



Growing Faith

06 - End of Academic Year | 16 July 2021

Thought for (Extra)Ordinary time

Written by Father David Arnold

When I was training to be a priest, I was sent away for a week's placement with the Army Chaplains' Department. It was a whirlwind of a week, getting to do some exciting things, such as driving an army truck over an off-road course, and even flying in a helicopter from the Army Air Corps base in a place which revelled in the name 'Middle Wallop'.



But one of the most important parts of that week was the opportunity to speak with some army chaplains themselves, who were looking after the soldiers. And one of the things that has always stuck with me was when they told me that the chapels would always be at their busiest just before a group of soldiers were about to embark on active service. They would turn to their prayers in times of need.

And I think that is probably the same for most of us. We remember to pray when we are in times of difficulty (and I wonder how many of us have found the need for prayer throughout the difficulties of the Covid pandemic). It's possible that we might also remember to thank God for the good things we receive. But I wonder how many of us remember to keep our prayers active in the everyday times when very little, good or bad, is happening in our lives.

Over the Summer and into the Autumn, the Church moves to a season which is rather boringly called 'Ordinary Time'. And at first glance, it can seem to be a boring season, where not much happens. We have been through the cycles of celebrating Jesus' birth, his death and resurrection, and we're left with up to 34 weeks of 'ordinariness', which can often seem interminable, marked only by the number of the Sunday after Trinity rising week by week.

But I believe that this period of 'Ordinary Time' can be a great blessing to us. It reminds us that God is there in the everyday things of life. Yes, it is important to pray through the difficulties, and to thank God for the good things. But it is equally, if not more important, to keep God in our lives in the everyday. For it is often in the everyday that we can be most attentive to his voice and recognise what it is he is calling us to.

As you come to the end of the school year, a school year which I know has been unlike any other, you may be hoping for some normality - some 'ordinariness' in your life. I know I long for that in the current times! But in that ordinariness, remember that God is still there, walking by our side, and calling us into his service. Allow yourselves to be attentive to that voice, for it is through the voice which speaks in the ordinariness, that God calls us to do extraordinary things for him and for his people.

Let us look on this season of Ordinary Time as being the season when God calls us, you and me to do those extraordinary things - the extraordinary things of the Gospel, bringing his love to our world today.

Tip for the Holidays

Based on Soul Fuel (A Daily Devotional), by Bear Grylls

Coming up to the summer holidays, how can we make it a time where we can live well? Maybe it comes down to the small steps and everyday choices we make.

The things we think about

We all get into negative cycles of thought, but we can make a choice. If we choose the positive for long enough and consistently enough, then it will eventually become us.

"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."

Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)

The things we say

Speak with honesty, respect, and kindness. Less is usually more.

"You'll find I'm just what I say I am. My words don't run loose."

Psalms 17:3 (MSG)

The places we go

Keep out of temptation. Be wise about the situations you place yourself in and beware of situations and places that play to your weaknesses.

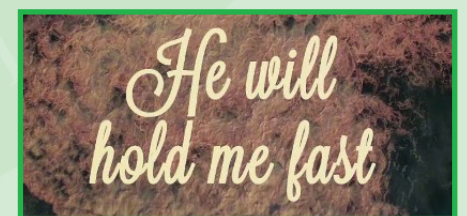
"My steps have held to your paths; my feet have not stumbled."

Psalms 17:5 (NIV)

This advice comes from King David, who learnt lots of lessons the hard way. He made a ton of mistakes but was blessed by God. God's love is the only thing that will restore us, not our wisdom strength or skills. We can still use these three tips to help us live faithfully.

A Song for Worship

Why not sing along to 'He Will Hold Me Fast' as we worship together.



A Prayer

By Vivian, from Pais Burnley

Lord,

Thank you that we can come into your presence
and have a close relationship with you!

Thank you that you are a God of motivates and that
you hear every single prayer of ours.

Thank you for all the answered prayers and all the
blessings you have provided.

Show us more how to trust in you faithfulness and in
your goodness! You're such a kind father!

Help us to see the best in the people around us and
provide us with the courage to show your love!

Thank you for your patience and your forgiveness! In
Jesus precious Name we pray.

Amen!

Song for the Reflection



**“If only for this life we have hope in Christ,
we are of all people most to be pitied. But
Christ has indeed been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have fallen
asleep.”**

1 Corinthians 15:19

Church Support

Church Services

Please visit these church websites to see when
their services are taking place:

Great Harwood Christian Fellowship: [Website](#)

St John's and St Augustine's Church, Huncoat: [YouTube channel](#)

St Peter and St Paul's Church, Rishton: [Facebook Page](#)

St. John's Church, Baxenden: [Website](#)


Peel Street Baptist Church: [Website](#)




All Saints Church, Clayton-le-Moors: [Facebook Page](#)

St James' Church, Clitheroe: [Website](#)

Burnley Life Church: [Website](#)



 **Queens Road West
Accrington
Lancashire
BB5 4AY**

 **01254 232 992**
 **01254 355 215**
 **c.pountain@st-christophers.org**
 **www.st-christophers.org**

