

**AMDG**

## **Prayer Introduction.**

### **Where to begin?**

From *before* the beginning!

First of all, isn't it amazing to realise that God is, and has been, very much present with you and in you, leading you to this moment. In fact, as the prophet Jeremiah tells us, God has known you and loved you even before you were born: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you and before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." (Jeremiah chapter 1: verse 5) From all eternity, God has willed that you know Him and share His love and His life. That is what we want to do when we love someone: we want to be with them and to share all that we are with them. God, too, loves us and so He, too, wants to be with us and share all that He is with us.

So, thank God that you, now, are also trying to find Him, to know Him more deeply and to love Him more intimately.

### **How to begin?**

Not from where you are, but from where you would like to be!

You may have to come to this point, this place in your life, where you want to find God more deeply, for a number of different reasons:

- you may have had an experience of His love and of His presence which you want to deepen;
- you may have had a particularly difficult experience, perhaps the death or loss of a friend or family member;
- you may be experiencing an important change in your life;
- you may be unsatisfied with your life and are looking for something more.

This desire for something *more* is absolutely key in our relationship with God. His Holy Spirit is always inviting us to something *more* – not only to experience life, but to experience life to the *full*; not only joy, but that your joy may be *complete*. (cf The Gospel of St John chapter 10: verse 10). If we feel this "itch", have this desire to go deeper, to look for something more in our lives, we can be sure that God is there, leading us on, closer and closer to Him.

## **What to do?**

Accept that, ultimately, you can do nothing. God is in control!

It is God who is leading us to know and love Him more deeply and He will do this in His own way and in His own time. Like any good relationship, we cannot force God to do what He does not want to do.

However, this does not mean that we don't have to do anything ourselves! A good relationship requires at least two people giving of themselves to each other. We, too, need to make an effort.

So, what could we do, to try and make us more open to God, to His love and to what He wants to do in us and with us and for us?