

Lectionary readings: Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3: 17 - 4: 1; Luke 13: 31-35 (Second in Lent)

For reflection and prayer

- **Genesis 15:** Abraham had a close relationship with God and talked to God like a friend. And that's what God wants us to have - this same kind of intimacy that Abraham had, so that we share our lives with God, share our desires, our hopes, our dreams. God wanted to bless Abraham beyond his wildest dreams, and that is what God wants to do for us. The trouble is that we have preconceived notions of how God will bless us. God uses the ordinary circumstances of our lives through which to bless us. So we need to see ordinary life as the place of our encounter with God - life exactly as it is. So let's be open to meet with God this week in the ordinary events of our life, in the people we meet and in our day-to-day experiences.
- **Psalm 27:** Here are some extracts from 'Psalms for Praying'. *'Love is my light and my salvation. Whom shall I fear? Love is the strength of my life. Of whom shall I be afraid? When fears assail me, rising up to accuse me, each one in turn shall be seen in Love's lightOne thing have I asked of Love, that I shall ever seek: that I might dwell in the Heart of Love all the days of my life, to behold the Beauty of my Beloved, and to know Love's plan Wait for the Beloved; be strong with courage of the heart; yes, wait for the Beloved of your heart.'*
- **Philippians 3:** Paul says we need to trust in God's promises and not put our trust in material things. If we

are honest, we would have to admit that we often put our security in material things. Where do our desires, our hopes, our fears reveal our trust lies? Paul says we look forward to a time with God when we will be completely healed and made whole. But we are called to share our life with God here and now. Let's not get distracted by the many voices clamouring for our attention. Let's allow God to heal us and make us whole now so that we radiate Christ to the world.

- **Luke 13:** Here we see Jesus prepared to trust completely in God and commit Himself to God. Jesus will not be deflected from God's purpose. We are called to be like Jesus - living close to God, surrendered in our response to God, experiencing God's presence, inner peace and joy as we face up to the reality of our life. May we be challenged this week to trust in God as Jesus did.

For reflection

*'This is my prayer -
That, though I may not see,
I be aware of the Silent God who stands by me.
That, though I may not feel,
I be aware of the Mighty Love
Which doggedly follows me.
That, though I may not respond,
I be aware that God -
My Silent, Mighty God,
Waits each day,
Quietly, hopefully, persistently,
Waits each day and through each night
For me, for me - alone.'*

(Edwina Gateley)