

THOUGHTS FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

September 2021

Every breath we draw
is a gift of God's love;
every moment of existence
is a grace.

Thomas Merton
(1915-1968)



1 st	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. And the world and its desire are passing away, but those who do the will of God live forever. <i>1 John 2:15-17</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): God, you have given all peoples one common origin. It is your will that they be gathered together as one family in yourself. Fill the hearts of humankind with the fire of your love and with the desire to ensure justice for all. By sharing the good things you give us, may we secure an equality for all our brothers and sisters throughout the world. May there be an end to division, strife, and war. May there be a dawning of a truly human society built on love and peace. We ask this in your name.
4 th	Unless you make a daily effort to see the world as God sees it, you will never get beyond mere appearances. <i>Michel Quoist (1921-1997)</i>
5 th	Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost: God of power, may the boldness of your Spirit transform us, may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us, may the gifts of your Spirit be our goal and our strength, now and always. <i>Amen. Presbyterian Book of Common Worship</i>
6 th	Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out you heart before him; God is a refuge for us. <i>Psalms 62:8</i>
7 th	Accept the fact that you are accepted, despite the fact that you are unacceptable. <i>Paul Tillich (1886-1965)</i>
8 th	Birth of Mary, Mother of the Lord: 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>1 John 5:1-5</i>
9 th	We do not ignore maturity. Maturity consists in not losing the past while fully living in the present with a prudent awareness of the possibilities of the future. <i>Thomas Traherne (d.1674)</i>
10 th	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>
11 th	Mother Esther CHN, founder of the Community of the Holy Name, Melbourne (d.1931): Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life. <i>Nelson Mandela</i>
12 th	Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Come Holy Spirit. Come as Holy fire and burn in us. Come as Holy Wind and cleanse us within. Come as Holy Light and lead us in the darkness. Come as Holy Truth and dispel our ignorance. Come as Holy Power and enable our weakness. Come as Holy Life and dwell in us. Convict us, convert us, consecrate us, until we are set free from the service of ourselves to be your servants to the world. <i>Amen</i> <i>John Henry Newman: Come Holy Spirit</i>
13 th	Caprian of Carthage, bishop and martyr (d.258): Wisdom ceases to be wisdom when it becomes too proud to weep, too grave to laugh, and too selfish to seek other than itself. <i>Khalil Gibran</i>

14 th	I sought the Lord and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed. <i>Psalms 34:4-5</i>
15 th	John Oliver Feetham, bishop and bush brother (1947): You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No-one after lighting the lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. <i>Matthew 5:14-16</i>
16 th	Ninian of Galloway, bishop and missionary (d.c.432): You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth'. But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well. ; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you. <i>Matthew 5:38-42</i>
17 th	Hildegard of Bingen, abbess, spiritual writer (d.1179): Our souls should be like a transparent crystal through which God can be perceived. <i>Hildegard of Bingen</i>
18 th	John Ramsden Wollaston, priest and missionary of Western Australia (d.1856): Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. <i>Psalms 100:3-4</i>
19 th	Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost: May the Gifts of the Holy Spirit bring fire to the earth so that the presence of God may be seen in a new light, in new places, in new ways. <i>Joan Chittister OSB</i>
20 th	John Coleridge Patteson, first bishop of Melanesia, martyr (1871): What you are is God's gift to you; what you become is your gift to God. <i>Hans Urs von Balthasar (1905-1988)</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 within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. <i>Psalms 51:10-11</i>
23 rd	Gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder. <i>Gilbert K. Chesterton (1874-1936)</i>
24 th	Keep some room in your heart for the unimaginable. <i>Mary Oliver (1935-2109)</i>
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>Psalms 62:1-2</i>
26 th	Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Grant us the Spirit of Understanding to enlighten our minds with the light of Your truth;
27 th	Vincent de Paul, priest and worker with the poor (d.1660): Go to the poor: you will find God. <i>Vincent de Paul</i>
28 th	For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. <i>Colossians 1:19-20</i>
29 th	Michael and All Angels: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him all his angels, praise him all his hosts! <i>Psalms 148:1-2</i>
30 th	Jerome, priest and biblical scholar (d.420): It is our duty as men and women to proceed as though the limits of our abilities do not exist. <i>Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955)</i>



PRAYER THOUGHTS

Sunday

I know that I am your child, my loving God. I know that you "have engraved me on the palms of your hands" and that you will never forget me. *Amen. Alleluia!*

Praying with Francis of Assisi – Stoutzenberger & Bohrer (adapted)

Monday

Reveal in us your glory. Stir in us your power. Renew in us your kingdom. Develop in us your faith. Show in us your way. Open in us your love. Strengthen in us your hope. Work in us your miracles. Revive in us your resurrection. Abide in us yourself. *Tides and Seasons – David Adam*

Tuesday

As morning comes, and at the closing of day, may my prayers rise like incense before You, my God.

Wednesday

Christ, grant that people may look at me and see Your Presence.

Thursday

I try and try, but my efforts accomplish nothing when I have not come to You first in prayer. I need to do things in Your strength for otherwise I am useless. I need Your power behind me when I speak. I need Your strength. Allow Your word to speak to me. Guide my way by Your gentle voice. May my spirit and Yours become one this day.

Friday

Thank you Lord for desert experiences, when being confronted with myself makes me realise my need of you. *Amen*

Saturday

God who listens and hears when we pray, we know that you walk with us on our journey through life. You have told us that you are with us always. Help us to believe in a just world, help us to dream a new vision, help us when we stumble and do not know the way forward. May a passion for peace burn in us and through us, may it warm the hearts of those around us, nourishing hope and overcoming fear. *Celebrating One World [adapted]*

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

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Currently our church is not open for contemplation and prayer.