

# **The Commando Prayer Book**



**2013 Edition**

**AN ACT OF WORSHIP**  
*for individual or group use*

Leader: Let the people praise you, O God;

**All: let all the people praise you!**

Let your ways be known on earth;

**your saving power in all the world! Amen.**

**PSALM**

*See page 6 for daily psalms. At the end of the psalm:*

Leader: Glory to God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All: As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**CONFESSION**

Leader: Let us in silence admit our frailty and confess our failings:

*(Silence)*

Leader: Heavenly Father, maker of all,

**All: have mercy on us.**

Jesus Christ, servant of the poor,

**have mercy on us.**

Holy Spirit, breath of life,

**have mercy on us.**

Leader: May God forgive us our sins.

May the Father re-create us in his image;

may Christ dwell within us in the service of others;

may the Holy Spirit enable us to live and grow in love.

**All: Amen.**

*Bible reading(s) followed by reflection, discussion or silence.*

*See pages 6ff for Bible readings and daily reflections.*

## PRAYERS FOR OUR WORLD AND OUR COMMUNITY

Leader: O Lord our God, in Jesus you came to bring good news to the poor, sight to the blind, freedom to the oppressed and salvation to your people.

Inspire us to care for each other as members of one family:

**All:** Father, by your grace,  
**help us to love one another.**

Send us out to relieve the poor and rescue the oppressed:

Father, by your grace,  
**help us to love one another.**

Prepare us to tell the world the good news of your saving love:

Father, by your grace,  
**help us to love one another.**

**O God, make us one in heart and mind, in the spirit of service, and in the faith of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

*The biddings are each followed by silence or contributions from those gathered.*

Leader: We bring to God someone who we have met or remembered today and for whom we want to pray ...

We bring to God someone who is hurting today and needs our prayers ...

We bring to God a troubled situation in our world today ...

We bring to God those whom we love, and those whose love supports us ...

We bring ourselves to God that we might grow in generosity of spirit, clarity of mind and passion for life.

**All:** O Christ, the master carpenter, who at the last, through wood and nails, purchased our whole salvation, wield well your tools in the workshop of your world, so that we who come rough-hewn to your bench may here be fashioned to a truer fitness by your hand. We ask it for your own name's sake. Amen.

### **THE COMMANDO PRAYER**

O Eternal Lord God, whose command is over all and whose love never fails, grant your blessing we pray on Commando forces serving all around the globe. Help us to run with endurance the race that is set before us. May neither opposition nor discouragement divert us from our goal. Inspire strength of mind and steadfastness of purpose within us, that we may meet all fears and difficulties with unswerving courage, and fulfil with quiet faithfulness the tasks committed to our charge. We ask this through him who laid down his life to finish your work; our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Other prayers may be said: see pages 29ff.*

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Leader: As Jesus taught us, so we pray:

**All:** Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.

## MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS

### In the morning

Eternal God and Father, you create us by your power and redeem us by your love:

Guide and strengthen us by your Holy Spirit, that we may give ourselves in love and service to one another, and to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### In the evening

Lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray,  
and in your great mercy  
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night  
for the love of your only Son,  
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## CLOSING RESPONSES

Leader: In our work and worship,

**All: Lord, go with us.**

Deployed and at home,

**Lord, go with us.**

Now and always,

**Lord, go with us.**

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All: In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## A MONTHLY LECTIONARY:

Day	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
Day 1	25	1 Thess 3:9-13	Lk 21:25-36
Day 2	72	Phil 1:3-11	Lk 3:1-6
Day 3	126	Phil 4:4-7	Lk 3:7-18
Day 4	80	Heb 10:5-10	Lk 1:39-55
Day 5	148	Col 3:12-17	Lk 2:41-52
Day 6	147	Eph 1:3-14	Jn 1:1-18
Day 7	121	Eph 3:1-12	Matt 2:1-12
Day 8	29	Acts 8:14-17	Lk 3:15-22
Day 9	40	1 Cor 12:1-11	Jn 2:1-11
Day 10	84	1 Cor 12:12-31	Lk 4:14-21
Day 11	71	1 Cor 13:1-13	Lk 4:21-30
Day 12	138	1 Cor 15:1-11	Lk 5:1-11
Day 13	1	1 Cor 15:12-20	Lk 6:17-26
Day 14	37	1 Cor 15:35-50	Lk 6:27-38
Day 15	92	1 Cor 15:51-58	Lk 6:39-49
Day 16	46	2 Cor 3:12-4:2	Lk 9:28-43
Day 17	91	Rom 10:8-13	Lk 4:1-13
Day 18	27	Phil 3:17-4:1	Lk 13:31-35
Day 19	63	1 Cor 10:1-13	Lk 13:1-9
Day 20	32	2 Cor 5:16-21	Lk 15:11-32
Day 21	130	Phil 3:4-14	Jn 12:1-8
Day 22	31:1-16	Phil 2:5-11	Lk 23:1-49
Day 23	150	Acts 5:27-32	Jn 20:19-31
Day 24	30	Acts 9:1-20	Jn 21:1-19
Day 25	23	Acts 9:36-43	Jn 10:22-30
Day 26	62	Acts 11:1-18	Jn 13:31-35
Day 27	67	Acts 16:9-15	Jn 14:23-29
Day 28	93	Eph 1:15-23	Lk 24:44-53
Day 29	97	Acts 16:16-34	Jn 17:20-26
Day 30	8	Rom 5:1-5	Jn 16:12-15
Day 31	131	2 Cor 3:1-6	Lk 6:37-49
<b>Christmas</b>	98	Heb 1:1-12	Jn 1:1-14
<b>Lent</b>	51:1-17	2 Cor 5:20-6:10	Matt 6:1-21
<b>Good Friday</b>	22	Heb 10:16-25	Jn 18:1-19:42
<b>Easter Day</b>	19	1 Cor 15:1-11	Jn 20:1-18

## REMEMBERING THE SAINTS AND SAINTLY PEOPLE

*(with thoughts gathered from many sources)*

All Christian people are saints! The word simply means a person who is a follower of Christ, seeking to live a holy life. We remember some particular saints for their courage in the face of danger and death; their cheerfulness when it was difficult to be cheerful and their patience when it was hard to be patient. Fuelled by the grace they had received from their living and loving God, they held to their faith in the face of opposition, hardship or death. That is all. It was and is quite simple and always will be.

On the following pages are recorded thirty-one heroes of the faith. Some died in their beds; some were killed for their faith; some are still living. All live eternally.

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### **Prayers in remembrance of a hero of the faith**

Almighty God, who has established your church through the love and devotion of your saints; we give thanks this day for your servant *N* who we now remember. Inspire us to follow him/her in the vision of your glory. We ask this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OR

Almighty God, who through the ministry of your servant *N* brought the light of the Gospel to those who lived in spiritual darkness, grant that following the example of his/her constancy and zeal, we too may share the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **DAY 1: PETER**

Saint Peter was originally called Simon, but Jesus renamed him Peter; the Greek for 'Rock'. Robust and headstrong, Peter is a man of action rather than words, and was the first to recognise Jesus as the Messiah: the expected ruler of God's people. Jesus' response was to say that 'on this rock' (ie Peter's teaching about him) he, Jesus, would build his church. After Jesus' death and resurrection, Peter became a leader of the early church. He was crucified in Rome.

*“Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do.”*

✦ We should not think that holiness is based on what we do but rather on what we are, for it is not our works which sanctify us but we who sanctify our works.

(Meister Eckhart)

✦ Beware of no man more than yourself; we carry our worst enemies within us.

(Charles Spurgeon)

## **DAY 2: PAUL**

Paul, a very devout and religious Jew, set out to persecute the early Christians, but one day, travelling on the road to Damascus, he was confronted by the risen Christ. The revelation was life-changing: he recognised Christ as Lord, was baptised as a Christian and set off on a number of journeys to challenge people to believe in the God who has revealed himself in Christ. He formed and visited Christian communities throughout Europe and the Middle East, and some of his letters, sent to teach and encourage them, are still read today. He was martyred in Rome in about the year 64.

*“For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it*



*is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. ... he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him."*

✦ Let nothing disturb you; let nothing dismay you; all things pass; God never changes. Patience attains all that it strives for. He who has God finds he lacks nothing: God alone suffices.

(St Teresa of Avila)

✦ Christ founded the church so that he himself could go on being present in the history of humanity precisely through the group of Christians who make up his church. The church is the flesh in which Christ makes present, down the ages, his own life.

(Oscar Romero)

### **DAY 3: JAMES**

There are three people called 'James' in the New Testament: two of the twelve disciples and a half brother of Jesus. They are sometimes hard to disentangle, but at least one had a fiery temper (wanting Jesus to call down fire from heaven on an unwelcoming town); probably two witnessed the crucifixion; one was executed by King Herod Agrippa (thus becoming the first Christian to die for their faith) and one wrote a letter, included in the New Testament, saying that if you believe in God you should prove that belief by acts of unselfishness and compassion.

*"What good is it brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."*

✦ We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.

(Martin Luther King)

✦ What we plant in the soil of contemplation, we shall reap in the harvest of action.

(Meister Eckhart)

## **DAY 4: ANDREW**

The fisherman Andrew was one of the first disciples called by Jesus. Immediately afterwards he went to tell his brother Simon Peter that he had found the Messiah; the anointed one of God. For this reason Andrew is remembered as the first ever missionary. Tradition recounts that he took the Christian good news to Scythia (north of the Black Sea and the Caucasus Mountains), and that when martyred he chose to be crucified on an X-shaped cross as he felt himself unworthy to have a cross the same shape as Christ's. He became patron saint of Scotland because of a legend that his relics were taken there in the eighth century. He is important to the Eastern Orthodox Church as founder of their mother church in Constantinople.

✦ Every man must do two things alone; he must do his own believing and his own dying.

(Martin Luther)

✦ If you must tell me your opinions, tell me what you believe in. I have plenty of doubt of my own.

(Johann Wolfgang von Goethe)

## **DAY 5: DAVID**

Saint David was a monk and bishop in the sixth century. He lived a very spiritual life and was highly regarded for his kindness and compassion to others, particularly the poor and sick. He founded a monastery at St Davids on the Pembrokeshire coast and at least another twelve monasteries elsewhere. He based his rule of life on that of the third Century Egyptian desert monks, with a strong emphasis on hard work, asceticism (surviving on the bare minimum) and refraining from unnecessary speech. He even made his monks pull their own plough, saying, "*Every man is his own ox.*" His most famous saying is that we should concentrate on doing the little things really well and for the glory of God. He died in 601 and has been Patron Saint of Wales since at least the 12th century.

✦ The longest journey is the journey inward.  
(Dag Hammerskjold)

✦ We often regret our speech but seldom our silence.  
(Anonymous)

## **DAY 6: PATRICK**

Saint Patrick was born on the west coast of Britain around 390. He was captured by pagan Irish raiders at the age of 16 and taken as a slave. After six years he escaped via the continent. On returning to his family and becoming a priest he felt God calling him to travel back to Ireland in order to share his faith with those who were once his enemies and captors. He evangelised the Irish nation from his base in Armagh, facing fierce opposition but persisting with his quest. His work was not always fruitful, however he never stopped preaching the word of God and trusting God to protect him. The hymn 'Saint Patrick's Breastplate', traditionally attributed to him, is written in the style of a druidic incantation for protection on a journey.

*"I bind unto myself today the power of God to hold and lead,  
his eye to watch, his might to stay, his ear to hearken to my need,  
the wisdom of my God to teach, his hand to guide, his shield to ward,  
The word of God to give me speech, his heavenly host to be my  
guard."*

✦ Put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ... Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.  
(Ephesians 6)

✦ All that is essential for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.  
(Edmund Burke)

## **DAY 7: GEORGE**

Saint George, who was probably a soldier, lived in Palestine and was martyred in Lydda in 304. There were churches in England dedicated to George even before the Norman Conquest. The story of his slaying the dragon is either due to him being mistaken for Saint Michael (who is often depicted wearing armour in combat with Satan, envisaged as a dragon) or confusion over a myth associated with the area of Lydda, of Perseus slaying the Sea Monster. George replaced Edward the Confessor as Patron Saint of England after Crusaders returned home with stories of this interesting soldier-saint.

✦ The world is a dangerous place. Not because of the people who are evil; but because of the people who don't do anything about it.  
(Albert Einstein)

✦ When a knight won his spurs in the stories of old,  
he was gentle and brave, he was gallant and bold.  
With a shield on his arm and a lance in his hand,  
for God and for valour he rode through the land.

Let faith be my shield and let joy be my steed  
'gainst the dragons of anger, the ogres of greed ...  
(Jan Struther)

## **DAY 8: AUGUSTINE OF CANTEBURY**

In 596 Pope Gregory the Great sent Augustine to lead a team of forty monks on the dangerous task of re-evangelising an England within which the Christian message was largely unknown: the few Christians being generally cowed into silence and secrecy. So daunting was the task that before crossing to England he and his companions asked the Pope's permission to give up the attempt: Gregory refused their request! They landed in Kent and were well received at Canterbury by King Ethelbert; himself a pagan but whose wife was a Christian. Augustine's work was highly successful, with up to 10,000 people baptised within a few years. Augustine re-consecrated a disused pagan temple as his Church building, and became its first Archbishop. He died in about 605.

✦ Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin, and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen; such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven on earth.

(John Wesley)

✦ I had feelings of fear about the future. The devil kept on whispering, *"It's all right now, but what about afterwards? You are going to be very lonely"*. And I turned to God in a kind of desperation and said *"Lord, what can I do? How can I go on to the end?"* And he said, *"None of them that trust in me shall be desolate."* That word has been with me ever since.

(Amy Carmichael)

### **DAY 9: AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO**

Born in North Africa in 354, Augustine lived in Rome and then Milan where the Imperial Court sat at the time. At first he rejected Christianity but over time he was influenced by his mother and Bishop Ambrose of Milan, who baptised him when he was 33 years old. Augustine returned to North Africa, was ordained and later became Bishop of Hippo, a town in Algeria. Augustine was one of the first to assert that a Christian could both be a soldier and serve God and country honourably; writing that God has given the sword to government for good reason. Christians as part of government should not be ashamed to protect peace and punish wickedness.

*"Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you."*

✦ In every man lies a zone of solitude that no human intimacy can fill; and there God encounters us.

(Brother Roger of Taizé)

✦ We are not simply to bandage the wounds of victims beneath the wheels of injustice, we are to drive a spoke into the wheel itself.

(Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

## **DAY 10: C S LEWIS**

C S Lewis, best known for the Narnia books, was a novelist, medievalist, literary critic, theologian and Christian apologist from Belfast, Ireland. Although raised in a church-going family in the Church of Ireland, Lewis turned from the Christian faith when he started to view his religion as a chore and as a duty. He became an atheist at 15; later describing his young self as being paradoxically *"very angry with God for not existing"*. His slow rediscovery of Christianity was influenced by arguments with his Oxford colleague and friend J R R Tolkien, author of 'The Hobbit', but he fought against his conversion, eventually being brought into Christianity *"kicking, struggling, resentful, and darting his eyes in every direction for a chance to escape."* He described in his book 'Surprised by Joy' how he finally *"gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England."*

✦ If to be feelingly alive to the sufferings of my fellow-creatures is to be a fanatic, I am one of the most incurable fanatics ever permitted to be at large.

(William Wilberforce)

✦ Christ is with us until the world's end. Let his little flock be bold therefore.

(William Tyndale)

## **DAY 11: BARNABAS**

Barnabas, by birth a Cypriot Jew, was an early Christian; one of the first believers in Jerusalem. His original name was 'Joseph', but when he sold some land and gave the money to help the poor, the apostles in Jerusalem gave him the name 'Barnabas', which means 'Son of Encouragement'. The growth of the church at Antioch led the apostles to send Barnabas there to lead the congregations. He found the work so extensive and weighty that he went to Tarsus in search of Saint Paul to assist him. The two men worked together in Antioch for a year, after which they returned to Jerusalem with gifts from the church at Antioch for the poorer members of the Jerusalem church. After this they undertook missionary journeys bringing the Good News of Jesus to people across the Roman empire: winning disciples and teaching new Christians. The New Testament records

a bitter disagreement with Paul over whether to allow a previously unreliable colleague to accompany them, but later their friendship appears to have been restored. Barnabas is believed to have been martyred in Cyprus in around 61.

✦ Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Paul, and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was for an entire year they met with the church and taught a great many people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called 'Christians'.

(Acts of the Apostles 11:25-26)

✦ Setting an example is not the main means of influencing another, it is the only means.

(Albert Einstein)

## **DAY 12: JOHN CALVIN**

French reformer John Calvin was born in Paris in 1509. At 14 he began to study philosophy and theology, but his father made him move to Orléans to study law, believing this would gain him a better paid job. In Orléans Calvin experienced a sudden conversion to personal faith in Christ. He broke with the Church of Rome, and following a violent uprising against Protestants in France, fled to Switzerland, where, after much opposition, he was able to reform the church in Geneva. In his writings he speaks of the way faith in Christ enables the believer to turn from sin and receive forgiveness and spiritual rebirth. He goes on to point out that complete perfection is unattainable in this life, and to warn Christians to expect a continual struggle against sin. He died in 1564.

✦ No sin which we are capable of committing has ever taken God by surprise, for he knew we were just like that.

(Alan Redpath)

✦ I believe that in the end the truth will conquer.

(John Wycliffe)

## **DAY 13: JOHN WESLEY**

John Wesley was born in 1703 at Epworth in Lincolnshire. An Anglican clergyman, and later a fellow of Lincoln College at Oxford, he and his brother Charles, a prolific hymn writer, led a group known disparagingly as 'Methodists'. Methodists were committed to renewing the church through genuine personal knowledge of God's love and the practical care of the poor and disadvantaged: "*The Gospel of Christ knows of no religion but social, no holiness but social holiness*". Barred from many parish churches because of his radical message, he took to preaching in market places for, he said, "*I look upon the world as my parish*". By the time of his death in 1791 Methodism had attracted thousands of 'unchurched' people to the Christian faith, and after his death this resulted in the formation of a world-wide Methodist Church.

*"Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."*

✦ One man can make a difference – every man should try.  
(J F Kennedy)

✦ It was pride that changed angels into devils; it is humility that makes men as angels.  
(Augustine of Hippo)

## **DAY 14: COLUMBA**

Born in Ireland in 521, Saint Columba was trained as a monk and founded several monasteries before leaving Ireland and settling on Iona, off the west coast of Scotland. His reputation as a holy man led to his becoming also a diplomat among the tribes. He visited the pagan King Bridei of Fortriu at his base in Inverness, winning his respect, although not his conversion, and he subsequently played a major role in the politics of the country. Columba was both creative, writing hymns and teaching, and energetic in his work as a missionary, founding a number of churches in the Hebrides. He worked to turn his monastery at Iona into a school for missionaries, incidentally turning it into the only centre of literacy in the region.



*“Christ the red cross ascended, to save a world undone,  
and, suffering for the sinful, our full redemption won.”*

✦ Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make man a more clever devil.

(C S Lewis)

✦ One of the reasons why it needs no special education to be a Christian is that Christianity is an education itself. That is why an uneducated believer like Bunyan was able to write a book that has astonished the world.

(C S Lewis)

### **DAY 15: CHAD**

Born c.620 in Northumbria, the unfortunately named Saint Chad trained at Lindisfarne under Saint Aiden. After Aiden's death he was put in charge of the Abbey at Lastingham, a wild and solitary spot on the Yorkshire moors. He then became Bishop of York, but the Archbishop of Canterbury objected and demanded that he resign. Chad replied, *“I will willingly resign this charge of which I never thought myself worthy. I undertook it, though unworthy, under obedience.”* Impressed by Chad's humility the Archbishop promptly made him Bishop of Mercia. Chad taught and demonstrated the need for humility and self-denial, insisting on walking everywhere rather than taking a horse. As an old man, living in a monastery at Lichfield, he told the monks that he would shortly be meeting *“that friendly guest who is used to visiting the brethren”*. He then asked them to pray; blessed them, and died in peace.

✦ Jesus poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped round him.

(John 13:5)

✦ Authority exercised with humility, and obedience accepted with delight are the very lines along which our spirits live.

(C S Lewis)

## **DAY 16: FRANCIS OF ASSISSI**

Saint Francis was born into wealth in Assisi around 1181, but was changed by Christ through the experience of first captivity, and then a near-fatal illness; discovering a generosity of mind and wallet. Whilst praying in a run-down church he heard a voice from God saying, *'Go and repair my house, which you see is falling down'*. Taking this literally he sold some of his father's cloth to give the money to the local priest. His family demanded the money back and threatened to disinherit Francis, at which he returned all he had received from his father; even the clothes he stood up. On his own he repaired the church and other churches nearby, and cared for the poor and all who came to see him. Others joined him and he devised a simple gospel-based 'rule' based on repentance and the poverty of Christ as an example for them all to live by. By his death in 1226 his Order had spread throughout Western Christendom. His dying words to his followers were: *"I have done my part; may Christ teach you to do yours."*

✦ One thing I know, the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve.  
(Albert Schweitzer)

✦ The man to whom little is not enough will not benefit from more.  
(Saint Columbanus)

## **DAY 17: GREGORY OF NYSSA**

Gregory, who was born in Caesarea in 330, was the child of an aristocratic Christian family. He studied literature, philosophy and perhaps medicine in Caesarea (though he claimed that his main teachers were *"Paul, John and the rest of the Apostles and prophets"*) and became the most original thinker of his time. Initially he refused ordination, choosing to pursue a secular career, but later in life he was ordained, and was eventually chosen to be Bishop of Nyssa. He encouraged people to grow spiritually, from the initial darkness of ignorance and through spiritual illumination; ending in mystic contemplation of the infinite glory and greatness of God.

*"People kill one another over idols. Wonder makes us fall to our knees."*

✦ True worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.

(John 4:23-24)

✦ Every Christian would agree that a man's spiritual health is exactly proportional to his love for God.

(C S Lewis)

## **DAY 18: WILLIAM TYNDALE**

William Tyndale, born in 1492, was the first person to translate the Bible from the Hebrew and Greek texts into English. At this time simply possessing a Bible in English meant a death sentence: direct knowledge of God's word threatened the supreme power of the church authorities. Tyndale therefore fled to the continent, trying to keep one step ahead of the pursuing authorities and moving to Wittenberg where he completed his New Testament translation in 1525. Using the newly invented printing press, Bibles were produced in bulk and smuggled into England and Scotland, where Bishop Tunstall had copies burned in public and Cardinal Wolsey condemned Tyndale as a heretic. Tyndale moved to Antwerp, but in 1535 was arrested and jailed near Brussels. A year later he was convicted of heresy and strangled to death while tied at the stake, and then his dead body was burned. His final words, spoken "*with a fervent zeal, and a loud voice*", were "*Lord! Open the King of England's eyes!*" His prayer was soon answered: just two years later Henry VIII authorised an English Bible - largely Tyndale's own work - for the Church of England.

✦ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

(Joshua 1:9)

✦ "The Lord gets his best soldiers out of the highlands of affliction."

(Charles Spurgeon)

## **DAY 19: ANNE ASKEW**

Anne Askew (1520-1546) is the only woman to have been both tortured in the Tower of London and burnt at the stake. The victim of a forced marriage at 15 years old she eventually left her husband to go 'gospelling', preaching that the Bible's words were to be trusted above all others. Arrested by the corrupt church and political leadership of the time she was placed in the Tower of London, then racked so severely that she had to be carried to execution in a chair. Before the fire was lit a churchman preached to her, offering one last chance at pardon. When he spoke anything she considered to be the truth she agreed, but when he said anything contrary to Scripture she exclaimed, "*There he misseth, and speaketh without the book.*" Refusing to renounce her beliefs she was burned alive slowly rather than being strangled first.

*"I sat two long hours arguing with the Lord Chancellor, upon the bare floor. With many flattering words, he tried to persuade me to leave my opinion. I said that I would rather die than break my faith."*

✦ I am told that if I continue to oppose apartheid I will be killed. But when you live as one who believes in the resurrection of the dead, that is not such a great threat.

(Archbishop Desmond Tutu)

✦ When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.

(Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

## **DAY 20: DEITRICH BONHOEFFER**

Bonhoeffer was born in 1906, into an academic German family. Ordained in the Lutheran Church, his theology was influenced by Karl Barth and he became a lecturer in Spain, then later in the USA and, in 1931, back in Berlin. In 1934, opposed to the Nazis, whose philosophy had infected the Lutheran church, he became a leader of the Confessing Church. Banned from teaching and harassed by the Nazi regime he was in the USA at the outbreak of war in 1939. Courageously he returned to Germany, where his opposition to Hitler's genocide eventually led to his arrest in 1943. He was executed by the Nazis in Flossenburg concentration camp in 1945.

*“One asks, ‘What will happen to me?’ Another, ‘What is right?’ And that is the difference between the slave and the free man.”*

✦ Courage, above all things, is the first quality of a warrior.  
(Karl von Clausewitz)

✦ No man is free until he is free from the fear of death.  
(Martin Luther King)

## **DAY 21: CHRIS KEEBLE DSO**

Chris Keeble was born in Quetta, British India, and joined the Parachute Regiment in 1971. Deploying to the Falklands he was second in command of 2 Para when his CO, Lieutenant-Colonel H Jones, was killed in action during the Battle of Goose Green. A devout Christian, Keeble took over command at a stage where the attack had stalled, one in six of his men were killed or wounded, they were largely out of ammunition, had been without sleep for 40 hours and were vulnerable to a counter-attack. Kneeling alone amongst the burning gorse he prayed: *“My Father, I abandon myself to you. Do with me as you will. Whatever you may do with me I thank you. Provided that your will is fulfilled, I ask for nothing more.”* Confident of God's guidance he then took the actions which through a combination of moral certainty, bluff and negotiation brought the battle to a successful and thereafter largely bloodless conclusion; and he accepted the surrender of the Argentine forces at Goose Green on 29 May 1982.

*“You can't hand it all over to God - you've got to do something yourself.”*

✦ If we believe a thing to be bad, and if we have a right to prevent it, it is our duty to try to prevent it and damn the consequences.  
(Lord Milner)

✦ Upon a review of the past year, I desire to confess that my sinfulness has been exceeding great; my sins still greater; God's mercies greater than both.  
(Augustus Toplady)

## **DAY 22: JULIAN OF NORWICH**

We do not even know this Christian woman's real name (she is known as 'Julian' simply through her association with a Church dedicated to that saint) but she was born near Norwich in around 1342. Aged 30, suffering from a severe illness and close to death, she had a series of intense visions of Jesus Christ. Following her recovery she spent many years pondering their meaning, and she recorded her conclusions in what became the first book written by a woman in English. She speaks of God's love in terms of joy and compassion as opposed to law and duty. Where many people held that suffering was God punishing the wicked, she suggested a more merciful theology: that behind the reality of hell is a greater mystery of God's love. She died in 1417.

*“If there is anywhere on earth someone who loves God who is always kept safe, I know nothing of it, for it was not shown to me.”*

✦ God's mercy with a sinner is only equalled and perhaps outmatched by his patience with the saints, with you and me.  
(Alan Redpath)

✦ About hell, I don't think we know the details; we must just stick to the view that (a) all justice and mercy will be done, (b) but nevertheless it is our duty to do all we can to convert unbelievers.  
(C S Lewis)

## **DAY 23: KENTIGERN**

Saint Kentigern's mother, the daughter of a Scottish ruler, became pregnant after being seduced by a Welsh prince. Her furious father wished her dead and had her thrown from the heights of Traprain Law, an East Lothian hill. When she survived he set her adrift alone in a coracle to die, but she lived, and the boat was washed up at Culross in Fife, where Kentigern was born. He began his missionary labours on the Clyde, on the site of modern Glasgow, at the age of 25, working hard, living a most austere life in a small cell and making many converts by his holy example and his preaching. When a strong anti-Christian movement forced him to leave the district he moved to Wales, staying for a time with Saint David before moving to Gwynedd where he founded a cathedral. Later he was able to return to Strathclyde where he continued to spread the

Christian faith. Kentigern died in 608 and his tomb is in St Mungo's Cathedral in Glasgow.

✦ Radical obedience to Christ is not easy. It is not comfort, not health, not wealth, and not prosperity in this world. Radical obedience to Christ risks losing all these things. But in the end, such risk finds its reward in Christ. And he is more than enough for us.

(David Platt)

✦ Christianity is one beggar telling another beggar where he found bread.

(D T Niles)

## **DAY 24: MARTIN LUTHER**

Martin Luther was born in 1483 in Saxony, part of modern day Germany. He joined an order of Augustinian hermits and was ordained priest. After becoming a lecturer at Wittenberg he was appointed head of his Order in 1515. The church of his time had corrupted the Christian message, teaching that we can earn God's love by doing good, giving money or praying. Luther, from reading his Bible, saw that love and forgiveness are freely given by God when we turn to him in faith, and that good deeds are a grateful response to that love and forgiveness. He sought to debate the matter by posting his written propositions on the door of the Castle Church of Wittenberg in 1517, but the hierarchy saw this as a direct attack on the church and forced him into open rebellion. In this way the worldwide Protestant Reformation was born.

*"Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me. Amen."*

✦ For sin pays its wage: death; but God's free gift is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 6:23)

✦ Do not pray for easy lives: pray to be stronger men. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers: pray for powers equal to your tasks.

(Phillip Brooks)

## **DAY 25: MARTIN OF TOURS**

Saint Martin of Tours was a Roman 'Army Brat': born in 316 in modern day Hungary, the son of a very senior officer in the Imperial Horse Guard. He became a Christian at the age of 10, against the wishes of his parents, and at 15 joined a heavy cavalry unit deploying with them to France. Approaching the gates of Amiens one day he met a poorly clad beggar, and on impulse cut his military cloak in half to share with the man. That night he dreamed of Jesus wearing the half-cloak he had given away. He heard Jesus say to the angels: *"Here is Martin, the Roman soldier ... he has clad me."* He left military service and became a missionary to the local countryside, founding a monastery and, in 372, becoming Bishop of Tours. Martin is seen as the patron saint of soldiers.

✦ We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty.

(Mother Teresa of Calcutta)

✦ It is a tragic mix-up when the United States spends \$500,000 for every enemy soldier killed, and only \$53 annually on the victims of poverty.

(Martin Luther King Jr)

## **DAY 26: JOHN THE BAPTIST**

John was Jesus' cousin, and is held up in the Gospels as the forerunner of Christ. He preached a powerful message of practical morality: *"The person who has two coats must share with the person who has none, and the person who has food must do likewise."* When some soldiers asked him, *"And as for us – what should we do?"*, John told them, *"Take money from no one by violence or by false accusation, and be content with your pay."* John baptised Jesus in the River Jordan, comparing him to an animal sacrificed in the Jewish temple and pointing forward to his death on our behalf: *"Behold the lamb of God"*. John spoke out against King Herod's unlawful marriage to his (Herod's) own sister-in-law: this led to her hating John and tricking Herod into having him beheaded.



✦ “Alone of all creeds, Christianity has added courage to the virtues of the Creator. For the only courage worth calling courage must necessarily mean that the soul passes a breaking point and does not break.”

(G K Chesterton)

✦ Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.

(Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

## **DAY 27: OSCAR ROMERO**

Born in a small village in El Salvador in 1917 he was ordained priest and known as a quiet and unassuming pastor. By 1977, amidst the social and political turmoil suffered by his country, he was seen as an inoffensive choice to be its Archbishop. Courageously however, he began to speak out against violence and for the needs of the poor and oppressed of his country. He refused to be silenced and continued to preach even under the threat of assassination. In 1980 while presiding at Mass he was killed by a gunman. In the sermon given just minutes before his death, Archbishop Romero reminded his congregation of the parable of the wheat: *“Those who surrender to the service of the poor through the love of Christ, will live like the grain of wheat that dies. It only apparently dies. If it were not to die, it would remain a solitary grain. The harvest comes because of the grain that dies.”* He is widely regarded as a martyr for the faith.

✦ Two qualities are indispensable: first, an intellect that, even in the darkest hour, retains some glimmerings of the inner light which leads to truth; and second, the courage to follow this faint light wherever it may lead.

(Karl von Clausewitz)

✦ Kingdom people seek first the Kingdom of God and its concerns: justice, mercy and truth. Church people think about how to get people into the church; kingdom people think about how to get the church into the world, and work to see the church change the world.

(Daniel Howard-Snyder)

## **DAY 28: GEOFFREY STUDDERT KENNEDY MC**

Born in 1883, Kennedy was a vicar in Worcester who became an army chaplain during the First World War. His warm personality soon earned the respect of the soldiers who nicknamed him 'Woodbine Willie' after the cigarettes he shared with them. In 1917 he was awarded the Military Cross after running into no man's land to help the wounded during an attack on the German front line at Messines Ridge. After the war he became a writer and poet, and his preaching attracted large crowds. His frail health gave way and he died still a young man in 1929.

*"The Devil tries to get at you by telling you that you could really do no good in the line, and that you were more use alive than dead. It was the Devil and a lie – the more Padres died in battle doing Christ-like deeds, the better for the Church. Most of us will be more use dead than alive! ... Take a box of fags in your haversack and a great deal of love in your heart, and go up to them, laugh with them, joke with them; you can pray with them sometimes, but pray for them always."*

✦ Some want to live within the sound of church or chapel bell; I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell.

(C T Studd)

✦ Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not whether they be clergymen or laymen, they alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven upon earth.

(John Wesley)

## **DAY 29: MAURICE WOOD DSC**

Maurice Wood was a commando trained Royal Navy chaplain in World War II. Serving extensively with the Royal Marines, he was part of both the D-Day landings, going ashore with the second wave of landing craft at H+30 minutes, and the Walcheren landings, where he swam ashore with the men of 48 Commando. After the war he returned to civilian ministry, and was Bishop of Norwich from 1971-1985.

*"I wasn't ever conscious of querying the reality of God's care for us, because I had a clear faith in Christ. I also read my Bible, and it was always full of wars and tumults, and I was used to the fact that the Bible had a lot about war in it. As soon as I got to the beach I found that the first wave were pinned down a bit and there was a lot of firing going on. When I got there and found my men wounded on the beach I used to say to them, quietly, 'Trust in Jesus. Trust him all the way.' I had a logbook, which I've still got somewhere, and the logbook says (it sounds rather pious, but it's true), 'The presence of Christ is so real to me that I'm not afraid to die'. But I felt it necessary to write, 'P.S. I'm scared stiff of getting wounded!'."*

✦ Prayer is more than meditation. In meditation the source of strength is one's self. When one prays you go to a source of strength greater than your own.

(Chiang Kai-shek)

✦ Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you.

(Saint Augustine of Hippo)

### **DAY 30: MARY, MOTHER OF JESUS**

Nothing is known for sure about Mary's parents, but as a young Jewish girl in Nazareth she was engaged to a man named Joseph. A messenger of the Lord announced she was to bear the Son of God to the world. Mary accepted her vocation and lived a life of obedience and faithfulness. She has been upheld ever since as a model for all who hear and obey God's word, and is remembered in particular for her words to the servants at the wedding in Cana of Galilee, *"Do whatever Jesus tells you."*

✦ Do you wish to be great? Think first about the foundations of humility. The higher your structure is to be, the deeper must be its foundation.

(Augustine of Hippo)

✦ As long as you are proud you cannot know God. A proud man is always looking down on things and people: and, of course, as long as you are looking down you cannot see something that is above you.

(C S Lewis)

## **DAY 31: AIDEN**

Saint Aiden, one of St Columba's monks from Iona, was sent as a missionary to Northumbria at the request of King Oswald, who later became his friend and interpreter. Consecrated Bishop of Lindisfarne in 635 Aiden and his community are remembered by Bede as those who *"lived as they taught. Aiden never sought or cared for any worldly possessions, and loved to give away to the poor who chanced to meet him whatever he received from kings or wealthy people"*. An inspired missionary, Aidan would walk from one village to another, politely conversing with the people he saw and encouraging an interest in Christ: an interest which in time led many to a faith in Christ. According to legend, Oswald, king of Northumbria, gave Aidan a horse so that he would not have to walk, but Aidan gave the horse to a beggar. By patiently talking to the people on their own level Aidan and his monks slowly brought Christianity to the Northumbrian communities. Aiden died in 651.

✦ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

(2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

✦ Giving with glad and generous hearts has a way of routing out the tough old miser within us. Even the poor need to know that they can give. Just the very act of letting go of money, or some other treasure, does something within us. It destroys the demon greed.

(Richard J Foster)

## **CAP-BADGE PRAYERS**

### **The Royal Marines Prayer**

O Eternal Lord God, who through many generations hast united and inspired the members of our Corps, grant thy blessing we beseech thee on Royal Marines serving all around the globe. Bestow thy crown of righteousness upon all our efforts and endeavours, and may our laurels be those of gallantry and honour, loyalty and courage. We ask these in the name of him whose courage never failed, our redeemer Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **The Royal Navy Prayer**

O eternal Lord God, who alone spreadest out the heavens and rulest the raging of the sea; who hast compassed the waters with bounds until day and night come to an end: be pleased to receive into thy almighty and most gracious protection the persons of us thy servants and the Fleet in which we serve. Preserve us from the dangers of the sea and of the air and from the violence of the enemy; that we may be a safeguard unto our most gracious Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth and her dominions, and a security for such as pass on the seas upon their lawful occasions; that the inhabitants of our Islands and Commonwealth may in peace and quietness serve thee our God; and that we may return in safety to enjoy the blessings of the land with the fruits of our labours and with a thankful remembrance of thy mercies to praise and glorify thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **A Special Boat Service Prayer**

Heavenly Father, we do not seek an easy life. Rather we pray for courage to face every task as and when it may arise. Bless our loved ones and may they know how much we appreciate them. Equip us with strength to resist evil; love to protect the vulnerable; wisdom to pursue what is right, and guile to use our strength wisely. Guard us with humility, that we may not think of ourselves more highly than we ought, nor underestimate others. So enrich our knowledge of you our Creator that we may acknowledge the Holy Spirit as friend and guide, for the sake of Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

### **The Fleet Air Arm Prayer**

O God, who dwells above the water and has the power to still the raging of the sea, accept the prayers of all your servants who commit their lives to the dangers of the sea and the air. In all their ways, enable them to serve you in a godly and faithful way, and in their Christian lives reflect your glory throughout the world. Through all their journeys, watch over them that they may overcome evil, temptation or anything that harms their souls, so that through all the changes and chances of this life, you will bring them by your mercy to the sure promise of your everlasting kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Royal Regiment of Artillery Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, who dost everywhere lead thy people in the way of righteousness, vouchsafe so to lead the Royal Regiment of Artillery that wherever we serve, on land or sea or in the air, we may win the glory of doing thy will. **Amen.**

### **The Corps of Royal Engineers Prayer**

O God, whose righteousness is exceeding glorious, may it please thee to send out thy light and thy truth so to lead us thy servants of the Corps of Royal Engineers that everywhere we may be enabled to do our duty, and so may glorify thee our Father in heaven, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Royal Air Force Prayer**

O Almighty God, who hast promised that they who wait upon thee shall renew their strength, and mount up with wings as eagles, we commend to thy fatherly protection all who serve in the Royal Air Force; uplift and support them in their high endeavour, that they may be a safeguard to our Queen and a sure defence to our country. Help them fulfil their several duties with honour, quietness and integrity, and grant that they may be worthy successors to those who by their valour and sacrifice have nobly served their day and generation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

### Prayers to start the day

Eternal God, grant to us this day and every day such readiness and delight in following Christ, that whether our lives are short or long we shall have lived abundantly. **Amen.**

(A New Zealand Prayer Book.)

The night has passed and the day lies open before us; as we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our heart on fire with love for you now and for ever. **Amen.**

(Celebrating Common Prayer.)

### Prayers to end the day

Lord you have brought us through this day to a time of reflection and rest. Calm us, and give us your peace to refresh us in our sleep. Keep us close to Christ, that we may be closer to one another because of his perfect love. In his name we pray. **Amen.**

(Adapted)

Watch, dear Lord, with those who wake or weep tonight, and let your angels protect those who sleep. Tend the sick. Refresh the weary. Sustain the dying. Calm the suffering. Pity the distressed. We ask this for your love's sake. **Amen.**

(St Augustine of Hippo)

Visit, Lord, we pray, this place tonight, and drive far from it all the snares of the enemy. Let your holy angels dwell here to keep us in peace, and may your blessing be upon us evermore, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(The Office of Compline)

### A Prayer for healing

O Lord Jesus, stretch forth your wounded hands in blessing over all your people to heal and to restore, and to draw them to yourself and to one another in love. **Amen.**

(A prayer of the Middle East)

### **At night, or in any danger**

May the cross of the Son of God,  
which is mightier than all the hosts of Satan,  
and more glorious than all the hosts of heaven,  
abide with us in our going out and our coming in.  
By day and night, at morning and at evening,  
at all times and in all places  
may it protect and defend us.  
From the wrath of evildoers,  
from the assaults of evil spirits,  
from foes visible and invisible,  
from the snares of the devil,  
from all passions that beguile the soul and body,  
may it guard, protect and deliver us. **Amen.**

### **When separated from those we love**

God, protect those whom we love and who are separated from us.  
Guide them when they are uncertain, comfort them when they are  
lonely or afraid, and bless them with the warmth of your presence.  
Thank you that neither space nor time can cut us off from the love  
we have in each other and in you. Lord God bless us all this day in  
the name of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **A prayer of reflection**

Lord, as we remember with sadness the horrors of war,  
help us to work for a better understanding between races and  
nations. Open our eyes to see our own part in discord and  
aggression between peoples; forgive us our pride and divisions, and  
renew in us the search for peace; so that trust may replace  
suspicion, friendship replace fear, and your Holy Spirit of  
reconciliation be known among us all. **Amen.**

(Christian Heycocks)



### **A prayer of hope in adversity**

You show us continuously Lord God what is good. Enable us, we pray, to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you, our God. **Amen.**

(Based on Micah 6:8)

### **A prayer for peace**

God of Revelation,  
whose mercy embraces all peoples and nations:  
tear down the walls which divide us,  
break open the prisons which hold us captive,  
and so free us to celebrate your beauty through love of your world  
and respect for each other.

Bring peace in our time, O God. **Amen.**

(Adapted from *Celebrating Common Prayer*)

### **A prayer on operations**

Jesus Christ, who in the hour of your death was recognised as Saviour by a soldier standing nearby: be to us all a sign of saving hope during our deployment.

Keep us steadfast and courageous in times of danger and ever pressing fear; maintain our righteous and humane values, and uphold our good wills when tested; and keep us alert and skilled in our tasks, until we return to our families and loved ones.

For your name's sake. **Amen.**

### **The prayer of Saint Francis**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. **Amen.**

## **The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy and worldwide Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## **A confession**

Leader: Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us.

**All: Lord God,  
we have sinned against you;  
we have done evil in your sight.  
We are sorry and repent.  
Have mercy on us according to your love.  
Wash away our wrongdoing and  
cleanse us from our sin.  
Renew a right spirit within us  
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## PRAYERS FOR INDIVIDUAL USE

### **On the day of battle**

Lord you know how busy I must be this day. If I forget you, do not forget me. Amen.

(Lord Jacob Astley, before the Battle of Edgehill)

### **In a time of quietness**

Abba Father,  
I am here,  
for you,  
for myself,  
for the world,  
for this moment,  
I am here.....  
Fill me with your Holy Spirit  
and teach me the secrets of silence and love. Amen.

### **When embarked**

Dear God, be good to me; the sea is so large, and my boat is so small. Amen.

(Traditional prayer of a Breton fisherman)

### **In times of fear, anxiety or doubt**

To you, O Lord, I come for refuge.  
Do not let me be put to shame,  
deliver me into your righteousness,  
incline your ear to me,  
make haste to help me,  
for you are my strong rock and my fortress.  
Into your hand I commit my spirit,  
for you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.  
Amen.

(From Psalm 31:1-2,5)

## The Naval Hymn

Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm doth bind the restless wave,  
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep;  
O hear us when we cry to thee  
For those in peril on the sea.

O Saviour, whose almighty word  
The winds and waves submissive heard,  
Who walkedst on the foaming deep,  
And calm amid its rage didst sleep:  
O hear us when we cry to thee  
For those in peril on the sea.

O Holy Spirit, grant we pray  
To Royal Marines both night and day,  
The courage, honour, strength and skill  
Their land to serve, thy laws fulfil  
Be thou their shield for evermore  
From every peril to the Corps.

O Trinity of love and power,  
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
Protect them whereso'er they go:  
And ever let there rise to thee  
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

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Bootnecks use black maskers to fix everything.

God used nails.  
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