

1st April

Daily Prayer and Reflections

Taking time out to pray and using the scriptures to do this can be helpful to connect with God and to process thoughts with God's guidance always at our side.

Throughout today, I invite you to take a moment of stillness for prayer. During Lent, we see that Jesus goes to the desert and has this time of pausing after his baptism. We are also asked to take time in Lent to live out the 3 pillars of Lent which is to pray, fast and give.

Today's Prayer:

Lord,

Allow us to feel your presence working in our lives today. Empower us to choose good and be the best versions of ourselves that you call us to be. Guide us in your word and open our hearts to your love and strength throughout the day.

Amen

On the @BC_Chaplaincy Twitter Page, we upload daily reflections and prayer ideas which we invite you to look at with readings of the day also posted. We post small reflections so we can keep God's word active throughout the day and accessible.

John 8:31-42

Today's Gospel

If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed

To the Jews who believed in him Jesus said:

'If you make my word your home
you will indeed be my disciples,
you will learn the truth
and the truth will make you free.'

They answered, 'We are descended from Abraham and we have never been the slaves of anyone; what do you mean, "You will be made free"?' Jesus replied:

'I tell you most solemnly,
everyone who commits sin is a slave.

Now the slave's place in the house is not assured,
but the son's place is assured.

So if the Son makes you free,

you will be free indeed.
I know that you are descended from Abraham;
but in spite of that you want to kill me
because nothing I say has penetrated into you.
What I, for my part, speak of
is what I have seen with my Father;
but you, you put into action
the lessons learnt from your father.'

They repeated, 'Our father is Abraham.' Jesus said to them:

'If you were Abraham's children,
you would do as Abraham did.
As it is, you want to kill me
when I tell you the truth
as I have learnt it from God;
that is not what Abraham did.
What you are doing is what your father does.'

'We were not born of prostitution,' they went on 'we have one father: God.' Jesus answered:

'If God were your father, you would love me,
since I have come here from God;
yes, I have come from him;
not that I came because I chose,
no, I was sent, and by him.'

In today's gospel we hear 'If you make my word your home you will indeed be my disciples, you will learn the truth and the truth will make you free.' It teaches us that we need room for scripture and faith in our life and this is ever true in times like this. We are called to be disciples and live out his word. Jesus was sent to show us how to live with God and gave us a true demonstration of a faith filled life with God

It speaks of freedom and the truth setting us free so the prayer for the day is the Litany of Mercy and Forgiveness which allows us to pray for forgiveness and mercy whilst acknowledging the weaknesses we may have.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Yet we are preoccupied with money and worldly goods and put our trust in what we possess rather than in your care for us.

Have mercy on us,

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said:

Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

Yet we are so concerned about our own rights and self-interest and so little concerned about serving others.

Have mercy on us,

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said:

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Yet we are impatient under our burdens and unconcerned about the burdens of others.

Have mercy on us,

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said:

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall have their fill.

Yet we do not thirst for you, the fountain of all holiness, and we are satisfied with half-measures and mediocrity.

Have mercy on us,

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said:

Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy.

Yet we are so quick to condemn, so slow to forgive.

Have mercy on us,

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said:

Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.

Yet we have often regarded persons created in your image as objects of our own lusts and can not raise our eyes to you.

Have mercy on us,

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said:

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

Yet we are so often ruthless with each other, and our homes and our world are full of discord and resentments.

Have mercy on us,

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord, Jesus Christ. you said:

Blessed are those who suffer persecution for holiness' sake, for the Kingdom of God is theirs.

Yet we suffer no opposition because we have been ashamed of you, our Crucified Savior, and have lived worldly compromises of your Gospel.

Have mercy on us,

O Lord, have mercy on us. Amen.

Lord,

We offer all our weaknesses to you that you can carry us in the times we may fall and lift us up. Help us to make the right choices.

Amen

Diocesan Information

Masses are live streamed up and down the diocese and are daily. If you want to watch mass, follow this link select a church and the mass times are listed so you can plan Mass Live stream in to your day:

<https://www.mcnmedia.tv/cameras/county/west-midlands>

Praise and Worship Playlist: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F8umfBRIwW8>

At 8pm, Soli & Alton Castle Team are doing a Praise and Worship Live Stream on their Social Media Platforms. Take time to go and watch this stream.

Facebook: Alton Castle Retreat Centre

Instagram: @soli_kyt