

# THOUGHTS FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

*May 2022*

**Keep alert,  
stand firm in your faith,  
be courageous,  
be strong.**

**Let all that you do  
be done in love.**

*1 Corinthians 16:13-14*



1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Third Sunday of Easter:</b> 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>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Athanasius, bishop of Alexandria, teacher (d.373):</b> It's only when you become love – in other words, when you have dropped your illusions and attachments – that you will “know”. As you identify less and less with the “me”, you will be more at ease with everybody and with everything. <i>Anthony de Mello (1931-1987)</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Philip and James, Apostles and Martyrs:</b> Hear, my child, and accept my words, that the years of your life may be many. I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in the paths of uprightness. When you walk, your step will not be hampered; and if you run, you will not stumble. Keep hold of instruction; do not let go; guard her, for she is your life. <i>Proverbs 4:10-13</i>
4 <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>
5 <sup>th</sup>	Blest are you, Lord Jesus, who rose from the ignominy of a sinner's death to the triumph of a Saviour's resurrection. For God so loved the world that all might have eternal life
6 <sup>th</sup>	You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. <i>Psalms 16:11</i>
7 <sup>th</sup>	Lord, the resurrection of Your Son has given us new life and renewed hope. Help us to live as new people in pursuit of the Christian ideal. Grant us wisdom to know what we must do, the will to want to do it, the courage to undertake it, the perseverance to continue to do it, and the strength to complete it.
8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter:</b> God in Christ has taken into Himself the brokenness of the human condition. Hence, human woundedness, brokenness, death itself are transformed from dead ends to doorways into Life. In the divinising humanity of Christ, bruises become balm. <i>Martin Laird: Into the Silent Land - A Guide to the Christian Practice of Contemplation</i>
9 <sup>th</sup>	So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. <i>John 10:7-10</i>
10 <sup>th</sup>	Thomas Merton expresses the need for this mystical imperative: The Christian’s vision of the world ought, by its very nature, to have in it something of poetic inspiration. Our faith ought to be capable of filling our hearts with a wonder and a wisdom which see beyond the surface of things and events, and grasp something of the inner and “sacred” meaning of the cosmos which, in all its movements and all its aspects, sings the praises of its Creator and Redeemer.— <i>Ilija Delio: From Teilhard to Omega -Co-creating an Unfinished Universe</i>
11 <sup>th</sup>	“I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness. I do not judge anyone who hears my words and does not keep them, for I come not to judge the world, but to save the world.” <i>John 12:46-47</i>
12 <sup>th</sup>	We must not wish for the disappearance of our troubles but for the grace to transform them. <i>Simone Weil (1909-1943)</i>
13 <sup>th</sup>	You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending. <i>C S Lewis</i>
14 <sup>th</sup>	In the last resort, a love of God without love of humanity is no love at all. <i>Hans Kung (1928-2021)</i>

15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter:</b> May the Easter Christ cast out all our timidities, our inclinations to nail things down too safely, too securely, too predictably. Let us rest and be content with mystery. And let God's risen Word be a liberating call to us all.
16 <sup>th</sup>	Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. <i>John 12:24-26</i>
17 <sup>th</sup>	There is the great lesson of 'Beauty and the Beast,' that a thing must be loved before it is lovable. <i>G K Chesterton (1874-1935)</i>
18 <sup>th</sup>	Then Jesus cried aloud: "Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who has sent me. I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness. <i>John 12:44-46</i>
19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Dunstan, archbishop of Canterbury (d.988):</b> The planet should not be used as a warehouse of resources to serve humanity's selfishness. <i>Rowan Williams</i>
20 <sup>th</sup>	I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices, my body also rests secure. <i>Psalms 16:6-9</i>
21 <sup>st</sup>	I wanted to change the world. But I have found that the only thing one can be sure of changing is oneself. <i>Aldous Huxley: Point Counter Point (1894 1963)</i>
22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter:</b> Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song. <i>Pope John Paul II</i>
23 <sup>rd</sup>	For true love is inexhaustible; the more you give, the more you have. And if you go to draw at the true fountainhead, the more water you draw, the more abundant is its flow. <i>Antoine de Saint-Exupery (1900-1944)</i>
24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>John (d.1791) and Charles (d.1788) Wesley, evangelists:</b> We should be rigorous in judging ourselves and gracious in judging others. <i>John Wesley</i>
25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Bede of Jarrow, priest and teacher (d.1735):</b> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. <i>John 15:10-11</i>
26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Ascension Day:</b> If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <i>John 14:15-19</i>
27 <sup>th</sup>	May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us. <i>Psalms 67:1</i>
28 <sup>th</sup>	A person isn't who they are during the last conversation you had with them – they're who they've been throughout your whole relationship. <i>Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926)</i>
29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Seventh Sunday of Easter:</b> A man who was completely innocent, offered himself as a sacrifice for the good of others, including his enemies, and became the ransom of the world. It was a perfect act. <i>Mahatma Gandhi</i>
30 <sup>th</sup>	Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds – his name is the Lord – be exultant before him. <i>Psalms 68:4</i>
31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin to Elizabeth:</b> I want you to be concerned about your next door neighbour. Do you know your next door neighbour? <i>Mother Teresa</i>

# ***PRAYER THOUGHTS***



- Sunday** This world and all within it is part of your glorious plan, devised and created in love for your people to enjoy. Such divine mystery; Such wonder; that you should consider humankind so precious and provide for our needs. God of all, our creator, our rock, our refuge, our confidence and hope, our rescuer and deliverer, in whom we can rely, we will praise your name today and all days. *Amen.*
- Monday** Help us to be immune from doubts, notions and illusions which shroud our heart and prevent us from exploring the hidden mysteries. *Sufi prayer*
- Tuesday** Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this night; so that we, who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world, may repose upon thy eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*  
*Leonine Sacramentary, 6th century*
- Wednesday** Lord, please help me to do all the good I can, by all the means I can, in all the places I can, at all times I can, for all people I can, as long as ever I can.  
*John Wesley's Rule*
- Thursday** Lord, guide us in your gentle mercy, for left to ourselves we cannot do your will. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son.
- Friday** **A prayer for a broken world:** Almighty God, creator, and preserver of our world, we pray for peace, justice and compassion for those in need. Have mercy on our broken and divided world and banish the spirit that makes for war.  
We pray especially for all affected by the escalating turmoil and tragic events in Ukraine and Afghanistan, the ongoing conflict in Myanmar, and the many other places where there is conflict and persecution.  
Restrain the forces of evil and protect the vulnerable, especially women and children, as well as those who seek refuge from oppression and death. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who went to the cross for those in need of salvation. *Amen*
- Saturday** Guide me in your plan to courageously and fearlessly say, "Not my will but yours be done", trusting always that my motivations here on earth are driven by your holy will.

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

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