

THOUGHTS FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

April 2024

Our Lord Jesus Christ,
through His transcendent love,
became what we are,
that he might bring us to be
what He, Himself is.

St Irenaeus of Lyons



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| 1 | Monday in Easter Week: The great gift of Easter is hope - Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake. <i>Basil C Hume, Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster (1923-1999)</i> |
| 2 | Tuesday in Easter Week: Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually. Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered. <i>Psalms 105:4-5</i> |
| 3 | Wednesday in Easter Week: Come all the faithful, let us worship...for through the cross, joy has come to all the world. Ever blessing the Lord, we sing His Resurrection, for having endured the cross for us, He has destroyed death by death. <i>Oxford Prayer Book</i> |
| 4 | Thursday in Easter Week: Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled". Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. <i>Luke 24:44-48</i> |
| 5 | Friday in Easter Week: It is good for us to keep some account of our prayers, that we may not unsay them in our practice. <i>Matthew Henry (1662-1714)</i> |
| 6 | Saturday in Easter Week: And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation." <i>Mark 16:15</i> |
| 7 | Second Sunday of Easter: Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." <i>John 20:29</i> |
| 8 | The Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary: The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <i>Luke 1:30-33</i> |
| 9 | We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God. <i>Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945)</i> |
| 10 | Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! <i>Psalms 34:8-9</i> |
| 11 | Our burdens are here, our road is before us, and the longing for goodness and happiness is the guide that leads us through many troubles and mistakes to the peace which is a true Celestial City. <i>Louise May Alcott (1832-1888)</i> |
| 12 | The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? <i>Psalms 27:1</i> |
| 13 | Now obey my voice; I will give you advice, and God be with you! <i>Exodus 18:19</i> |
| 14 | Third Sunday of Easter: Spirit of Compassion, help us to be gentle with each other and with ourselves. Help us to forgive and to love more deeply. |
| 15 | God does his best work when the world has done its worst. <i>Chris Tiegreen</i> |
| 16 | For this is the will of my Father, for everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. <i>John 6:40</i> |
| 17 | So that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." <i>1 Corinthians 1:31</i> |

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| 18 | Bless our God, O people; let the sound of his praise be heard, who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip...we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance. <i>Psalm 66: 8-9, 12.</i> |
| 19 | My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. <i>John 10: 27-28</i> |
| 20 | Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light. <i>John of Damascus</i> |
| 21 | Fourth Sunday of Easter: I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. <i>John 10:14</i> |
| 22 | If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way? <i>Acts 11:17</i> |
| 23 | George, martyr (d.c.303): We are each of us like a small mirror in which God searches for His reflection. <i>John Vianney</i> |
| 24 | Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the people with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! <i>Psalm 67:4-5</i> |
| 25 | Anzac Day: Remember all the men and women who have died. Remember all the battles which have been fought. Remember all the tears which families have cried. Remember the soldiers' gift was freedom....and give thanks. |
| 26 | Mark, Evangelist and Martyr: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. <i>Psalm 19:7-9</i> |
| 27 | The morning purples all the sky, the air with praises rings; defeated hell stands sullen by, the world exalting sings. <i>Saint Ambrose of Milan</i> |
| 28 | Fifth Sunday of Easter: Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. <i>1 John 4:11-12</i> |
| 29 | Catherine of Siena, spiritual teacher (d.1380): Darkness deserves gratitude. It is the alleluia point at which we learn to understand that all growth does not take place in the sunlight. <i>Joan Chittister</i> |
| 30 | God's in His heaven – all's right with the world! <i>Robert Browning (1812-1889)</i> |



Prayers and Thoughts

- Sunday** God of our wilderness and despair, when our chaos is too loud to hear you, lead us to the quiet place. Open the ears of our hearts to hear you in the deepest of ways.
Amen.
- Monday** May the hope of your resurrection colour our days. May the promise of your spirit working in us light up our lives. May the love you revealed to us shape our giving. May the truth in your word guide our journeys, and may the joy of your kingdom fill our homes.
- Tuesday** Father, thank you for being the ultimate responder to all the varied dilemmas I face. I praise you for not only hearing my cries but answering them as well.
Amen
- Wednesday** Spirit of Resurrection, be with us as we roll back the stones of fear, hatred, and indifference to welcome a world of peace. Help us to work for tolerance, justice, and solidarity.
- Thursday** Lord, I want to place my trust in you while I wait for your deliverance. You alone are my help, my healer and my hope. May your glorious name be lifted high through my life even on the hardest days. *Amen*
- Friday** Bountiful God, give to the Parish of Saint Alban a faithful pastor who will faithfully speak your work and minister your sacraments; an encourager who will equip your people for ministry and enable us to fulfil our calling. Give to those who will choose, wisdom, discernment and patience, and give to us warm and generous hearts, for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen*
- Saturday** O God of the Last Supper, God of the Cross and God of the empty tomb, we come before you now and we pause. Holy Week has passed. But now we long to live by the marvellous story we have heard. Let us remain beside you at the table of the Last Supper. Show us who is thirsty and give us the strength to lift up the cup of your love. Show us how to linger at the table, serving others – doing all that we do in remembrance of you. *Amen*

Thoughts for Prayer & Reflection

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

Produced by the **Anglican Parish of St Alban**,
3 Pembroke Street Epping New South Wales 2121 Australia
Telephone +61 2 9876 3362 www.eppinganglicans.org.au