

Lord, hear us...

Let us pray for our Holy Father Pope Leo, and for the Bishops of the Church;

May they lead us to discover Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Lord, hear us...

St. Philip: **Pray for us.** *House Saint:* **Pray for us.**

In the name of the Father...

# The Virtue of Prudence

Wednesday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## REFLECTION

What is the opposite of Prudence?

It is to be blind to reality:

To have a distorted idea of who we are,  
and to have a distorted idea of the reality of our situation.

The person without the virtue of Prudence behaves like a fool,  
and he can't see that he is a fool because he has no self-awareness.

For Newman, the foolish put 'Self as their supreme teacher,  
they are careless to know what God teaches them, and fearless  
of condemnation'.

We might laugh at the fool, but there is something tragic about  
someone who is completely lacking in prudence, because he is  
unaware that he is lacking in the one virtue that will help him  
live a noble life.

## PRAYERS

Let us pray for those who live unhappy and fruitless lives;  
May God help them discover their true dignity.  
Lord hear us...

Let us pray for those of us who will sit public exams next  
summer; May they prepare for them with prudence.  
Lord hear us...

St. Philip: **Pray for us.** *House Saint:* **Pray for us.**  
In the name of the Father...

# The Virtue of Prudence

Thursday

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## ROSARY REFLECTION

Let us pray the Rosary today, thinking of Jesus as our teacher in the ways of life, and ask him to influence the way we live day by day.

### **FIFTH JOYFUL MYSTERY:**

### **JESUS WAS FOUND IN THE TEMPLE**

*After three days Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the Temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.*

*1x Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day....*

*10x Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and Blessed is the fruit of they womb, Jesus. Holy Mary...*

*1x Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was... In the name ...*

Friday

## FRIDAY PRAYER

Remember that you can go to the Chapel for Confession this lunchtime.

This prayer for students was written by Saint Thomas Aquinas, the renowned Catholic philosopher and theologian:-

**Ineffable Creator,  
Pour forth a ray of your brightness  
into the darkened places of my mind;  
disperse from my soul the twofold darkness into which I was born:  
sin and ignorance.**

**You make eloquent the tongues of infants:  
Refine my speech  
and pour forth upon my lips the goodness of Your blessing.**

**Grant to me keenness of mind,  
capacity to remember,  
skill in learning,  
subtlety to interpret,  
and eloquence in speech.**

**May You guide the beginning of my work,  
direct its progress, and bring it to completion.**

**You who are true God and true Man,  
Who live and reign, world without end.  
Amen.**