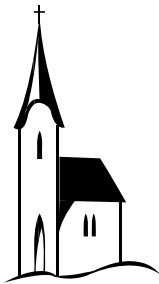


# Thoughts for Prayer and Reflection March 2010



Spiritual reading is a regular, essential part of the life of prayer, and particularly is it the support of adoring prayer.

It is important to increase our sense of God's richness and wonder by reading what his great lovers have said about him.

Evelyn Underhill quoted in *The Sun & Moon over Assisi*  
by Gerard Thomas Straub.

**To Practise This Thought:**

Read a book by one of God's great lovers.

1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>David, bishop of Menevia, Wales (d.601):</b> Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. <i>Hebrews 7:25</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Chad, bishop of Lichfield, missionary (d.672):</b> Father, grant that when my relationship with you becomes problematical, may I continue to actively engage you in an attempt at resolution and not simply begin to ignore you. <i>Seize the Day with Dietrich Bonhoeffer – Charles Rigma</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me. <i>Psalms 31:2</i>
4 <sup>th</sup>	Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. <i>Jeremiah 17:8</i>
5 <sup>th</sup>	I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. <i>Psalms 16:8</i>
6 <sup>th</sup>	Christ has turned all our sunsets into dawns. <i>Clement of Alexandria (c.150-c.215) Theologian</i>
7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Third Sunday in Lent:</b> O Jesus! meek and humble of heart, <i>Hear me</i> . From the desire of being esteemed, <i>Deliver me, Jesus</i> . From the desire of being extolled, <i>Deliver me, Jesus</i> . From the desire of being honoured, <i>Deliver me, Jesus</i> . From the desire of being praised, <i>Deliver me, Jesus</i> . From <i>The Litany of Humility</i> .
8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>John of God, worker among the sick and poor, Spain (d.1550):</b> Lord our God, by your Holy Spirit write your commandments upon our hearts and grant us the wisdom and power of the cross, so that, cleansed from greed and selfishness we may become a living temple of your love. Amen
9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sister Emma SSA, superior of the Society of the Sacred Advent, Queensland (d.1939):</b> Gracious God, we praise you and give you glory for the wonderful things you do for us....for life and health, for friends and family, for this splendid day.
10 <sup>th</sup>	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 <sup>th</sup>	For the dullness of our vision, Father forgive. For the weakness of our faith, Jesus forgive. For the joylessness of our living, Spirit forgive. Holy Three have mercy on us. Forgive us our sins. Help us to seek, help us to see, help us to serve you. <i>The Open Gate – David Adam</i>
12 <sup>th</sup>	Creator God, you have filled the world with beauty; open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works, that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness. Amen
13 <sup>th</sup>	May my conversations be significant. May my meetings be blessed. May my path cross the paths of others who love you. May my path cross the paths of others who don't know you. May my touch be your touch of infinite gentleness. May my words be your words of wisdom. May my eyes see with your compassion. <i>Life Journey - A Call to Christ-centred Living – May Fleeson</i>
14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Fourth Sunday in Lent:</b> Merciful Father I am guilty of sin. I confess my sins before you and I am sorry for them. Your promises are just; therefore I trust that you will forgive my sins and cleanse me from every stain of sin. Jesus himself is the propitiation for my sins and the sin of the whole world. I put my hope in his atonement. May my sins be forgiven through His name and in His blood may my soul be made clean. <i>New Saint Joseph People's Prayer Book</i>

15 <sup>th</sup>	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>
16 <sup>th</sup>	Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed. <i>Hebrews 12:12-13</i>
17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Patrick, bishop, missionary of Ireland (d.461):</b> The Christian does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because He loves us; just as the roof of a sunhouse does not attract the sun because it is bright, but becomes bright because the sun shines on it. <i>C.S.Lewis</i>
18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop and teacher (d.386):</b> Keep your lives from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" <i>Hebrews 13:5-6</i>
19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary:</b> Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. <i>Hebrews 13:16</i>
20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Cuthbert of Lindisfarne, bishop and missionary (d.687):</b> Spirit of life, fill our emptiness with your fullness. Spirit of power, stir our hearts afresh. Spirit of love, touch us - and through us - our neighbour. Spirit of Creativity, enable and empower the gifts you have given. Spirit of Eternity, draw us ever deeper into your Kingdom.
21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Fifth Sunday in Lent:</b> But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. <i>Isaiah 53:5</i>
22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Thomas Ken, bishop of Bath and Wells, teacher (d.1711):</b> Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. <i>Psalms 51:10</i>
23 <sup>rd</sup>	But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <i>Romans 5:8</i>
24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Paul Couturier, ecumenist (d.1953); Oscar Romero, archbishop of San Salvador, martyr (d.1980):</b> Loving God, in times of stress grant us your peacefulness. In times of weakness grant us your forcefulness. In times of distress grant us your hopefulness. In times of sadness grant us your joyfulness --and give us awareness. <i>Tides &amp; Seasons- D. Adam</i>
25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>The Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary:</b> 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 <sup>th</sup>	Dear God: May miracles replace war. May miracles replace hatred. May miracles replace judgment. May miracles replace fear – in me and in the world. <i>Illuminated Prayers – Marianne Williamson</i>
27 <sup>th</sup>	Lord Jesus Christ, we praise you. Bring peace into the world by bringing your peace into the hearts of all. Help us to turn away from sin and to follow you in love and service.
28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sixth Sunday in Lent (Sunday of the Passion) (Palm Sunday):</b> It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to put confidence in mortals. <i>Psalms 118:9</i>
29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Monday in Holy Week:</b> How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings. <i>Psalms 36:7</i>
30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Tuesday in Holy Week:</b> Lord, grant that whatever I may need to lay aside to fulfill your will may not be seen as a sacrifice, but rather as the pathway to true achievement.
31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Wednesday in Holy Week:</b> 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>

## ***PRAYER THOUGHTS***

- Sunday* Lord, help me to see the small and mundane as worthy of my commitment to you. Amen
- Monday* O God, we hold before you the nation and people of Haiti, and pray for healing in the midst of tragedy and devastation. Give comfort to the homeless, the bereaved and the suffering, courage to survivors, wisdom to those who seek to help, and light to all who live in the shadow of death. Amen.
- Tuesday* Please pray for Father John and Father Ross and give thanks for their constant support, leadership and love.
- Wednesday* Grant us, Lord God, a vision of our land as your love would make it: a land where the weak are protected, and no-one is poor or goes hungry; a land where the benefits of civilised life are shared, and everyone can enjoy them; a land where different races and cultures live in tolerance and mutual respect; a land where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love. And give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
- Thursday* Lord, help us to wait expectantly, to act purposefully, and to trust you in all things. Amen
- Friday* Please pray for those countries affected by the enormous burden of international debt: and for a just and lasting solution to the problems they face.
- Saturday* Please pray for Father Paul Weaver in his ministry as Chaplain at Concord Hospital. Pray too for the pastoral care volunteers, and the patients to whom they provide spiritual understanding and support.

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

Produced by the Pastoral Care Committee of the  
Anglican Parish of St Alban, Epping  
and St Aidan, West Epping  
Telephone +61 2 9876 3362  
[www.eppinganglicans.org.au](http://www.eppinganglicans.org.au)

