

## *Prayers, thoughts and reflections for January 2021*

<b>Friday 1 January 2</b> <b>Mary, the Mother of God</b>	<b>Saturday 2 January</b> <b>Sts. Basil the Great &amp; Gregory Nazianzen</b>	<b>Sunday 3 January</b> <b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b>	Monday 4 January St Elizabeth Ann Seton	Tuesday 5 January St John Neumann	Wednesday 6 January St André Bessette	Thursday 7 January St Raymond of Penyafort
Wise & gracious God, teach me, like Mary, to remember and ponder the things of my daily life. I entrust this new year to your saving power & love. <i>(Melannie Svoboda SND)</i>	The wind of a storm damages homes but the wind of the spirit holds us together. Holy Spirit, when the winds of trouble threaten our lives, you are right there with us.	Lord, shine your light on us all. May your star chase away every darkness and fill us with your radiant light. Make us your epiphanies overflowing with love and wonderful care for each other. <i>(Anne Osdieck)</i>	Lord give me: Faith like Daniel, Hope like Moses, Heart like David, Patience like Job and Belief like Mary.	Where gratitude is cultivated, joy increases.	Sometimes God calms the storm. Sometimes God lets the storm rage and calms us.	God will send you to the people with whom you can share your anguish, who can lead you closer to the true source of love. God is faithful to God's promises. <i>(Henri Nouwen)</i>
<b>Friday 8 January</b> <b>Sr Kathleen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday</b>	<b>Saturday 9 January</b>	<b>Sunday 10 January</b> <b>The Baptism of the Lord</b>	<b>Monday 11 January</b>	<b>Tuesday 12 January</b>	<b>Wednesday 13 January</b> <b>St Hilary</b>	<b>Thursday 14 January</b>
The way your life shines for God's glory is a blessing for all. Thanking God for you.	Holy Oneness, we cannot contain you in the smallness of words. Nor can we give you anything that isn't already yours. Our offering is gratitude from overflowing hearts. We thank you. We thank you. <i>(Joy Cowley)</i>	Baptism means to dip. Therefore, John the Baptist could be called "Jack the Dipper!"	The essence of prayer is to be established in the remembrance of God & walk in His presence. <i>(Theophane the Recluse)</i>	The task of the educator is not to cut down jungles but to irrigate deserts. <i>(C S Lewis)</i>	God accepts the good will and work of his/her servants no matter how we feel. <i>(Julian of Norwich)</i>	O Christ, you are the temple. Abba's glory lights your altar. Make us burning candles, please. Help us glow in this world, right here, right now, in the dimness of our day.
<b>Friday 15 January</b>	<b>Saturday 16 January</b>	<b>Sunday 17 January</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	<b>Monday 18 January</b>	<b>Tuesday 19 January</b>	<b>Wednesday 20 January</b> <b>St Fabian, St Sebastian</b>	<b>Thursday 21 January</b> <b>St Agnes</b>
Prayer is rather like going to sleep. It is something that we certainly need, but it is not within our power to take it by storm. <i>(Simon Tugwell)</i>	Belief is believing in God: faith is believing that God believes in you. <i>(André Dubus: "The Father's Story")</i>	I believe in Christ like I believe the Sun. Not only because I see it but because by it, I see everything else. <i>(C S Lewis)</i>	Contemplation is not a technique to be mastered but a journey inside ourselves to become one with what already is. <i>(Daniel O'Leary)</i>	I am a proper "in-betweenie" – a life of doubt enriched by faith. <i>(James Runcie)</i>	I was struck again by the paradox that loving someone deeply means opening yourself to the pain of their absence. <i>(Henri Nouwen)</i>	We all need a certain amount of fallow time... Watching the grass grow, sitting on the hillside, staring out the window daydreaming. When we don't have it, there is a deeper intelligence that won't come forth." <i>(Sue Bender)</i>

<b>Friday 22 January</b> Day of prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children	<b>Saturday 23 January</b> St Vincent, St Marianne Cope	<b>Sunday 24 January</b> Sunday of the Word of God	<b>Monday 25 January</b> The Conversion of St Paul	<b>Tuesday 26 January</b> Sts Timothy & Titus	<b>Wednesday 27 January</b> St Angela Merici	<b>Thursday 28 January</b> St Thomas Aquinas
I know that no matter how far we travel, how much we accomplish, how deeply we suffer, or how joyfully we dance, God is always with us in all of those things for the whole of our life's journey. <i>(Edwina Gateley)</i>	When it feels as if life can't change, that our bad habits are entrenched, or that it's impossible to improve relationships, remember God is always creating & re-creating. Change & new life are always possible.	The cloud is a sign is that God is in our midst. The cloud is glory and presence. It tells us that the Lord, of all, is there.	From terrible sinner to saint, from persecutor to persuasive preacher, Paul gives us hope: no matter what kind of life we have lived, we can change. Indeed, we can be welcomed back into the fold. <i>(Paul Pennick)</i>	The seed grows best in broken ground.	Jesus, open my hands to share with my brothers and sisters. Open my heart to forgive and to make peace as you do. Open my spirit to offer you my life. Jesus, help me to live each day in your love. Amen <i>(Maite Roche )</i>	St Thomas had many intellectual gifts that he generously shared. God's greatest gift to him was a direct experience of the divine. It silenced his pen opened him to the fullness of Love itself. <i>(Msgr. Stephen J Rosetti)</i>
<b>Friday 29 January</b>	<b>Saturday 30 January</b>	<b>Sunday 31 January</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time				
No matter how stressed you are, remember how blessed you are.	Candles, in giving off light, are themselves consumed.	Holiness may be lurking inside a green leaf, a clay cup, a clean sheet, a freshly sawn board; it may be just below the surface of a key, a clock, a shiny stone. To draw a line around the seven sacraments for which the church has rites is to underestimate the grace of God and the holiness of creation <i>(Barbara Brown Taylor's The Preaching Life.)</i>				

