



These daily readings leading up to Easter will reflect on conversations Jesus had during his ministry. As you read God’s word, keep a note of what God says to you and what your response is to him.

The daily readings tie in with the Sunday teaching series and with studies in small groups. Alongside this are a series of questions as prompts for reflection in 2s or 3s.

“May God the Creator bless us. May God the Son walk with us. May God the Spirit lead our lives with love.

May the blessing of the One who was, and who is and who is to come be upon us all - redeeming our past, filling our present and lighting up our future.”

A Celtic blessing

<p>Day 30 Thurs Mar 30th</p>	<p>Our response – courage Read John 16:17-33 On the evening before his betrayal & arrest, Jesus teaches his disciples about using his name in prayer. The next few days would be traumatic for Jesus’ followers, and it was vital that they knew where their strength could come from. In our daily conversations with Jesus, we can have the same confidence to ask with boldness. Storms will always be a part of this life. We don’t choose what we face in life, but we can choose how we face it. Jesus’ words in v33 are so profound: “In this world you will have trouble but take heart I have overcome the world.” The Greek word translated “take heart” in this verse is the word ‘tharseo’. It would seem to be a regular part of Jesus’ conversation (see also Matt 9:2 & 22, Matt 14:27, Mark 6:50, Mark 10:49, Acts 23:11.) ‘Tharseo’ means to be emboldened from within, to be bolstered within which supports unflinching courage. The Holy Spirit, given to God’s people at Pentecost (Acts 2), is the dynamic behind this courageous living. May we each hear Jesus’ words into our hearts & lives, “Take heart. Be of good cheer. I am with you.” Courage is contagious. Ask the Lord to place on your heart people you can encourage & bless.</p>
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