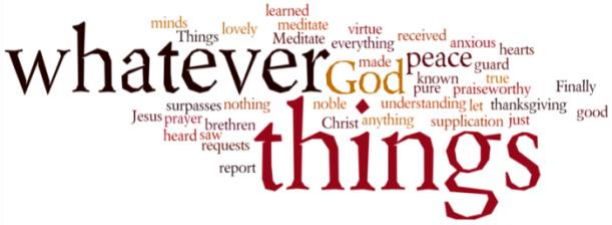

THINK ON THESE THINGS….. (our contributor this morning is Brian Eyles)

Reading: John 1: 1 - 5

Before the world was created, the Word already existed; he was with God, and he was the same as God. From the very beginning the Word was with God. Through him God made all things; not one thing in all creation was made without him. The Word was the source of life, and this life brought light to mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.

Reflection:

Paradox is an important part of our Christian faith. This Prologue to the Fourth Gospel is just one of the truths embodied in a contradiction. The divinity and humanity of Jesus Christ is another.

Let us reflect also on the paradox of our humanity, that most people need to feel they belong to some group; a club, a nation, a team or whatever; like a flock of sheep. But at the same time most people feel the need to express their individualism. Men have tattoos and women wear their choice of dress.

The Scripture reminds us that we would be blinded by too much light or by total darkness, and therefore we know to live in what some people call the 'shadowlands'. In the same way some nations, like China or Iran, demand the total trust and obedience of all their people, and there are many people in our world who won’t accept any orders, or advice, or restriction. They believe in total individual freedom.

This great world-wide health crisis is a challenge to get the balance right, to accept the paradox. Jesus shows us how it is in the Kingdom of his Father. He was a committed Jew, not wanting to live and teach except among his own people, and yet compassion led him to cure a Roman Officer's servant, and he took pity on a Syro Phoenician woman. Jesus healed the outcast lepers but sent them to a priest for approval according to the Jewish Law.

Breath-Prayer for Today:

Bless us, O Lord, with good rulers and government that we may give commitment to our nation, church, and community. But also, O Lord, bless us with a compassion for the poor, whatever their race, or colour, or religion.