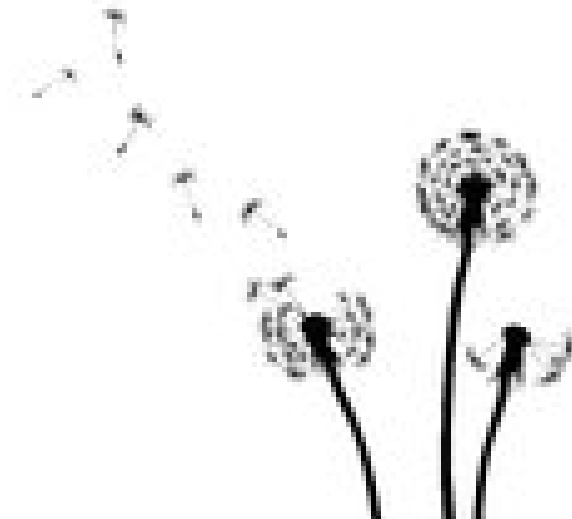


**THOUGHTS FOR  
PRAYER AND REFLECTION  
AUGUST 2017**

**The Lord  
desires intensely  
that we love him  
and seek his company.**

*St Teresa of Avila*



1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Holy men and women of the Old Testament:</b> The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. <i>Proverbs 9:10</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Extol the Lord our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he! <i>Psalms 99:5</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	It is blasphemy if you pray before God while you are full of anger. <i>St Ephraem the Syrian</i>
4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>John Baptist Vianney, parish priest (Ars, France, d.1895):</b> We do not have to talk very much in order to pray well. We know that God is there in His holy tabernacle; let us open our hearts to Him; let us rejoice in His Presence: This is the best prayer. <i>St John Vianney</i>
5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Oswald, king and martyr (d.642):</b> Before prayer, endeavour to realise whose Presence you are approaching, and to whom you are about to speak. We can never fully understand how we ought to behave towards God, before whom the angels tremble. <i>St Teresa of Avila</i>
6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Ninth Sunday after Pentecost:</b> For the Spirit of Peace that calms our mind and stills our life, we give you thanks. For the Spirit of Love that touches hearts and reaches out, we give you thanks. For the Spirit of Joy that lifts our soul and gives us faith we give you thanks. For the Spirit of Power, that gift of grace, we give you thanks.
7 <sup>th</sup>	How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. <i>Psalms 119:103-104</i>
8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Dominic, priest and friar (d.1221):</b> I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. <i>Psalms 89:1-2</i>
9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Mary Sumner, founder of the Mothers' Union (d.1921):</b> Loving Lord, we thank you for your love so freely given to us all. We pray for families around the world. Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as they seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life. Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship; and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world. In Jesus' name. <i>Amen</i>
10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Laurence, deacon and martyr at Rome (d.258):</b> To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you. <i>C S Lewis</i>
11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Clare of Assisi (d.1252), John Henry Newman, cardinal and theologian (d.1890):</b> I pray for holy humility, the ability to see and accept myself as I am – stuff of the earth and a temple of God's spirit.
12 <sup>th</sup>	As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him. For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust. <i>Psalms 103:13-14</i>
13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Tenth Sunday after Pentecost:</b> We ask for your forgiveness, Lord, when we forget the power that lies within, and trust instead upon our human strength. Remind us of that glorious day when your Spirit transformed the lives of those who hid in fear, into men of power. Renew these hearts which have grown cold with flames of fire, as on that Pentecost, that we might be the people that you desire.
14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Twentieth century martyrs incl Maximilien Kolbe, friar (d.1941), Maria Skobtsova (d.1945), Grand Duchess Elizabeth of Russia (d.1918), Martin Luther King, worker for civil liberties (d.1968):</b> The most deadly poison of our times is indifference. And this happens, although the praise of God should know no limits. Let us strive, therefore, to praise Him to the greatest extent of our powers. <i>Maximilian Kolbe</i>

15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Mary, Mother of our Lord:</b> Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love. <i>Mother Teresa</i>
16 <sup>th</sup>	The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps. <i>Proverbs 16:9</i>
17 <sup>th</sup>	How much better to get wisdom than gold! To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver. <i>Proverbs 16:16</i>
18 <sup>th</sup>	When we pray, the voice of the heart must be heard more than proceedings from the mouth. <i>St Bonaventure</i>
19 <sup>th</sup>	Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and forevermore. From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised. <i>Psalms 113:2-3</i>
20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost:</b> Attune our hearts and minds to the presence of your Holy Spirit, that our church may be transformed, our relationships be healed, and our nation grow in compassion and justice.
21 <sup>st</sup>	The day of my awakening was the day I saw and knew I saw all things in God and God in all things. <i>Mechtild of Magdeburg (1210-1282)</i>
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Those with good sense are slow to anger, and it is their glory to overlook an offence. <i>Proverbs 19:11</i>
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and will be repaid in full. <i>Proverbs 19-17</i>
24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Bartholomew, Apostle and Martyr:</b> Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a constant attitude. <i>Martin Luther King Jr.</i>
25 <sup>th</sup>	"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." <i>Matthew 22:36-40</i>
26 <sup>th</sup>	I will thank God for the pleasures given me through my senses, for the glory of the thunder, for the mystery of music, the singing of the birds and the laughter of children. Truly, O Lord, the earth is full of thy riches! <i>Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln (1829-1910)</i>
27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost:</b> Fill our outstretched hearts with your spirit; encircle us with your love. Make yourself known to us in new ways, exciting ways, challenging ways. Empower us, inspire us, Glorious Trinity!
28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Augustine of Hippo, bishop and teacher (d.430):</b> Breathe in me O Holy Spirit that my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me O Holy Spirit that my works, too, may be holy. Draw my heart O Holy Spirit that I love but what is holy. Strengthen me O Holy Spirit to defend that which is holy. Guard me then O Holy Spirit that I always may be holy. <i>St Augustine</i>
29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Beheading of John the Baptist:</b> I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you, and praise your name forever and ever. <i>Psalms 145:1-2</i>
30 <sup>th</sup>	I pray for patience, courage, and clarity of purpose during times of struggle.
31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>John Bunyan, preacher, spiritual writer (d.1688), Aidan of Lindisfarne, bishop and missionary (d.651):</b> You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you. <i>John Bunyan</i>



## PRAYER THOUGHTS...

- Sunday Lord, strengthen me in my inner being with power through your Holy Spirit.
- Monday Forgive our ingratitude; we who have so much yet waste what you have given.
- Tuesday For those who bring hope where there is none, love where there is hatred, peace where there is war, sustenance where there is hunger, water where there is drought and comfort where there is sadness, bless them Lord Jesus whether they be Christian, Muslim, no faith or any faith; for all love has its source in You.
- Wednesday Loving God, deliver me from all pretence. Deliver me from all pettiness. Deliver me from all foolish pride. Let no opportunity surprise me, and pass, untaken. Let no one live in loneliness that I can relieve. Let no one find it hard to carry on, because of my criticism. *Amen*
- Thursday Give us today the strength and courage to transform the compassion of our hearts into acts of peace, mercy, and justice.
- Friday Loving Father, we hold before you all the members of our parish who are ill or suffering at this time and ask that you will heal them with your love.
- Saturday Gracious Lord, give me the insight to see my face in the faces of all the human family, to care for others as I care for myself, so I can call myself a human being.

***Thoughts for Prayer & Reflection***  
for our *city on a hill...* and beyond.

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**Our church is open every day,  
providing a sacred space for contemplation and prayer.**

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