**Read, Reflect and Pray. Prologue to John’s Gospel 3.**

**Read:** John 1 v 4 & 5.’In Him was LIFE, and the life was the LIGHT of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it’ John 3 v 16 ‘For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting LIFE’. John 5 v 40 ‘You are not willing to come to me that you may have life’. John 10 v28 ‘I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of my hand’. John 8 v 12 ‘I am the LIGHT of the World. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but have the LIGHT of LIFE’. John 3 v 20 ‘ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed Deuteronomy 30 v 19 Moses said to the people, ‘This day I call Heaven and Earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you, life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose LIFE that you and your children may live’.

**Reflect:** In this gospel ‘Life’ is mentioned 35 times and 13 times more it is used as a verb. Life is the opposite of destruction, condemnation and death, and it’s everlasting. The Greek word used here means more than eternal. It also speaks of the quality of life. There’s nothing to compare with the LIFE that Jesus offers, here and now and in eternity. But whether or not we accept it is our choice. It was then and it is now. Jesus brings us life, but the source of life is God. Light is revealing. I never realise that my windows are dirty until the sun shines on them ! This reminds me that I need the SON to shine on my life . . . . . Recently I visited Bristol Zoo. In the Bat House in total darkness I felt extremely vulnerable but then I stepped out into the light! What a contrast!. I was a different person to the old lady who was afraid of falling over in the dark! Light and darkness cannot exist together, Go into a dark room; switch on the light and the darkness disappears. Francis of Assisi is quoted as saying ‘All the darkness in the word cannot extinguish the light of a single candle’ We used to sing ‘This little light of mine, I’m going to let it shine!’ By the grace of God, I will.

**Pray:** ‘Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father’s glory, Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire. Flow, river flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy; Send forth your Word, Lord, AND LET THERE BE LIGHT !

Lord, may the LIGHT shine in my neighbourhood and let it begin with me as more and more I allow the Light of Christ to shine on my life. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Amen.