

#### Thursday 7 February

But Jesus said to them, 'Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.' *Mark 10.5-9*

Expression is the one fundamental sacrament. *Alfred North Whitehead*

#### Friday 8 February

Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, 'Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.' *Mark 10.10-12*

If it be your will that I speak no more, and my voice be still as it was before; I will speak no more, I shall abide until I am spoken for, if it be your will. If it be your will that a voice be true, from this broken hill I will sing to you, From this broken hill all your praises they shall ring, If it be your will to let me sing. *Leonard Cohen*

#### Saturday 9 February

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.' *Mark 10.13-14*

Care as lavishly as you are able, for you cannot exhaust the love of God. *Anon*



**You can also find copies of the Daily Office and suggested readings on St John's website under 'LatestNews'**

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# The Benefice of Glastonbury with Meare

## Holding on to the Silence 2019



### Weekly Collects and Daily Readings from Sunday 27 January to Saturday 9 February

#### Collect for Sunday 27 – Saturday 2 February

Hidden God, whose wisdom compels our love and unsettles all our values; fill us with desire to search for her truth, that we may transform the world, becoming fools for her sake, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### Collect for Sunday 3 – Saturday 9 February

O God, you have made us for yourself, and against your longing there is not defence. Mark us with your love, and release in us a passion for your justice in our disfigured world; that we may turn from our guilt and face you, our heart's desire. Amen.

#### Daily Readings:

##### Sunday 27 January

After crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, 'He is dead.' But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he was able to stand. *Mark 9.26-27*

The truly wise person kneels at the feet of all creatures and is not afraid to endure the mockery of others. *Mechtild of Magdeburg*

##### Monday 28 January

When he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, 'Why could we not cast it out?' He said to them, 'This kind can come out only through prayer.' *Mark 9.28-29*

Children begin by loving their parents; as they grow older they judge them; sometimes they forgive them. *Oscar Wilde*

##### Tuesday 29 January

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. *Mark 9.30-32*

There's no such thing as time, only this very minute, and I'm in it. Thank the Lord. *Joyce Grenville*

### **Wednesday 30 January**

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. *Mark 9.33-34*

No matter how distracted you may be, pray by peaceful, even perhaps inarticulate, efforts to centre your heart upon God, who is present to you in spite of all that may be going through your mind. His presence does not depend on your thoughts of Him. He is unfailingly there; if He were not, you could not even exist. *Thomas Merton*

### **Thursday 31 January**

He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.' *Mark 9.35-37*

Man is a creature who walks in two worlds and traces upon the walls of his cave the wonders and the nightmare experiences of his spiritual pilgrimage. *Morris West*

### **Friday 1 February**

John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me.' *Mark 9.38-39*

This hill, though high, I covet to ascend; The difficulty will not me offend. For I perceive the way to life lies here. Come, pluck up, heart; let's neither faint nor fear. Better, though difficult, the right way to go. Than wrong, though easy, where the end is woe. *John Bunyan*

## **CANDLEMAS - Saturday 2 February**

### **Collect for Candlemas**

Christ our cornerstone, you were recognized at your presentation as a sign of hope for the world, but also as a stumbling block for many: may we so present our bodies to your service, that, in sharing your scandal, we may become a people acceptable to you, in your name. **Amen.**

Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. *Mark 9.40-41*

At any rate the Lord plays and diverts Himself in the garden of His creation, and if we let go of our own obsession with what we think is the meaning of it all, we might be able to hear His call and follow him in His mysterious cosmic dance. *Thomas Merton*

### **Sunday 3 February**

'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were

thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. *Mark 9.42-43*

There is no frigate like a book. *Emily Dickinson*

### **Monday 4 February**

And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. *Mark 9.45-48*

Every time you feel yourself getting pulled into other people's nonsense, repeat these words: Not my circus, not my monkeys. *Polish Proverb*

### **Tuesday 5 February**

'For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.' He left that place and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan. And crowds again gathered around him; and, as was his custom, he again taught them. *Mark 9.49-10.1*

May the sun bring you new energy by day, May the moon softly restore you by night, May the rain wash away your worries, May the breeze blow new strength into your being, May you walk gently through the world and know its beauty all the days of your life. *Apache Blessing*

### **Wednesday 6 February**

Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?' He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' They said, 'Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.' *Mark 10.2-4*

Slow me down, Lord!

Ease the pounding of my heart

By the quieting of my mind.

Steady my hurried pace

With the eternal reach of time. *Wilferd Arlan Peterson*