

## Day 2

Sunday April 2

### Today's theme ... Look

The second prayer opportunity is to look. This describes developing awareness (noticing), with all the senses, your environment, your inner self and God's presence.

### Today's scripture verses

John 1: 47-50

*When Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, he said to him, 'Here is a real Israelite, there is nothing false in him!'*

*Nathanael asked him, "How do you know me?"*

*Jesus answered, "I saw you when you were under the fig tree before Philip called you."*

*"Teacher," answered Nathanael, "you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel."*

*Jesus said, "Do you believe just because I told you I saw you when you were under the fig tree? You will see much greater things than this!"*

### A reflection by Ruth Potter and Alison Spencer ...

Knowing that God sees us is a deeply reassuring experience. Even though we cannot see God, we can rest assured that God sees us. When Nathanael and Jesus meet, Jesus reveals the way in which he looks at Nathanael in a special way: "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" (verse 47). Nathanael was surprised by this revelation. However, it was a revelation which immediately made him receptive to know more about Jesus; to get to know Him better.

In the Gospel of John, more meetings of a revealing nature take place, for example, with the Samaritan woman at the well in 4:1–29; with Thomas doubting in 20:24–29 and with Peter denying knowing Jesus in 21:15–19. Jesus knows about the dark history of the Samaritan woman, Thomas' doubt and Peter's renunciation. Similar to Nathanael, a transformation takes place in each of these characters when they experience Jesus' merciful look when considering their humanity. Do we give Christ time and space to reveal to us?

To do this we need to take time, find spaces to be look and really see Christ leading us deeper into his presence. The photos chosen are to provide a time to be still and to Look and See God revealing Himself to us.

It is a liberating experience to live in the presence of God who looks at humankind with so much grace, love and understanding. You are freed from the slavery of your own and others' critical look; this enables you to see God more and more clearly.

### Prayer Suggestion:

God, thank you for looking at me with love and mercy. Thank you for the liberation of being able to look kindlier on myself. I yearn to see you more clearly in me and in every person, who crosses my path. (Reference: Based on Theme 2 Look by Andrew Murray Centre for Spirituality.)

### A pictorial reflection

Enjoy "Look and See" - the beautiful images put together for contemplation by Alison and Ruth. Photographs by Ric Todhunter.

### Want to delve deeper?

Check out the "Resources" section on the website below and read p.9-11 of the Week of Prayer 2023 series.