

twelvebaskets

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ORDINARY 13C

29th June 2025

A short act of worship and daily devotions

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Opening Prayers

Use the following words to help centre yourself in the moment. Say them out loud, or speak them in your mind.

Jesus, open my heart.

Prepare yourself to hear God's word in a new way.

Jesus, open my heart.

Listen for God's voice, calling you to serve others and love radically.

Jesus, open my heart.

Hold the joys, regrets and frustrations from the week, and look ahead to the opportunities next week will bring.

Jesus, open my heart.

Hold the people you share your life with, and the challenges that come with relationships and friendships.

Jesus, open my heart.

Rest a moment in the quiet.

Jesus, open my heart.

You may now wish to say the Lord's Prayer in a version or translation with which you are familiar.

Reading: Luke 9:51-62 – [Click for reading](#)

Reflections on the reading

How might you describe your journey of faith? Where are you at with that journey at the moment?

Pause for a moment and imagine:

You are on a journey, not just any trip, but one that decides the course of your future. You're following a leader who walks ahead with purpose and determination. This is the scenario the disciples find themselves in with Jesus in Luke's Gospel, as they journey towards Jerusalem.

Jesus sets out resolutely for Jerusalem, teaching his disciples and encountering people along the way. Despite his determination, He faces rejection and misunderstanding about his mission and what it means to follow him. He emphasizes the cost of discipleship, saying, "No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

This passage invites us to consider the depth of our commitment to following Christ. Jesus doesn't mince words about the challenges and sacrifices involved. Reflect for a moment on your own journey with Christ. What does it mean for you to follow him resolutely? Are there comforts or securities you are called to leave behind?

As you contemplate the reading, and what God might be saying to you today, remember that our freedom in Christ is not simply about liberation from sin but also an invitation to a

life richly adorned with the Spirit's fruit. This freedom is integral to our journey of following Jesus. It supports us as we resolutely set our faces towards whatever Jerusalem lies in our path.

Hymn / Song

463 STF – Deep in the shadows of the past – [YouTube](#)

673 STF – Will you come and follow me? – [YouTube](#)

Blessing

Your love is in this place, O God,
And flowing ahead of me, out of the doors,
Onto the street, into the homes, businesses, workplaces and gathering spaces of this community.
Show me how to offer something of your love this day, I pray,
O God.
Amen.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers

Monday 30th June

- In some Syriac Christian traditions, today marks the end of the 'Season of the Apostles', which runs from Pentecost to the last day of June. In this tradition, these few days are used to celebrate the missionary work that the first apostles undertook after the Spirit descended at Pentecost.
- It ends on this day, with a feast to celebrate the apostles.
- Today, in our prayers, let us celebrate all who have gone before us in seeking to share God's love and engage in God's big mission in the world. You may choose to think of some particular people who have inspired you, or simply to pray prayers of thanksgiving, and courage for yourself and your own sense of calling.

Tuesday 1st July

- Take time out today to sit still outside (or open a window). As you do so, consider any smells there are around you. Do this for 5 minutes, closing your eyes and breathing deeply and steadily as you do so. Allow all that you can smell (or can't smell) to simply be there.
- Be thankful for all that comes into your mind.

Wednesday 2nd July

- Reflect on the way in which God is all around us, even though we cannot always sense them or see them.

Thursday 3rd July

- Play your favourite piece of music. As you listen, reflect on all that you have or have had that you are grateful for. Give thanks to God.

Friday 4th July

- Light a candle. Sit and watch the flame and think about the following question prompt: *How does the flame move?*
 - o If it is moving a lot, reflect on ways in which God has moved you in your life.
 - o If it is very still, reflect on ways in which God has been a constant for you in a life of ongoing changes.

Saturday 5th July

- Today is Tynwald Day, the National Day of the Isle of Man, and the continuation of an annual meeting of the Island's legislature that dates back to the tenth century.
- Today, let your prayers be for all involved in government, local, regional and national, across the UK and indeed the world. You may wish to pray for grace, wisdom, hope and strategic clarity for those seeking to lead in challenging times.