



Daily readings,  
reflections and prayers

Monday 27 July –  
Sunday 2 August 2020

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July

Philippians 2:5-11  
Luke 22:24-30

**Opening Prayer:**

Loving God, as I read your word, speak to me I pray and lead me into your truth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Reflection:**

*The disciples argued among themselves about who was the greatest. It's rather pathetic really; and it reveals that they had totally missed the point. Jesus, of course, was the greatest, but he was willing to humble himself, to take up human flesh and, at the last, to endure the cross.*

*But the disciples, at this stage in their lives, totally missed that. They wanted fame, recognition and acclaim; Jesus in contrast wanted service, sacrifice and the good of others.*

*There is a deep lesson here about our willingness to serve, and our tendency to focus on self.*

*May we learn from Jesus the meaning of true greatness. It comes in service, in sacrifice, and in seeking the good of others.*

**A prayer:**

Loving God, help me to follow Jesus your Son, and to live for you and for others, and not for self.

**Prayer Focus:**

- Pray for yourself and for those you know and love.
- Pray for our leaders that they may serve the good of all people, and not just of themselves.
- Pray for your Church leaders that they may walk in the footsteps of Christ.

## Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July

**Psalm 8**

**Luke 22:31-38**

### **Opening Prayer:**

Loving God, as I read your word, speak to me I pray and help me to see you more clearly. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Reflection:**

*Jesus clearly knows Peter better than he knows himself. Peter confidently claims that he will die for Jesus, but Jesus knows better.*

*But that caused me to ask myself: How many times have I denied Christ? By failing to speak up for him? By keeping quiet about my faith?*

*May God help me to better live for him.*

### **A prayer:**

Loving God, forgive me for all those times when, like Peter, I have denied you by my words, or my actions, or by my silence. Help me to truly live for you.

### **Prayer Focus:**

- Pray for your own needs and for your loved ones.
- Pray for all Christians who are persecuted for their faith. May God strengthen them in their troubles.
- Pray too for those Christians who struggle to really live for God; who live half-hearted Christian lives. May God ignite their faith and set them on fire for Christ.

## Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July

**Psalm 119:1-32**

**Luke 22:39-46**

### **Opening Prayer:**

Loving God, as I read your word, speak to me I pray and lead me into your truth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Reflection:**

*Jesus and the disciples praying in the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives is a powerful contrast. The disciples fell asleep while Jesus agonised in prayer, fearing his coming death. Sadly, I too have fallen asleep in prayer, and my mind has often drifted off into a daydream. Prayer can be hard and, like the disciples, we often struggle to be disciplined in our prayer lives.*

### **A prayer:**

Loving God, help me to be more diligent and faithful in prayer. May I not fall into temptation. And forgive me when I do fail.

### **Prayer Focus:**

- Pray for your own needs and for your loved ones.
- Pray for all disciples today (the Church) that we might grow in our prayer lives.
- Pray that we might live more fully for Christ.
- For those struggling with the mental battles of lockdown.

## Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July

**Psalm 14**

**Matthew 26:47-56**

### **Opening Prayer:**

Loving God, as I read your word, speak to me I pray and lead me into your truth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Reflection:**

*Our Gospel reading is full of betrayal and failure. The betrayal of Judas. The failure of the Jewish leaders to live for God or to recognise His Messiah. The failure of the disciple with the sword.*

*But I am particularly struck by the failure of Christians for 2000 years since to remember that Jesus said that "all who draw the sword will die by the sword" (v52).*

### **A prayer:**

May we, and all God's people, be peacemakers and not war-mongers.

### **Prayer Focus:**

- Pray for your own needs and for your loved ones.
- Pray for all those working as chaplains in the armed forces. May God bless them in their service.
- Pray for British military servicemen and women. May God strengthen them, protect them and use them to bring good and not evil into His world.
- Pray for those taking much needed holidays for rest, renewal and restoration

## Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July

**Psalm 19**

**Luke 22:54-62**

### **Opening Prayer:**

Loving God, as I read your word, speak to me I pray and lead me into your truth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Reflection:**

*In our Gospel reading we come to Peter's denial of Jesus. It is an abject picture of failure encapsulated in those famous words in v62 where Peter "went outside and wept bitterly."*

*Have we not all failed Jesus at times in our lives? Perhaps, at times, we all ought to have wept bitterly.*

### **A prayer:**

Loving God, forgive me for those times when, like Peter, I have failed you. And thank you for your forgiveness and mercy to me.

### **Prayer Focus:**

- Firstly, pray for your own needs and for your loved ones.
- Pray for those who are struggling with failure in their own lives; for addicts and those caught up in cycles of sin. May God lead them back to himself.
- Pray for teachers. For a relaxing holiday and for good preparation for September.
- Pray for our neighbours and our community

## Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August

Psalm 23  
Matthew 14:1-12

### **Opening Prayer:**

Loving God, as I read your word, speak to me I pray and lead me into your truth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Reflection:**

*I am really struck by the contrast between Herod and John. Herod has worldly position, status and power. He is a king. A rich and powerful man. But in truth he is weak and pathetic. John in contrast is relatively poor, but he is rich and strong in faith. How easily we fall for the lies of this world and misjudge real greatness.*

### **A prayer:**

Loving God, help us to walk away from the values of this world and to know true riches and true greatness.

### **Prayer Focus:**

- Firstly, pray for your own needs and for your loved ones.
- Pray for our churches and all they are doing.
- Pray for our political leaders and for leading figures in our society, that they may realise how weak and small they are.
- Pray for Christian leaders that they may offer our world a vision of true greatness as they walk in the footsteps of Christ.

## Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August

Psalm 85:1-9  
Matthew 14:13-21

### **Opening Prayer:**

Loving God, as I read your word, speak to me I pray and lead me into your truth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Reflection:**

*Jesus feeds us. This amazing miracle is an acted parable teaching us that we find our true nourishment through him who fed 5000 souls on the shores of Lake Galilee. If we seek to find our fulfilment and nourishment in other things, we will find that they ultimately do not satisfy. Jesus is the Bread of Life.*

### **A prayer:**

Lord God, feed me with the Bread of Life. May I find in Him all that I need and may I not be deceived by the stale bread that the world offers.

### **Prayer Focus:**

- Pray for your own needs and for your loved ones.
- But today, let us also pray for those who are hungry for meaning and purpose, but who have not yet seen that Jesus is the Bread of Life.
- Pray for the Church that we may faithfully distribute the baskets of bread to those who are hungry.
- Pray for all around the world who are physically hungry. May God send them physical bread, and also the Bread of Life.