

## **BBC Radio 4 Prayers for the Day**

### **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

Good morning.

Today we are coming towards the climax of what for Christians is Holy Week. On Maundy Thursday we remember the last supper Jesus had with his disciples when he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave the bread to his disciples as Christians still do: "This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Tonight's the night when churches will remember how Jesus took a towel, wrapped it around himself and washed his disciples' feet. "If I your Lord and Teacher have washed your feet, you ought also to wash one another's feet." It is a very simple act of service and humility and a different way of living to the world power and elites.

"A new commandment I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you."

We admire acts of selfless service, and mostly they go unsung in a thousand acts of neighbourly kindness with people looking after others because it's the right thing to do. We want to encourage one another to serve others.

Today at Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford the Queen will give Royal Maundy money to one pensioner for every year of her reign: the sovereign giving an example of service.

It has been encouraging to see the new Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury both beginning their ministries with an emphasis on joyful, loving service. So here is a prayer of a former Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey:

Jesus Lord and Master, who served your disciples in washing their feet: serve us often, serve us daily, in washing our motives, our ambitions, our actions, that we may share with you in your mission to the world and serve others gladly for your sake to whom be glory for ever.

Amen