

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.

Friday 17 April

John 21.1-14

'Come and have breakfast'

A few years ago I took part in a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and visited the Sea of Galilee. We stood on a beach by the lake in the early morning, praying silently as we took in the scene. We celebrated a Eucharist beside the sea in the open air. We watched the fishermen out on the lake in their boats in the still morning. For me this time was the most moving part of the pilgrimage. It was so easy to picture the scenes in the gospels with Jesus walking along the waterside, talking to the fisher disciples, crossing the lake in a boat, and on that very special morning, cooking breakfast over a fire on the beach for the disciples. 'Come and have breakfast', he called to them. How can such simple words carry such love, such meaning, such awe. So practical; so calm; so ordinary; so humble – he has cooked for them while they worked. They came, of course, how could they resist? Peter couldn't wait to get there, the boat was way too slow. He plunged into the water and swam. They didn't dare ask – is it really you? They felt awe and wonder. But at the same time they ate and filled their bellies. He fed them, and they were filled. Just like that other time on the hillside, with a great crowd of people. Jesus fed them, and they were filled. No matter who it is, no matter how many, there is always enough, and more left over. All our needs, supplied. Come, and have breakfast. Break your fast, this Eastertide. The night is over, the day is come. Death is conquered, life is offered to all. The great catch of 153 fish may symbolise the many nations of the world, recalling his words in other gospels – *I will make you fishers of people* – all are invited to join this Easter feast. May this time of enforced fast from the Eucharist enable us to deepen our spiritual communion with him, our spiritual feeding and nourishment.

*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.*