

Here's a text if you've only a minute - - -

Christ Jesus is the image of the unseen God and the first-born of all creation. [2nd Reading]

As for me in my poverty and pain
let your help, O Lord, lift me up.
I will praise God's name with a song;
I will glorify him with thanksgiving. [Psalm 68]

Seek the Lord, you who are poor, and your hearts will revive.
[Resp. Psalm]

...when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds. [Gospel]



**Jesus
said to him:
'Go and do
likewise.'**
[Gospel]

How does this image speak to me in my prayer/life ?

SAINT BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM

15th Sunday
in
Ordinary Time
Year C

14th July, 2013



'The one who showed him mercy.' [Gospel]

I take time to slow down, to enter into silence, and to open my mind and heart to be nourished and shaped by God's Word.

Taking the theme of today's gospel, I reflect back on the past week, recalling times when I 'showed mercy' to someone who was hurt, or when I received an act of 'mercy' from another. As I recall these moments I speak to God in gratitude, wonder, praise....

I also recall times during the week when I may have closed my heart to someone in need of kindness, or when I rejected another's act of goodness or mercy towards me. I ask God for what I need, perhaps the grace to act always like Jesus, 'the good Samaritan'.

The Collect

O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path, give all who, for the faith they profess are accounted Christians, the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ and to strive after all that does it honour.

2nd Reading: Colossians 1: 15-20

Christ Jesus is the image of the unseen God and the first-born of all creation, for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible, Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers—all things were created through him and for him. Before anything was created, he existed, and he holds all things in unity. Now the Church is his body, he is its head. As he is the beginning, he was the first to be born from the dead, so that he should be first in every way; because God wanted all perfection to be found in him and all things to be reconciled through him and for him, everything in heaven and everything on earth, when he made peace by his death on the cross.

Paul wrote this letter to the Christians at Colossae, a city situated in the country that is today called Turkey. The Christians who lived there had begun to listen to false teachers.

I take time to enter into stillness. Then, slowly, I read the passage, a beautiful poem in celebration of Christ's role in creation. I let Paul's words move me and speak to me—and I respond to God/Jesus as I am moved.

For Paul, Christ Jesus is *Number One*: "the image of the unseen God", "the first-born of all creation", "the head of the...Church". Who is Christ Jesus for me? I speak with him about this, sharing heart to heart, as I would with a friend.

To express my feelings, I may find it helpful to chant the words of the passage, addressing them directly to Christ, as a hymn of praise: "You, Christ Jesus, are the image...".

I end with the *Glory be to the Father...*

Gospel [Part] : Luke 10: 29-37

'A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of brigands, who took all he had, beat him, and then made off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

In this parable Jesus tells of the extraordinary extent to which a Samaritan went to the help of his 'enemy', a Jew.

As I slowly read the parable, I notice what touches me about each person, especially the 'good' Samaritan. Have I experienced such goodness? Do I show such goodness, such 'mercy' to others? I reflect on this and when ready I speak to Jesus, asking him for what I need.

The Samaritan also shows goodness in crossing the boundaries of race, breaking the cycle of enmity between his people and the Jews. Am I asked to "do likewise" in any area of my life? I speak to Jesus about this. I end with the sign of the cross and/or, if appropriate, I offer a sign of peace to another.