

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.

Wednesday 18th March

Hebrews 6.13-end

We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered, having become a high priest for ever according to the order of Melchizedek. (Heb 6.19-20)

As we enter a time of unprecedented uncertainty, how encouraging it is to think about a 'sure and steadfast anchor of the soul'. What a contrast to everything around us, which seems suddenly and disconcertingly insecure, changing, unreliable, and often frightening. It's as if the tide has gone out, leaving us high and dry. Much of normality is suspended. We cannot even gather for worship any more, a fundamental routine and support for people of faith. What we need to get us through this time is that anchor which will hold us fast. It is an anchor of hope, and it's not based on wishful thinking or fantasy or hiding from reality. It is based on Jesus our forerunner. The 'inner shrine behind the curtain' refers to the Holy of Holies in the Jerusalem Temple, the very presence of God. The curtain separating humans from God split at the moment of Jesus' death (Matthew 27.51) showing that there was no longer a dividing wall between us and God. Jesus is our High Priest who has entered the very presence of God on our behalf to bring us too into that place. This is our security, and nothing can take it away. As Paul said in Romans 8.38-39, nothing, not life nor death, nor, we could add, the coronavirus, can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*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.*