

# THOUGHTS FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

*July 2022*

Not the power to remember, but its very opposite, the power to forget, is a necessary condition for our existence.

*St Basil*  
339-379 AD



<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>The Coming of the Light first missionaries to the Torres Strait (1871):</b> Jesus said to them, "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light." After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them. <i>John 12:35-36</i>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Christianity has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and not tried. <i>Gilbert K Chesterton (1874-1936)</i>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Fourth Sunday after Pentecost:</b> May the Jesus who filled women with his Holy Spirit fill the world and the church with new respect for women's power and presence. <i>Amen</i>
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made. <i>Psalm 145:8-9</i>
<b>5<sup>th</sup></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>
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>John Fisher, bishop, and Thomas More, martyrs (d.1535):</b> Because the soul has such deep roots in personal and social life and its values run so contrary to modern concerns, caring for the soul may well turn out to be a radical act, a challenge to accepted norms. <i>Thomas More</i>
<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." <i>John 4:25-26</i>
<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	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>Psalm 26:2-3</i>
<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. <i>Psalm 23:1-2</i>
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Fifth Sunday after Pentecost:</b> Without Pentecost the Christ event – the life, death and resurrection of Jesus – remains imprisoned in history as something to remember, think about and reflect on. The Spirit of Jesus comes to dwell within us, so that we can become living Christs here and now. <i>Henri Nouwen</i>
<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Benedict of Nursia, abbot (d.550):</b> Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. <i>Isaiah 1:16-17</i>
<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	We set our hope on the Lord, He is our help and shield; in Him our hearts rejoice, for in His holy name we trust. May we enjoy, O Lord, Your faithful care, as we have put our hope in You. <i>Psalm 33:20-22</i>
<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Sydney James Kirkby, bishop, pioneer of outback ministry and the Bush Church Aid Society (d.1935):</b> Compassion asks us to go where it hurts, to enter into the places of pain, to share in brokenness, fear, confusion, and anguish. Compassion challenges us to cry out with those in misery, to mourn with those who are lonely, to weep with those in tears. Compassion requires us to be weak with the weak, vulnerable with the vulnerable, and powerless with the powerless. Compassion means full immersion in the condition of being human. <i>Henri Nouwen</i>
<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." <i>John 11:28-30</i>

<b>15<sup>th</sup></b>	One forgives to the degree that one loves. <i>Francois de La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)</i>
<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	As selfishness and complaint pervert the mind, so love with its joy clears and sharpens the vision. <i>Helen Keller</i>
<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Sixth Sunday after Pentecost:</b> When the great promise of the Spirit was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost, it was fulfilled not in reference to the apostles only. <i>Charles Hodge (1797-1878)</i>
<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	Happy are those who consider the poor; the Lord delivers them in the day of trouble. The Lord protects them and keeps them alive; they are called happy in the land. You do not give them up to the will of their enemies. <i>Psalm 41:1-2</i>
<b>19<sup>th</sup></b>	God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. <i>Selah.</i> <i>Psalm 46:1-3</i>
<b>20<sup>th</sup></b>	The test of faith is whether I can make space for difference. Can I recognise God's image in someone who is not in my image, whose language, faith, ideals, are different from mine? If I cannot, then I have made God in my image instead of allowing him to remake me in his. <i>Jonathan Sacks (d.2020)</i>
<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive, for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified. <i>John 7:3-39</i>
<b>22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Mary Magdalene:</b> Discipleship is not an offer that man makes to Christ. <i>Dietrich Bonhoeffer: The Cost of Discipleship</i>
<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." <i>John 8:12</i>
<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Seventh Sunday after Pentecost:</b> Every divine action begins from the Father, proceeds through the Son, and is completed in the Holy Spirit. <i>Saint Basil</i>
<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>James, Apostle and Martyr:</b> Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendour. <i>Psalm 29:2</i>
<b>26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Anne, Mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary:</b> Define yourself radically as one beloved by God. This is the true self. Every other identity is illusion. <i>Brennan Manning (1934-2013)</i>
<b>27<sup>th</sup></b>	"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it." <i>Matthew 13:45</i>
<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	Prayer, in Francis' view, is so central to life that nothing finite is to extinguish or interfere with this Spirit of life. <i>Ilia Delio: Franciscan prayer.</i>
<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Mary and Martha of Bethany:</b> Answer me, O Lord, for your steadfast love is good; according to your abundant mercy, turn to me. Do not hide your face from your servant, for I am in distress – make haste to answer me. <i>Psalm 69:16-17</i>
<b>30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>William Wilberforce, social reformer (d.1833):</b> It makes no sense to take the name of Christian and not cling to Christ. Jesus is not some magic charm to wear like a piece of jewellery we think will give us good luck. He is the Lord. His name is to be written on our hearts in such a powerful way that it creates within us a profound experience of His peace and a heart that is filled with His praise. <i>William Wilberforce: Real Christianity</i>
<b>31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Eighth Sunday after Pentecost:</b> Trying to do the Lord's work in your own strength is the most confusing, exhausting and tedious of all work. But when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, then the ministry of Jesus just flows out of you. <i>Corrie Ten Boom (1892-1983)</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 me, Lord, today to go into the unknown, for your sake: to show your love in my life because it's there; to declare you by word and deed and being; to nurture your life in me rather than my own.

## **Tuesday**

Grant us, O Lord, the grace of welcoming others, the courage to take risks, the confidence to declare your love and the joy of giving you praise.

## **Wednesday**

Lord, help me to hold fast to your love. Let nothing that the world can throw at me obscure your light. Give me the faith to believe and courage to move forward, even while all seems dark, to seek your love. *Amen*

## **Thursday**

Grant me patience Lord as I plod slowly toward wholeness and holiness. But also, make me eager to achieve a largeness of heart, a generosity of giving and a greater depth of humble service.

## **Friday**

Help me Lord today to confront all my fears with your grace and to see my world with the eyes of faith – and live accordingly.

## **Saturday**

### ***A Prayer for Ukraine***

Sovereign God, we pray for the nation of Ukraine, its leaders and people. We pray that you would make your presence known to them at this time of strife. We pray for their protection and for an end to the Russian invasion. We pray for the innocent, the frightened, the dispossessed, and those who have lost loved ones, homes and family. We pray that you would bless the endeavours of those who work for peace and an end to this conflict. Have mercy, we pray, on Ukraine. May your peace rule in the hearts and minds of all. Continue to stir up the leaders of the world to work together for the good of all. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. *Amen.*



### ***Thoughts for Prayer & Reflection***

for our *city on a hill....* and beyond.

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