

Thought for the Day

Thought for the day is based on one of the day's lectionary readings.

For the Bible online, go to: <http://bible.oremus.org/>

Choose your version (we use NRSV in church)

Copy and paste the reference into the search box and the passage will be displayed.

Thursday 19th March Joseph of Nazareth

Romans 4.13-18; Matthew 2.13-end

...in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations' (Romans 4.17-18)

Yesterday we thought about hope, and here is the hope of Abraham, 'hoping against hope' that the promise of God would be fulfilled and he would have a son, despite his and Sarah's old age. As we know that son did become a nation and after perhaps 2000 years a son of Abraham was born to Mary and Joseph, who brought salvation to all nations. To Abraham it would have seemed impossible to even have one child, let alone this astonishing inheritance. Joseph too might have despaired with the danger his family was threatened with. But this is the God who brings life out of death, the Easter God, and even while we are in the midst of Lent and in suffering we can look ahead and anticipate the Easter victory, life out of death, the empty tomb and the living Lord walking and talking with his friends. So in our situation which may seem dark and depressing, let us remember and be constant in our prayers to the God who can do 'far more than all we ask or think' (Ephesians 3.20).

*Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort,
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*