

THOUGHTS FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

September 2022

It was assumed in Jesus' day
that when calamities befell people,
it was because they were
greater sinners than those spared.

Jesus, however, was not interested
in notions of the relativity of sin and evil.

For Jesus, everyone was in need of repentance;
which requires us to turn around our lives
and acknowledge the loving presence
and action of God in the world.



1 st	Hospitality means we take people into the space that is our lives and our minds and our hearts and our work and our efforts. Hospitality is the way we come out of ourselves. It is the first step towards dismantling the barriers of the world. Hospitality is the way we turn a prejudiced world around, one heart at a time. <i>Joan Chittister</i>
2 nd	Martyrs of New Guinea (d.1942): Almighty God, we remember before you this day the blessed martyrs of New Guinea, who, following the example of their Saviour, laid down their lives for their friends, and we pray that we who honour their memory may imitate their loyalty and faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. <i>Amen</i>
3 rd	Gregory of Rome, bishop and teacher (d.604); Eliza Darling, pioneer social reformer in NSW (d.1868): We learn wisdom from failure much more than from success. We often discover what will do, by finding out what will not do; and probably he who never made a mistake never made a discovery. <i>Samuel Smiles (1812-1904)</i>
4 th	Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither, in all that they do they prosper. <i>Psalms 1:1-3</i>
5 th	Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed to us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <i>1 John 4:7-9</i>
6 th	There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <i>1 John 4:18</i>
7 th	The resurrection opens up before those who would follow Jesus a new life, a new world. And that new life and world, though they will be fulfilled in the life yet to come, begin here and now. <i>N T Wright: Following Jesus: Biblical Reflections on Discipleship</i>
8 th	Birth of Mary, Mother of the Lord: Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and mind. For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in faithfulness to you. <i>Psalms 26:2-3</i>
9 th	Why do you see the speck in your neighbour's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbour, 'Friend let me take out the speck in your eye' when you yourself do not see the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbour's eye. <i>Luke 6:41-42</i>
10 th	Meditation is not a way of making your mind quiet. It's a way of entering into the quiet that's already there—buried under the 50,000 thoughts the average person thinks every day. <i>Deepak Chopra (b.1946)</i>
11 th	Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost: 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>
12 th	In silence, God ceases to be an object and becomes an experience. <i>Thomas Merton. (d.1968)</i>
13 th	Cyprian of Carthage, bishop and martyr (d.258): For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <i>Ephesians 2:8-9</i>

14 th	Holy Cross: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <i>John 3:16-17</i>
15 th	John Oliver Feetham, bishop and bush brother (d.1947): Our Healer – May all Creation, the birds, animals, fish, trees, plants, rocks, mountains, waters, and peoples be healed to flourishing. Strengthen us, lead us, inspire us into action, ignited by our faith in you Lord Jesus. Help us not to lose hope. For it is only through justice, forgiveness and love can there be healing and peace. <i>Amen. Aunty Dr Doseena Fergie</i>
16 th	Ninian of Galloway, bishop and missionary (d.c.432): I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. <i>Ephesians 3:18-19</i>
17 th	Hildegard of Bingen, abbess and spiritual writer (d.1179): Dare to declare who you are. It is not far from the shores of silence to the boundaries of speech. The path is not long, but the way is steep. You must not only walk there, you must be prepared to leap. <i>Hildegard of Bingen</i>
18 th	Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? <i>Psalms 27:1</i>
19 th	The grace of God exalts a man without inflating him, and humbles a man without debasing him. <i>Charles Hodge (1797-1878)</i>
20 th	John Coleridge Patteson, first bishop of Melanesia, martyr (d.1871): To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice. <i>Proverbs 21:3</i>
21 st	Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist and Martyr: Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. <i>Proverbs 3:5-6</i>
22 nd	Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit in 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	The universe is composed of subjects to be communed with, not objects to be exploited. Everything has its own voice. Thunder and lightning and stars and planets, flowers, birds, animals, trees – all these have voices, and they constitute a community of existence that is profoundly related. <i>Thomas Berry (1914-2009)</i>
24 th	Be exalted, O God, above the heavens. Let your glory be over all the earth. <i>Psalms 57:11</i>
25 th	Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Worship the Lord in holy splendour; tremble before him all the earth. <i>Psalms 96:9</i>
26 th	Lancelot Andrewes, bishop of Winchester (d.1626): Two things I recognise, O Lord, in myself: Nature, which thou hast made; Sin, which I have added. <i>Lancelot Andrewes</i>
27 th	Vincent de Paul, priest & worker with the poor (d.1660): Since God is satisfied with our good will and honest efforts, let us also be satisfied with the outcome He gives to them, and our actions will never be without good results. <i>Vincent de Paul</i>
28 th	Be to me a rock of refuge; a strong fortress to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress. <i>Psalms 71:3</i>
29 th	Michael and all Angels: Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace and pursue it. <i>Psalms 34:14</i>
30 th	Jerome, priest and biblical scholar (d.420): Whenever a people are bound together in loyalty to a story that includes something as strange as the Sermon on the Mount, we are put at odds with the world. <i>Stanley Hauerwas (b.1940)</i>

PRAYER THOUGHTS



- Sunday** Gracious Lord, make my life a window for your light to shine through and a mirror to reflect your love to all I meet. *Amen*
- Monday** **Prayer for Ukraine:**
God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at-risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. *Amen*
(*Archbishops Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell*)
- Tuesday** Lord, I ask for the grace to love you enough to trust you, and to trust you enough to let you shape me into someone who will offer your love back to your creation. *Amen*
- Wednesday** O God, to those who have hunger give bread. And to us who have bread give the hunger for justice. *Modern prayer from Latin America*
- Thursday** I pray for holy courtesy – for the virtue of treating others as I would like to be treated. I pray for an all-inclusive respect for other creatures that is the seedbed of a human and global community.
- Friday** God as I open my eyes to the world, please open my eyes to what you want me to do in it today.
- Saturday** Gracious God, I pray that I can show mercy without judgement, compassion unconditionally. Lord, guide my hands to serve. May I follow in your way with patience and a new understanding. Move me. Infuse my spirit. Bless me.

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

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