

Thoughts for Prayer and Reflection February 2012

An old rabbi once asked his pupils
how they could tell when the night had ended
and the day had begun.

"Could it be," asked one of the students, "when you can see
an animal in the distance and tell whether it's a sheep or a dog?"

"No," answered the rabbi.

Another asked, "Is it when you can look at a tree
in the distance and tell whether it's a fig tree or a peach tree?"

"No," answered the rabbi.

"Then when is it?" the pupils demanded.

"It is when you can look on the face of any man or woman
and see that it is your sister or brother.
Because if you cannot see this, it is still night."



1 st	Creator God who breathed this world into being; who is discernible within the harmony of nature, the perfection of a butterfly's wing, the grandeur of a mountain range, the soaring eagle and humming bird; thank you for this world which you have created. Thank you for summer sun which reminds us that your creative breath is still alive and active. Thank you for the warmth of your love sustaining this world - your garden. <i>John Birch</i>
2 nd	The Presentation of Christ in the Temple: Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested. <i>Hebrews 2:18</i>
3 rd	First Anglican Service at Sydney Cove, conducted by Richard Johnson, Sydney 1788: Do all things without murmuring and arguing, so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world. <i>Philippians 2:14</i>
4 th	Anksar, missionary bishop in Sweden (d.865): With my whole heart I seek you; do not let me stray from your commandments. <i>Psalms 119:10</i>
5 th	Fifth Sunday after Epiphany: Lord Jesus may your light shine our way, as once it guided the steps of the magi: that we too may be led into your presence and worship you, the Child of Mary, the Word of the Father, the King of nations, the Saviour of mankind; to whom be glory for ever. <i>Frank Colquhoun</i>
6 th	Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name. <i>Psalms 86:11</i>
7 th	God help us to change. To change ourselves and to change our world. To know the need for it. To deal with the pain of it. To feel the joy of it. To undertake the journey without understanding the destination. The art of gentle revolution. <i>Amen</i> <i>When I talk to you: a cartoonist talks to God - Leunig</i>
8 th	Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <i>Philippians 4:4-5</i>
9 th	God in his mercy fills me with new life. In his name I am cleansed, strengthened and healed. <i>Charles F. Moore</i>
10 th	More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the Lord! <i>Psalms 93:4</i>
11 th	God is God always. And God is with us always. It is we who are so often somewhere else. <i>The Breath of the Soul. Reflections on Prayer, chapter 5 Constancy –Chittister</i>
12 th	Sixth Sunday after Epiphany: Father, you revealed your Son to the nations by the guidance of a star. Lead us to your glory in heaven by the light of faith. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen <i>The Liturgy of the Hours</i>
13 th	My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing. <i>James 1:2-4</i>
14 th	Cyril (d.869) and Methodius, bishop (d.885), missionaries to the Slavs: Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. <i>James 1:12</i>
15 th	Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world. <i>James 1:27</i>

16 th	There are very few people who realise what God would make of them if they abandoned themselves into his hands, and let themselves be formed by his grace. <i>St Ignatius</i>
17 th	Holy Innocents: A life is either all spiritual or not spiritual at all. No man can serve two masters. Your life is shaped by the end you live for. You are made in the image of what you desire. <i>Thomas Merton</i>
18 th	The promises of the Lord are promises that are pure, silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times. <i>Psalms 12:6</i>
19 th	Last Sunday after Epiphany – Transfiguration: O God, we open our eyes and we see Jesus, the months of ministry transfigured to a beam of light, the light of the world, your light. May your light shine upon us.
20 th	William Grant Broughton, 1st bishop of Australia (d.1853): Creator God, maker of all things new: We give thanks for our embodiment as persons, for our being and our life, through which you have made known the mystery of the Incarnation.
21 st	Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you. <i>James 4:10</i>
22 nd	Ash Wednesday: A pure heart create for me, O God. Put a steadfast spirit within me.
23 rd	Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna, martyr (d.c.155): Jesus, thank you for summer. Thank you for light and warmth. Thank you for the sun. Thank you for the gifts of nature and for the annual cycles and seasons. Today, give us that grace again, to see you as the Creator, the One who lifts us up to be with you forever, even now. <i>Source unknown. Adapted by Bill Huebsch, 2011.</i>
24 th	Matthias, Apostle and Martyr: For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness. <i>Psalms 84:10</i>
25 th	Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested. <i>Hebrews 2:18</i>
26 th	First Sunday in Lent: Lord, during this Lenten Season, nourish me with your word of life and make me one with you in love and prayer. Fill my heart with your love and keep me faithful to the Gospel of Christ. Give me the grace to rise above my human weakness.
27 th	George Herbert, parish priest, poet (d.1633): We cannot see things in perspective until we cease to hug them to our own bosom. When we let go of them we begin to appreciate them as they really are. Only then can we begin to see God in them. <i>Thomas Merton quoted in Organic Spirituality by Nicki Verploegen Vandergrift</i>
28 th	For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. <i>Isaiah 55:10-11</i>
29 th	To forgive is the highest, most beautiful form of love. In return, you will receive untold peace and happiness. <i>Robert Muller</i>

PRAYER THOUGHTS

- Sunday I ask for the grace to believe in what I could be and do if I only allowed God, my loving Creator, to continue to create me, guide me, and shape me.
- Monday May the work of this day and all my daily duties be a living sacrifice of love.
- Tuesday For the joy of human life, its wonders and surprises, its hopes and achievements: we give thanks this day.
- Wednesday Great and wonderful God, I place myself in Your hands. Hold me securely and let me see all of life against the backdrop of Your love.
- Thursday Please give thanks and pray for those who manage our bookstall and library; those who tend our property and grounds; and those organise our breakfasts and morning teas each week.
- Friday God of the elements, glory to you. Glory to you for flowing air; glory for light beyond compare. Glory for water as it flows; glory for soil and all that grows. Glory for life and love and birth; glory to you, Lord of the earth. *The Open Gate - David Adam*
- Saturday Please pray for Father John and Father Ross and give thanks for their leadership, guidance and love.

Thoughts for Prayer & Reflection
for our *City on the Hill...* and beyond

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