

THOUGHTS FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

July 2021

*“Consider the
lilies...”*

Luke 12:27



1 st	Coming of the Light, first missionaries to the Torres Strait (1871): 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 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>
2 nd	When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honour. <i>Psalms 8:3-5</i>
3 rd	The new humanity that is created around Jesus is not a humanity that is always going to be successful and in control of things, but a humanity that can reach out its hand from the depths of chaos, to be touched by the hand of God. <i>Rowan Williams: Being Christian</i>
4 th	Sixth Sunday after Pentecost: When you strip it of everything else, Pentecost stands for power and life. That's what came into the church when the Holy Spirit came down on the day of Pentecost. <i>David Wilkerson: The Cross and the Switchblade (1931-2011)</i>
5 th	I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. <i>Psalms 16:8</i>
6 th	John Fisher, bishop and Thomas More, martyrs (d.1535): A good man is not a perfect man; a good man is an honest man, faithful and unhesitatingly responsive to the voice of God in his life. <i>John Fisher</i>
7 th	Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life," <i>John 4:13-14</i>
8 th	Acquire the habit of speaking to God as if you were alone with Him, familiarly and with confidence and love, as to the dearest and most loving of friends. Speak to Him often of your business, your plans, your troubles, your fears – of everything that concerns you. Converse with Him confidently and frankly; for God is not wont to speak to a soul that does not speak to Him. <i>Alphonsus Ligouri (1696-1787)</i>
9 th	Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff – they comfort me. <i>Psalms 23:4</i>
10 th	Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. <i>Psalms 25:4-5</i>
11 th	Seventh Sunday after Pentecost: Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. <i>Psalms 85:7</i>
12 th	Spirituality without a prayer life is no spirituality at all, and it will not last beyond the first defeats. Prayer is an opening of the self so that the Word of God can break in and make us new. Prayer unmask. Prayer converts. Prayer impels. Prayer sustains us on the way. Pray for the grace it will take to continue what you would like to quit. <i>Joan Chittister: In a High Spiritual Season</i>
13 th	Sydney James Kirkby, bishop, pioneer of outback ministry and the Bush Church Aid Society (d.1935): We are all visitors to this time, this place. We are just passing through. Our purpose here is to observe, to learn, to grow, to love, and then we return home. <i>Australian Aboriginal saying</i>
14 th	I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall be continually in my mouth. <i>Psalms 34:1</i>
15 th	"Come to me, all you that 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>Matthew 11:28-30</i>

16 th	The theological virtue of charity is the mysterious power, communicated by grace, to love as God loves. <i>Michel Quoist (1921-1997)</i>
17 th	Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." <i>John 6:35</i>
18 th	Eighth Sunday after Pentecost: Grant us the Spirit of Knowledge that we may know You and ourselves and grow in holiness.
19 th	My child, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them escape from your sight; keep them within your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh. <i>Proverbs 4:20-22</i>
20 th	Do not despise the small but significant symbolic act. God probably does not want you to reorganize the entire discipline or the entire world of your vocation overnight. Learn to be symbol makers and story tellers for the kingdom of God. <i>N T Wright: The Challenge of Easter</i>
21 st	O Lord, who knows all our hopes as well as all our failures, uphold us in all we do with the power of your love, that we may be true witnesses to you. To your honour and glory. <i>Women at Prayer: Rachel Stowe</i>
22 nd	Mary Magdalene: My child, keep your father's commandments, and do not forsake your mother's teaching. Bind then upon your heart always; tie them around your neck. When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk with you. <i>Proverbs 6:20-22</i>
23 rd	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. <i>Tides and Seasons: David Adam</i>
24 th	I will give thanks to you Lord among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations. For your steadfast love is as high as the heavens; your faithfulness extends to the clouds. <i>Psalms 57:9-10</i>
25 th	Ninth Sunday after Pentecost: Grant us the Spirit of Wisdom that we may aspire to the things that last forever.
26 th	James, Apostle & Martyr: Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendour. <i>Psalms 29:2</i>
27 th	Blessed is the servant who loves his brother as much when he is sick and useless as when he is well and can be of service to him. And blessed is he who loves his brother as well when he is afar off as when he is by his side, and who would say nothing behind his back he might not, in love, say before his face." <i>St Francis</i>
28 th	A rock pile ceases to be a rock pile the moment a single man contemplates it, bearing within him the image of a cathedral. <i>Antoine de Saint-Exupery</i>
29 th	Mary and Martha of Bethany: Dare to love and to be a real friend. The love you give and receive is a reality that will lead you closer and closer to God as well as those whom God has given you to love. <i>Henri Nouwen</i>
30 th	William Wilberforce, social reformer (d.1833): If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has his foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality. <i>Archbishop Desmond Tutu</i>
31 st	Joseph of Arimathea; Ignatius of Loyola, priest & founder of the Society of Jesus (d.1556): Act as if everything depended on you; trust as if everything depended on God. <i>Ignatius of Loyola</i>

PRAYER THOUGHTS



- Sunday** Forgive our ingratitude; we who have so much yet waste what you have given.
- Monday** Open my eyes to the beauty that surrounds me that I may walk through this day with the kind of awareness that calls forth grateful living.
- Tuesday** Give us today the strength and courage to transform the compassion of our hearts into acts of peace, mercy, and justice.
- Wednesday** O God, enable me this very day to put my love into action; to reach out with forgiveness to any I have hurt; to show compassion to any who use my strength; to witness to the Christian faith as I know it. Deliver me from all pretence. Deliver me from all pettiness. Deliver me from all foolish pride. *Amen*
- Thursday** 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.
- Friday** Gracious God, I pray not for an absence of struggles in my life, but for the patience and discernment needed to make the difficult decisions in the struggles that I face. *Amen*
- Saturday** 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.

Thoughts for Prayer & Reflection

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

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**Little by little our church is opening up for selected services
but is not currently open for contemplation and prayer.**