

**Lectionary**  
Readings for every day  
You Select!



	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Epistle/OT</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
Monday 15 March:	30:1-5,8, 11-12	Isa 65:17-21	John 4:43-54
Tuesday 16 March:	46:1-8	Ezek 47:1-9,12	John 5:1-3,5-16
Wednesday 17 March:	145:8-17	Isa 49:8-15	John 5:17-30
Thursday 18 March:	106:19-23	Exod 32:7-14	John 5:31-47
Friday 19 March:	34:15-end	Jer 26:8-11	John 7:1-2,10, 25-30
Saturday 20 March:	7:1-2,8-10	Jer 11:18-20	John 7:40-52
Sunday 21 March <b><u>Lent 5</u></b> Ps 126 or 119:9-16; Isa 43:16-21; Phil 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8			

	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Epistle/OT</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
Monday 22 March:	23	Josh 2:1-14	John 8:1-11
Tuesday 23 March:	102:1-3, 16-23	Numb 21:4-9	John 8:21-30
Wednesday 24 March:	62	Jer 22:20-23:8	John 12:1-11
Thursday 25 March:	131;146	Isa 52:1-12	Heb 2:5-18
Friday 26 March:	18:1-6	Jer 20:10-13	John 10:31-42
Saturday 27 March:	121	Ezek 37:21-28	John 11:45-57
Sunday 28 March <b><u>Lent 6—Palm Sunday</u></b> Ps 31:9-16; Isa 50:4-9; Phil 2:5-11; Luke 19:28-40 or John 12:12-16			

<b>Holy Week</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Epistle/OT</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
Monday 29 March:	36:5-11	Isa 42:1-9	John 12:1-11
Tuesday 30 March:	71:1-14	Isa 49:1-7	John 12:20-36
Wednesday 31 March:	70	Isa 50:4-9a	John 13:21-32
Thursday 1 April:	116:1,2,12-19	1 Cor 11:23-26	John 13:1-17,
Maundy Thursday		Ex 12:1-4,(5-10),11-14	31b-35
Friday 2 April:	22	Isa 52:13-53:12	John 18:1-19:42
Good Friday		Heb 10:16-25	
Saturday 3 April:	31:1-4, 15-16	1 Peter 4:1-8 Job 14:1-14	John 19:38-42
Sunday 4 April <b><u>Easter Day</u></b> Ps 118:1-2,14-24; Acts 10:34-43; 1 Cor 15:19-26; John 20:1-18			

in the HCUC

**No. 2**

**For 14 March 2010**

**Dear Friends**

I realised that after I finished the previous Shalom I had not finished with it. Perhaps what is more to the point, the two themes of No. 1 hadn't finished with me. Both themes— (1) being a child in relation to the eternal mystery of God; and (2) the importance of metaphor in our day to day lives, were still there. So brace yourselves, here comes some more on both themes.

The child within...

Let's begin with Matthew Fox's comment on his professor and mentor in Paris the French Dominican Father M D Chenu. He tells that when Chenu was 88 years old a journalist who interviewed him said: "This is the youngest man I have ever interviewed." We might say that Chenu's soul "was as young as the day it was created" to use one of Meister Eckhart's phrases. In fact if we look to other things Eckhart said we find he thought profoundly about the inner sense of youngness. Can we begin to sense his awareness of a never dying dimension we all hold in our inner being? Listen to his comment: "I am younger today than I was yesterday, and if I am not younger tomorrow than I am today, I would be ashamed of myself."

We sense we are meeting a healthy mature adult when we meet a child-like youthfulness in them. By way of contrast Deepak Chopra writes that "the decline of vigour in old age is largely the result of people EXPECTING to decline. They have unwittingly implanted a self-defeating intention in the form of a strong belief, and the mind-body connection automatically carries out this intention." What is being said is not that the ever young child within has been lost. It has been swamped in a sea of ignorance. Its reality has been covered up by false attitudes about who we really are, and what is our true undying being. Personally I think Jesus' reference to the child and the Kingdom is awakening us to that essential aspect of our inner being which is always with us, which is so much of the nature of the divine that it is fresh, wise, creative, and so in tune with God that it is as new every morning as God. Happy are those who "find" this inner child in stillness and meditation.

**Sincerely - Lester**

## More on Metaphor...

Here are a few things worth noting about metaphor:

- \* Metaphors take us beyond similes. Our little clarification in the last issue ended as a confusion because two key lines got mixed and one line of script got omitted. So here it is again. A simile says something 'here' is like something 'there': for example we might say "he runs like a deer". As a metaphor we would say "When he runs he is a deer." And that evokes many more images. Webster's defines metaphor as "a figure of speech in which a word or phrase literally denoting one kind of object or idea is used in place of another to suggest "an analogy between them".
- \* As an example of the above we can say that the word 'God' is always a metaphor. No name for God is actually God, or can tell us the whole story—they all hint of more possibilities and wider meanings. This is mainly the reason why many spiritual traditions restrict the use of the name God. Note that Jewish people are forbidden to write God's name.
- \* Talk of metaphors as images, and hints of meaning, may leave some feeling reason and logic has been shunted out of sight. Not so. It is not either metaphor or literalism and legalism. The legal system does not deal in metaphors, but in actual evidence of real crimes. Sports too are decided by the literal—was the tennis ball on the line or just outside it? — was the rugby player able to put the ball down in-goal? Without hard-and-fast rules, and referees, games would dissolve into chaos. Literalism makes sport satisfying—but not life. Daily life is much more trial and error. The trial is often a trying and trying. It challenges us to be creative, to try new directions, to step outside old patterns. In our world it is so easy to get caught up in 'reason cut off from love, truth hardened into static form, and law void of compassion' as Joseph Jastrab expresses it.
- \* Metaphors empower. Daniel Pink in his book "A Whole New Mind" suggests that the material comforts and accumulated goods of modern life matter much less than the metaphors we live by—often we live by them unconsciously. For example do you think of our life as a journey or as a treadmill? We may read the glossy magazine with the proclamation that 'Life is a Beach'. But if deep inside us our metaphor is 'a dark cave' the latter is the metaphor most influencing our living.

## METAPHORS TO SAVOUR AND LIVE BY

GOD is ...

**I**t is no wonder people are drawn by a magnet of confidence and positive hope to so many familiar metaphors for 'God' — the God who has no name, or the God with a million names.

**T**homas Aquinas says: We do not know who God is. Only what God is not.

**H**e also says that because 'God' is such a vast metaphor "every creature can be a name for God ... and NO creature!"

**J**esus, a master of metaphor, makes us aware that metaphors are a kind of sense like seeing, or hearing, and their effect on us is such that as the expansiveness of our metaphors develops so does the expansiveness of our reality.

- ♦ One who calls to us "where are you?"
- ♦ My light and salvation
- ♦ The light of the world
- ♦ My shepherd
- ♦ The good shepherd
- ♦ The water of life
- ♦ The doorway
- ♦ Friend of all the outsiders
- ♦ Lover of the world.

When we say 'God is eternal' we mean God is eternally young. God is ever green, ever verdant, ever flowering.

God is the newest thing there is, the youngest thing there is, God is the beginning and if we are united to him we become new again.

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My soul is as young as the day it was created. Yes and much younger! In fact, I am younger today than I was yesterday, and if I am not younger tomorrow than I am today, I would be ashamed of myself.

People who dwell in God dwell in the eternal now.

- Meister Eckhart

