

April 1st

In Matthew's gospel, as the two Marys were going from the tomb, 'filled with awe and great joy', they ran into Jesus, then, 'clasping his feet, they worshipped him.' Lord, help us to imagine and dwell on what that meeting must have been like for the two Marys.

April 2nd

Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbuni!' – which means Teacher. Let us try to imagine the feelings that must have swept through Mary Magdalene when the risen Jesus spoke to her outside the tomb, and she recognised him.

April 3rd

On the road to Emmaus the hearts of Cleopas and his friend 'burned within them' as they listened to Jesus' words. Lord, give us the grace to open our hearts completely to Jesus when we read or listen to his words in the gospels.

April 4th

Jesus said to the disciples, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. Lord, when we listen to or read the scriptures, open our minds also.

April 5th

In John's gospel, the 3rd time Jesus revealed his risen self was when the

disciples were fishing. Lord, help us to pause and imagine being one of the disciples when you called them ashore and made them breakfast.

April 6th

The Eleven were at table, and Jesus appeared to them and rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart. ... He said to them, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature." Lord, give us the grace to proclaim your Gospel by making it the essence of the way we live our lives.

April 7th

The 1st conclusion to John's gospel: *Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.* Lord, help us to live our life in you to the fullest, in the ways you intended.

April 8th

As we remember the Annunciation of the Lord, let us pray for the grace to accept the will of God for us, just as Mary did. *The angel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren;*

for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

April 9th

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." Lord, do not let us take eternal life for granted, let us strive continually to discern and do your will.

April 10th

God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned. Lord, help us not to condemn people but show them the love of Jesus.

April 11th

For the one whom God sent speaks the words of God. He does not ration his gift of the Spirit. The Father loves the Son and has given everything over to him. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life. Let us pray that the Spirit of God, who is given to us without reserve, will fill every corner of our lives and being.

April 12th

Ps 27: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear? The LORD is my life's refuge; of whom should

I be afraid? One thing I seek: to dwell in the house of the Lord.

April 13th

When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they began to be afraid. But he said to them, "It is I. Do not be afraid." They wanted to take him into the boat, but the boat immediately arrived at the shore to which they were heading. Lord, may these words you spoke always be in our hearts, "It is I. Do not be afraid."

April 14th

Then Jesus opened the disciples' minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said to them, "Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name. Lord, open our minds also.

April 15th

Jesus said, "Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you." Lord, help us to get our priorities right.

April 16th

So the crowd said to Jesus, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst." Lord, help us to remember this every day.

April 17th

Jesus said, "Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not

reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me.” Lord, help us to keep this knowledge firmly in our hearts.

April 18th

Jesus said to the crowds, “I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my Flesh for the life of the world.” Lord, help us to put aside familiarity, and appreciate how astonishing this is.

April 19th

*On his journey, as he was nearing Damascus, a light from the sky suddenly flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” Father, forgive us for all the times when you say to us, “Saul, Saul, why are you **ignoring** me?”*

April 20th

Jesus then said to the Twelve, “Do you also want to leave?” Simon Peter answered him, “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.” Lord, increase our faith.

April 21th

1Jn3:2 Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Lord, we thank you for our faith and hope.

April 22th

Ps42/3: As the hind longs for the running waters, so my soul longs for you, O God. Athirst is my soul for God, the living God. When shall I go and behold the face of God? Send forth your light and your fidelity; they shall lead me on and bring me to your holy mountain, to your dwelling-place. Then will I go in to the altar of God, the God of my gladness and joy; then will I give you thanks upon the harp, O God, my God!

April 23th

Jesus said to all, “If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.” Lord, give us the grace to put the Father’s will before our own.

April 24th

Jesus cried out and said, ... “I came into the world as light, so that everyone who believes in me might not remain in darkness.” Lord, give us the strength to always walk in your light and not hide in the darkness.

April 25th

1Pt5: Beloved: Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your worries upon him because he cares for you. Let us take St Peter’s advice and ask God to take all our worries.

April 26th

Jesus said to his disciples: “Do not let

your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. Lord, we place all our trust in you.

April 27th

Jesus said to his disciples: “If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Lord, don’t let us forget that the Father is not distant, because as we know you, we also know the Father.

April 28th

Jesus said to his disciples, “Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.” Lord, teach us, guide us and inspire us so that we ‘bear much fruit’.

April 29th

Jesus said to his disciples: “Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me.” Lord, give us the love and strength we need to keep your commandments.

April 30th

Jesus said to his disciples: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.” Lord, grant us your peace.

Churches Together in Fordingbridge and District Prayer Link

April 2024

Inspired by the Bible readings for the day. Prepared by the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows and St Philip Benizi