

**Midday Prayers 2023: Transformation – Now!**  
**April**  
**Encounters with Jesus**

**Monday: The betrayal of Judas**

**In this moment, in our hearts,  
may we encounter afresh our loving Saviour.**

Jesus asked him,  
“Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”  
*Luke 22:48*

Lord, how could you bear  
the hate of betrayal expressed through a symbol of love?  
We weep at the deed of a faithless friend.

And yet...

Daily we betray you afresh  
in deeds and words and silence.  
We sully the gift of your friendship  
through our kiss of faithlessness.

We marvel at your love for us;  
constant despite our weaknesses  
and the poverty of our discipleship.

Forgive us, loving Saviour.  
Accept our thanksgiving,  
and strengthen us to live our lives  
in total devotion to you.  
Amen

**May our lives bear witness  
to an encounter with our loving Saviour.  
Amen**

**Tuesday: The abdication of Pilate**

**In this moment, in our hearts,  
may we encounter afresh our loving Saviour.**

Pilate took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd.

“I am innocent of this man’s blood,” he said.

“It is your responsibility!”

*Matthew 27:24*

When we wash our hands of your commission to us;

when we turn aside from your people in need.

When we pass the buck, when we close our eyes,

we mirror the past; we shun you afresh.

**Forgive us, dear Saviour, and renew our hearts.**

May we stand before you with hands open wide,

ready to embrace your precious commission.

For your burden is easy, your load is light,

and your presence gives rest to our souls.

**Inspire us, dear Saviour, and renew our hearts.**

**May our lives bear witness  
to an encounter with our loving Saviour.**

**Amen**

**Wednesday: The revelation of the Soldier**

**In this moment, in our hearts,  
may we encounter afresh our loving Saviour.**

When the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus,  
saw how he died, he said,  
"Surely this man was the Son of God!"  
*Mark 15:39*

Let our eyes behold the truth;  
let our lips declare the truth;  
**this man is the Son of God.**

Let our actions arise from the truth;  
let our lives bear witness to the truth;  
**this man is the Son of God.**

Open the eyes of those blinded to the truth;  
soften the hearts of those hardened to the truth;  
that together we may proclaim, throughout heaven and on earth:  
**this man is the Son of God.**

**May our lives bear witness  
to an encounter with our loving Saviour.  
Amen**

**Thursday: The joy of Mary**

**In this moment, in our hearts,  
may we encounter afresh our risen Lord.**

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news:  
“I have seen the Lord!”

*John 20:18*

Risen Lord,  
open our eyes.  
Give us a glimpse of your resurrection glory.

Wipe away our tears of mourning;  
fill us with joy in your presence

Take away our spirit of heaviness;  
clothe us with a garment of praise.

And send us out to spread the news:  
the Lord is risen.

Hope has been renewed; joy has been rekindled.  
Death has been defeated; eternity beckons.

**The Lord is risen.  
Hallelujah!  
Glory to our God.**

**May our lives bear witness  
to an encounter with our risen Lord.  
Amen**

**Friday: The doubt of Thomas**

**In this moment, in our hearts,  
may we encounter afresh our risen Lord.**

Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed;  
blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

*John 20:29*

We pray for those whose faith is tested  
through trials of life; through challenging times.  
**As they struggle to believe, help them in their unbelief.**

We pray for those whose faith is tested  
through the mysteries of unanswered prayer;  
**As they struggle to believe, help them in their unbelief.**

We pray for those whose faith is tested  
in the face of suffering and pain.  
**As they struggle to believe, help them in their unbelief.**

When doubts fill our hearts;  
when faith dims and certainty fades;  
**Lord we believe; help us in our unbelief**

**May our lives bear witness  
to an encounter with our risen Lord.  
Amen**

**Saturday: The restoration of Peter**

**In this moment, in our hearts,  
may we encounter afresh our risen Lord.**

Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?"  
He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."  
Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."  
*John 21:16*

We hide in the shadow of our faithlessness and sin;  
we whisper our love for our Lord.

We bathe in the light of forgiveness and mercy;  
we speak out our love for our Lord.

We revel in the glow of restoration;  
we shout out our love for our Lord.

Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person.  
The old life is gone; a new life has begun!  
*2 Corinthians 5: 17*

**May our lives bear witness  
to an encounter with our risen Lord.  
Amen**

## Wave of Prayer for Mothers' Union

Lord, we pray for Mothers' Union worldwide.

- 1** Toamasina in Madagascar; Mukono in Uganda; Ikwerre & Ife East in Nigeria; Down & Dromore in All Ireland and Delhi in India
- 2 – 4** Umzimvubu in South Africa; Lweru in Tanzania; On the Niger in Nigeria; Cape Coast in Ghana; Ontario in Canada and Limerick & Killaloe in All Ireland
- 5** **Mothers' Union worldwide**
- 6 – 8** Cueibet in South Sudan; Gahini in Rwanda; Wusasa & Ibadan in Nigeria and Christchurch in New Zealand
- 9 – 11** Nord Kivu in DR Congo; Kigali in Rwanda; Kiteto & Kubwa in Nigeria; Perth in Australia and Kuranagala in Sri Lanka
- 12** **Mothers' Union worldwide**
- 13 – 15** Yirol in South Sudan; Ruvuma in Tanzania; Nike & Benin in Nigeria; Canberra & Goulburn in Australia and Dogura in Papua New Guinea
- 16 – 18** Kindu in DR Congo; Mount Kenya West in Kenya; Egbu in Nigeria; Te Pihopatanga O Aotearoa in New Zealand; Cork, Cloyne & Ross in All Ireland and Eastern Himalayas in India
- 19** **Mothers' Union worldwide**
- 20 – 22** Kinshasa in DR Congo; Victoria Nyanza in Tanzania; Ahoada & Warri in Nigeria; Oxford in England and Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea
- 23 – 25** Kisangani in DR Congo; Kagera in Tanzania; Awka in Nigeria; Sunyani in Ghana; Manchester in England and Popondota in Papua New Guinea
- 26** **Mothers' Union worldwide**
- 27– 29** Port Sudan in Sudan; Muhabura in Uganda; Niger Delta West & Yewa in Nigeria; The Northern Territory in Australia and Chennai in India
- 30** Aru in DR Congo; Kigezi in Uganda; Ikeduru in Nigeria; Ho in Ghana; York in England and Guyana & Suriname in Guyana

### Final Blessing

**May our lives bear witness  
to an encounter with our Saviour and Lord.  
May the fragrance of Christ linger upon us,  
drawing all we meet to him.**

**Amen**