



## **ST. JOHN'S CHURCH PRAYER DIARY – AUGUST 2017**

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August.

The Transfiguration of Our Lord.

The story is told in Matthew, Mark and Luke.

Each time it is made clear that God's salvation is for all and Christ is the one who brings salvation. The testimony of the law and the prophets to Jesus are given by the presence of Moses and Elijah, and the event prefigures the resurrection, giving a foretaste of the life of glory.

**Collect**

**Father in heaven,  
whose Son Jesus Christ was wonderfully transfigured  
before chosen witnesses upon the holy mountain,  
and spoke of the exodus he would accomplish at Jerusalem;  
give us strength so to hear his voice and bear our cross  
that in the world to come we may see him as he is.**

**An extract from the Collect of the Day.**

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August Mothers' Union members will know that on this day, was born, the founder member of their organisation, Mary Sumner, dedicated to uniting mothers of all classes with the aim of bringing up children in the Christian faith. Baptism and parental example were the two basic principles. Now an international concern, the organisation helps countries all over the world to better their lives founded on Christian principles with financial and practical aid.

**Faithful and loving God, ..... give us the gift of your Holy Spirit, that through word, prayer and deed your family may be strengthened and your people served.**

**Collect for the day.**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August. On this day in 1890 John Henry Newman, a major influence on theology, particularly after joining the Roman Catholic Church in 1845, passed away. He is associated with the idea of making Anglicanism as the middle way between Catholicism and Protestantism, an idea which still appeals to those who would have Christian unity. He was made a Cardinal towards the end of his life.

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August. A baptismal service at 10.00a.m.

Two famous women died on this day, famous for their social reforming zeal.

Florence Nightingale, 1820 – 1910, is famous for her work in the Crimean War, and also for making nursing the respected profession it is today. Fortified throughout her life by her Christian faith she remained committed to her cause.

Octavia Hill, 1838 – 1912, brought up in a family active in social work, she herself, by earning a living as a teacher and by borrowing money, bought up slum properties, determined to improve the living conditions of the families of those children she taught. They were managed in a sympathetic way, insisting on financial viability rather than mere charity, a scheme adopted by others attempting housing reform. Her faith gave her the motivation throughout her life. (See prayer at the end).

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August. This day is celebrated throughout the Christian world as the feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August is the day on which in 1912 William Booth died, and his wife, Catherine in 1890. They were the founders of The Christian Mission which evolved into the Salvation Army. Their preaching combined moral fervour with strong, social commitment. The work done by the Army is still valued and respected today, as its members give so much energy in helping the lonely, the poor and homeless. (See prayer at the end)

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August commemorates the death of our patronal saint, John the Baptist. His message of denouncing immorality and call for repentance was taken up by Christ when he heard of John's arrest.

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August 1688 was the day on which the famous spiritual writer, John Bunyan died. His book 'Pilgrim's Progress' is still regarded as a work of spiritual genius.

**God of Peace who called your servant, John Bunyan to be valiant for truth;  
grant that as strangers and pilgrims we may at last rejoice with all Christian  
people in your heavenly city. Collect of the day.**

**A Prayer of Gratitude for all Social Reformers for what they achieved and the  
example they give to us today. Particularly at this time of unrest we give  
thanks to all those who have been helping the victims of terrorism and  
disaster.**

**Merciful God,  
You have compassion on all that you have made  
and your whole creation is enfolded in your love;  
help us to stand firm in your truth,  
to struggle against poverty,  
to share your love with our neighbour,  
to resist hatred, violence and prejudice  
that with all your servants who have given us their example  
we may be instruments of your peace.**

**Father,  
We give our thanks for the men and women  
who go on doing their duty in the face of  
loneliness, monotony, misunderstanding and danger.**

**We pray for those who serve us in this city  
at hazard to their lives;  
the policemen and the fireman  
and all others whose work demands constant risk.**

**Forgive us, Father  
if we ever take for granted what others are doing  
so that we can live in peace and safety.  
We bless those among us who had no other reason to help  
the victims of disaster other than their own powerful instinct of love and  
compassion.  
Make us the kind of people who deserve these blessings.**

We expect others to show courage in the line of duty.  
If, once in a while,  
we must stand up to be counted  
and show a little courage of our own,  
help us to set them an example,  
by being the kind of people Christ has called us to be.

From a poem by Andrew W. Blackwood Jnr. U.S.A.

A Prayer for those families starting out on their summer holiday.

Thank you, God, for the gift of family,  
be with us today and may it be one of our good times,  
one to remember all our lives.  
Let us reflect on the many blessings you have given us  
In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A final prayer for Peace.

Drop they still dews of quietness  
Till all our strivings cease;  
Take from our souls the strain and stress,  
And let our ordered lives confess,  
The beauty of thy peace.

John Greenleaf Whittier 1807 - 1892



*The Transfiguration of Christ*