**Some jottings from a talk on Prayer given by Scottish priest, Fr David Glenday,MCCJ (former superior general of the Comboni Missionaries of the Heart of Jesus.**

Firstly, he stated clearly the polemic on which he was to base his words. It had nothing at all to do with the perspective some, or perhaps many older Catholics have, as prayer being a duty or obligation of a creature before God. Not that he rejected that but his talk simply wasn’t about that at all.

He started with some of the vocabulary we use:

'grace'  ............. as reflecting on how have I been 'graced' by God

'gift'  ................  how does prayfulness come into my life, and is seen as gift.

'blessing' .........  how have I been blest with prayer ....... by prayer

' joy, peace, trust'  etc.  How have these qualities come into my life through prayer.

He invited us to see prayer as starting from the initiative of another ie. of God and invited us to reflect on where / how I am **experiencing** this initiative. Where / how  am I receiving or making space for this initiative of God

Using the Gospel  (Luke 11: 1-12 The apostles asking Jesus to teach them to pray, Jesus saying ……. When you pray, say this ……. Our Father etc, Keep asking etc.)

David said prayer arises in the midst of mission, the gift of prayer is given 'on the road' / on the journey. ie. I do not pray in spite of my life experience, as a kind of respite from it (my words!), but out of and because of my life journey

**Prayer is the place where human experience becomes wisdom, where human experience is given its deepest meaning. (Mary 'pondering in her heart' is the perfect example, and Luke mentions this aspect of Mary's life twice! Presentation in the Temple and Finding of Jesus in the Temple) Mary ‘pondered all these things in her heart.**

Prayer is the place where the outer journey becomes the inner journey, becomes inner growth and wisdom.

Prayer is also in the ordinary.  The Word became flesh ....... and all that this implies.

If you want to praise God,  BE the praise of God (St Augustine)

Before you sing the Alleluia,  BE the Alleluia (Augustine)

Fr David also mentioned 3 excellent books by an American author, Marilynne Robinson Gilead   Home and Lila. They’re novels, I think, but apparently have much to do with human experience as a way into prayer, or perhaps more accurately, prayerful**ness.**