

Subject: Daily Prayer with meditation by Father Simon
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Good morning

Let us as usual begin with a few moments of silence and stillness.....

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult. (Psalm 46:1-3)

John 15:18-21

The World's Hatred

'If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world— therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, "Servants are not greater than their master." If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.

Reflection by Canon Simon Stephens

The World hates the Disciples

The time is short and in this morning's lesson from John, Jesus takes the disciples to one side to talk to them as Brothers about the true cost of discipleship! " If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first"! Perhaps Jesus detected areas of weakness within the Apostolic Company. Perhaps he feared that those whom he had chosen to share his Mission, lacked the faith and courage to walk in his footsteps. Subsequently, some of the disciples died martyrs deaths ; and our friend Thomas Didymus travelled to Asia to found the Christian Church in India, where is venerated as its greatest saint...but they are endured great hardship, and so transformed their own crown of thorns into a crown of glory.

On this Thursday morning here in Pollenca, please will you find time to give some thought to your own personal crown of thorns, whatever that may be ; and then to thank God for His gift of the Holy Spirit which has transformed your own personal sorrows and hardships into a dynamo for good works in the Lord's Service. Finally this morning, please can we pray for those who seemingly can find no-one else to share their grief and loneliness at this time. They need us to walk at their sides.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Scottish Blessing

May the blessing of light be on you - light without and light within.
May the blessed sunlight shine on you like a great peat fire,
so that stranger and friend may come and warm himself at it.
And may light shine out of the two eyes of you,
like a candle set in the window of a house,
bidding the wanderer come in out of the storm.
And may the blessing of the rain be on you,
may it beat upon your Spirit and wash it fair and clean,
and leave there a shining pool where the blue of Heaven shines,
and sometimes a star.
And may the blessing of the earth be on you,
soft under your feet as you pass along the roads,
soft under you as you lie out on it, tired at the end of day;
and may it rest easy over you when, at last, you lie out under it.
May it rest so lightly over you that your soul may be out from under it quickly; up and off and on its way to God.

And now may the Lord bless you, and bless you kindly. Amen.