

THOUGHTS FOR
PRAYER AND
REFLECTION

March 2018

**Awareness
is the beginning
of empathy
and end of
self-centredness.**

Joan Chittister



1 st	David, bishop of Menevia, Wales (d.601): Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. <i>Psalms 1:1-2</i>
2 nd	Chad, bishop of Lichfield, missionary (d.672): He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous. <i>Luke 14:12-14</i>
3 rd	Now large crowds were travelling with him; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple". <i>Luke 14:25-27</i>
4 th	Third Sunday in Lent: The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. <i>Psalms 19:9</i>
5 th	We are each made for goodness, love and compassion. Our lives are transformed as much as the world is when we live with these truths. <i>Desmond Tutu</i>
6 th	Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. <i>Hebrews 10:23-25</i>
7 th	Perpetua and her companions, martyrs at Carthage (d.203): O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes! <i>Psalms 119:5</i>
8 th	John of God, worker among the sick and poor, Spain (d.1550): Love the poor tenderly, regarding them as your masters and yourselves as their servants. <i>Saint John of God</i>
9 th	Sister Emma SSA, superior of the Society of the Sacred Advent, Queensland (d.1939): Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do. <i>Pope John XXIII</i>
10 th	Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. <i>Psalms 25:4-5</i>
11 th	Fourth Sunday in Lent: Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ. <i>Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945)</i>
12 th	Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart. <i>Hebrews 12:3</i>
13 th	Pursue peace with everyone, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. <i>Hebrews 12:14</i>
14 th	Do not wait until the conditions are perfect to begin. Beginning makes the conditions perfect. <i>Alan Cohen</i>
15 th	Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. <i>Hebrews 12:1-3</i>
16 th	Through the dark hours of this night protect and surround us, Father, Son and Spirit, Three. Forgive the ill that we have done. Forgive the pride that we have shown. Forgive the words that have caused harm that we might sleep peaceably, and rise refreshed to do your will. Through the dark hours of this night protect and surround us, Father, Son and Spirit, Three. <i>John Birch</i>
17 th	Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland (d.462): By day the Lord commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life. <i>Psalms 43:8</i>
18 th	Fifth Sunday in Lent: The greatest giving is the giving of oneself, not simply one's possessions. <i>Seize the Day with Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Charles Ringma</i>

19 th	Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary: When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne son, and he named him Jesus. <i>Matthew 1:24</i>
20 th	Cuthbert of Lindisfarne, bishop and missionary (d.687): Have faith and wholeheartedly trust God who will never abandon those who love him. <i>Cuthbert of Lindisfarne</i>
21 st	Thomas Cranmer, archbishop of Canterbury, martyr and liturgist (d.1556): The earth, O Lord, is full of your steadfast love; teach me your statutes. <i>Psalms 119:64</i>
22 nd	Thomas Ken, bishop of Bath and Wells, teacher (d.1711): Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit. <i>Psalms 51:10-12</i>
23 rd	In this world there is nothing softer or thinner than water. But to compel the hard and unyielding, it has no equal. That the weak overcomes the strong, that the hard gives way to the gentle – this everyone knows, yet no-one acts accordingly. <i>Lao-Tzu (6th century BC)</i>
24 th	Paul Couturier, ecumenist (d.1953): For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? <i>1 John 5:3-5</i>
25 th	Sixth Sunday in Lent/Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday): When fishes flew and forests walked and figs grew upon thorn, some moment when the moon was blood then surely I was born. With monstrous head and sickening cry and ears like errant wings, the devil's walking parody on all four-footed things. The tattered outlaw of the earth, of ancient crooked will; starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb, I keep my secret still. Fools! For I also had my hour; one far fiercer hour and sweet: There was a shout about my ears, and palms before my feet. <i>The Donkey: G K Chesterton</i>
26 th	Monday in Holy Week: Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. <i>Psalms 25:4-5</i>
27 th	Tuesday in Holy Week: Teach your tongue to say "I do not know" and you will make progress. <i>Maimonides (Rabbi Moses ben Maimon), Spain (1135-1204)</i>
28 th	Wednesday in Holy Week: When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls. <i>1 Peter 2:23-25</i>
29 th	Maundy Thursday: Dear Lord, today we pray for the courage to be fully known, we pray for the courage to enter unreserved fellowship with you. We pray today that we would embrace the intimacy you desire. We ask forgiveness for the times we kept you at arm's length, for all the times we reserved the right to keep our secrets. We accept the cleansing you offer. We therefore pray that you'd wash not only our feet but our hands, our head, and our hearts. <i>Amen</i>
30 th	Good Friday: So shall we join the disciples of our Lord, keeping faith in Him in spite of the crucifixion, and making ready, by our loyalty to Him in the days of His darkness, for the time when we shall enter into His triumph in the days of His light. <i>Phillips Brooks (d.1893)</i>
31 st	Saturday of Holy Week/Easter Eve: Lord of holy places, teach us to dance—even if draped in mourning—in anticipation of the day when the whole creation will join in the celebration. <i>Amen</i>





PRAYER THOUGHTS

- Sunday Lord, I can't see the bright sunlight of your leading, because my eyes are focused on the little candle of my own thinking. Blow out the candle if you must, and give me the grace to see your light in my darkness. *Amen*
- Monday Creator God, you who love us more than we can know, who chose us from the very beginning to be family, we praise your holy name. Jesus Christ, Son of God, Word become flesh, who dwelt among us and was sacrificed for us, we praise your holy name. Holy Spirit, present and power in our lives from the moment that we first believed, we praise your holy name.
- Tuesday Please pray for the youth of our parish – and for those who guide them – that they may be filled with love, faithfulness and commitment.
- Wednesday Loving God, remind me daily to see in a new way by always looking with loving kindness upon everyone that I see and encounter, so then to change my behavior by how I see.
- Thursday Lord, please open my eyes, every new day, to see the way your love is touching my life, then send me forward into tomorrow to make this love incarnate in your world. *Amen*
- Friday Open our eyes and ears to the miracles that you have hidden along our paths this day.
- Saturday Lord, I offer myself to you: all that I am, all that I have and all that I do. Work through me by the power of your Holy Spirit, that I might please you in all things, and come to the glorious fulfillment of your purposes for me.

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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