

Subject: Daily Prayers 28th April 2020
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Good morning everyone

Let's begin with a time of quiet and stillness.....

I love these words of scripture and could not get them out of my mind so thought that I would share them with you today. I suggest that you read them very slowly and allow the words to soak in then spend a short time meditating on them before reading the gospel.

Isaiah 40:29-31

He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

And our Gospel reading for today

John 6:30-35

So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat." ' Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.'

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.

Reflection by Canon Simon Stephens

Jesus the Bread of Life

On the lake shore, Jesus continues to answer the questions of those who had followed him, originally from afar. They saw him as the great miracle worker who had fed the five thousand..and now they wanted a miracle for them selves.

"What will you do?" They ask him. Always questions - perhaps here we can begin to understand the sacrificial nature of Christ's ministry, forever answering questions -- and why the Mountains were so important to him. Those who had gathered around him, recalled the words of their Forefathers that they had been fed by God with 'manna' in the wilderness! But those listening to Christ lacked the spiritual insight to identify the miracle

worker as the Saviour. Jesus tells them quite bluntly, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry!" If you read and reread this passage in the context of John 6/41 - 59, you begin to discover that the Jews and Jesus are on two different wavelengths.

The Jews find it almost impossible to understand the spirituality of Christ. It really is an uphill battle for the Man from Galilee to persuade those who continually followed him, that he was indeed the Son of God. Although he is surrounded by his disciples, as one reads this passage from John, that Jesus is very lonely.

This morning, we need to remember in our prayers all those Christian teachers who are finding it difficult to convey their Faith in hostile environments.

Canon Simon Stephens

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.

Circle, O Holy Spirit all who read these words, encircle them with your presence.

Keep joy within, keep bitterness out;
Keep generosity within, keep greed out;
Keep love within, keep self-seeking out;
Keep light within, keep darkness out.

In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen

Wishing you a blessed day

Until tomorrow

Vicky