

THOUGHTS FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

September 2023

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels,
but do not have love,
I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.
And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries
and all knowledge, and if I have all faith,
so as to remove mountains, but do not have love,
I am nothing.

If I give away all my possessions,
and I hand over my body so that I may boast,
but do not have love,
I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind;
love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.
It does not insist on its own way;
it is not irritable or resentful;
it does not rejoice in wrongdoing,
but rejoices in the truth.
It bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.

1 Corinthians 13:1-7



1 st	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. 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>Psalm 1:1-3</i>
2 nd	Martyrs of New Guinea (d.1942): In order to know what is just in a person-to-person encounter, love listens. It is its first task to listen. No human relation, especially no intimate one, is possible without mutual listening. <i>Paul Tillich (1886-1965)</i>
3 rd	Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost: May we come to trust the Word of God in our heart, to speak it with courage, to follow it faithfully and to fan it to flame in others.
4 th	The promises of the Lord are promises that are pure, silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times. <i>Psalm 12:6</i>
5 th	You have as much learning as you put into practice, and you are as good a preacher as you do what you say. <i>Writings of Leo, Rufino and Angelo</i>
6 th	Do not love the world or the things in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; for all that is in the world – the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches – comes not from the Father but from the world. <i>1 John 2:15-16</i>
7 th	Christianity is not a set of beliefs or doctrines one believes in order to be a Christian, but rather Christianity is to have one's body shaped, one's habits determined, in such a way that the worship of God is unavoidable. <i>Stanley Hauerwas (b.1940)</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>Psalm 24:2-3</i>
9 th	For this is the message you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. <i>1 John 3:11</i>
10 th	Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbour as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. <i>Romans 13:8-10</i>
11 th	Mother Esther CHN, founder of the Community of the Holy Name (Melbourne) (d.1931): All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. <i>Amen. Mary Sumner (Founder of the Mothers' Union)</i>
12 th	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>
13 th	Cyprian of Carthage, bishop and martyr (d.258): 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>John 5:3-5</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. <i>John 3:16</i>
15 th	John Oliver Feetham, bishop and bush brother (d.1947): Loving God, help us to remember those who live in isolated and remote parts of our land...our farmers and their families, our Royal Flying Doctor Service, those who minister in distant and out-of-the way towns. Refresh them in times of discouragement and loneliness; in times of drought and flooding rains and keep us ever mindful of their needs and concerns. <i>Amen</i>

16 th	Ninian of Galloway, bishop and missionary (d.c.432): Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and forevermore. From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised. <i>Psalm 113:7-8</i>
17 th	Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost: The beauty that emerges from woundedness is a beauty infused with feeling; a beauty different from the beauty of landscape and the cold perfect form. This is a beauty that has suffered its way through the ache of desolation until the words or music emerged to equal the hunger and desperation at its heart. It must also be said that not all woundedness succeeds in finding its way through to beauty of form. Most woundedness remains hidden, lost inside forgotten silence. Indeed, in every life there is some wound that continues to weep secretly, even after years of attempted healing. Where woundedness can be refined into beauty a wonderful transfiguration takes place. <i>John O'Donohue</i>
18 th	John Ramsden Wollaston, priest and missionary of Western Australia (d.1856): The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my Heart trusts; so I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him. <i>Psalm 28:7</i>
19 th	Our job is to love others without stopping to enquire whether or not they are worthy. <i>Thomas Merton (1915-1968)</i>
20 th	John Coleridge Patteson, first bishop of Melanesia, martyr (d.1871): The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practise it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever. <i>Psalm 111:10</i>
21 st	Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist and Martyr: Man is at his tallest when he bows. <i>G K Chesterton</i>
22 nd	"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven, for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous." <i>Matthew 5:43-45</i>
23 rd	God's love does not protect us from suffering. God's love protects us in the midst of suffering. <i>Hans Kung (1928-2021)</i>
24 th	Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost: O Holy Spirit, give me stillness of soul in you. Calm the turmoil within, with the gentleness of your peace. Quiet the anxiety within, with a deep trust in you. Strengthen the faith within, with the awareness of your presence. Confirm the hope within, with the knowledge of your strength. Give fullness to the love within, with an outpouring of your love. O Holy Spirit, be to me a source of light, strength and courage so that I may hear your call ever more clearly and follow you more generously.
25 th	Sergius of Moscow, abbot and teacher (d.1392): For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress, I shall never be shaken. <i>Psalm 62;1-2</i>
26 th	Lancelot Andrewes, bishop of Winchester (d.1626): For having wealth and wherewithal to "do good", if you do it not, talk not of faith, for you have no faith in you. <i>Lancelot Andrewes</i>
27 th	Vincent de Paul, priest and worker with the poor (d.1660): God allows us to give rise to the practice of two beautiful virtues: perseverance, which leads us to attain the goal, and constancy, which helps us to overcome difficulties. <i>St Vincent de Paul</i>
28 th	Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. <i>Psalm 72:18</i>
29 th	Michael and all Angels: On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul. <i>Psalm 138:3</i>
30 th	Jerome, priest and biblical scholar (d.420): Heart of Understanding, One who gazes upon the imperfect, the incomplete, the flawed, the weak, you never stop extending mercy. <i>Out of the Ordinary: Prayers, Poems and Reflections for Every Season - Joyce Rupp</i>

PRAYER THOUGHTS

- Sunday** Loving God, by whose power we are created and by whose love we are redeemed: guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves to your service, and live this day in love to one another and to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*
- Monday** Glorious, Holy and Indivisible Trinity, may all my days be spent in your praise, for you are my God: my Creator, my Redeemer, my Advocate.
- Tuesday** Loving God, we pray for clarity of purpose and courage to follow the way. Remind us that you are present with us at all times in all places. *Amen*
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- Wednesday** Help us to live out your call to love genuinely, widely and wildly, whether or not our faith feels strong. *Amen*
- Thursday** Loving, caring Lord, you know the secrets of our hearts and the burdens which we carry. You are never too busy to hear our prayers. Be with us and comfort us all through our times of trial.
- Friday** For those who bring hope where there is none, love where there is hatred, peace where there is war, sustenance where there is hunger, water where there is drought and comfort where there is sadness, bless them Lord Jesus whether they be Christian, Muslim, no faith or any faith; for all love has its source in You.
- Saturday** Loving God, lead me to make choices that bring you glory and allow me to experience the life you intended for me.



Thoughts for Prayer & Reflection

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

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