

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

A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me,
[Psalm]

The grace of our Lord filled me with faith and with the love that is in
Christ Jesus.. [2nd Reading]

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our
mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.
[Gospel Acclamation]

There is rejoicing among the angels of God over one repentant
sinner. [Gospel]

How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek
shelter in the shadow of your wings. [Communion Antiphon]

Father in heaven, Creator of all, look down upon your people in their
moments of need, for you alone are the source of our peace. Bring
us to the dignity which distinguishes the poor in spirit and show us
how great is the call to serve, that we may share in the peace of
Christ who offered his life in the service of all.
[Old Opening Prayer]

How does this image
help me in my
prayer?



Is there someone with whom it may be helpful
to share my prayer/reflections this week?

ST. BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM

24th Sunday
Ordinary Time
Year C
15th September 2013



Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

The theme running through today's encouraging
readings is one of God's infinite mercy and
forgiveness. I am repeatedly assured that God's love
is greater than my weakness. United in prayer with
the repentant prodigal son, I can confidently pray with
the sentiments of today's penitential psalm...

...even if I have forgotten all God has done for me
and chosen to idolise worldly things, God does not
withdraw his love but saves me from disaster,
[First reading]

...even if in ignorance, I have condemned and
undermined the faith of others; God does not lose faith
in me, but patiently calls me '*into his service*'.
[Second Reading]

...even if I have lost the way on my faith journey, or
knowingly chosen to walk away from God, my
heavenly Father will come to find me or wait in the
distance until I am ready to return, when he will then
joyfully run to welcome me home. [Gospel]

Together with the Church I pray the **COLLECT**

*Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and,
that we may feel the working of your mercy,
grant that we may serve you with all our heart,
Through our Lord Jesus Christ...*

Second Reading 1 Timothy 1:12-17

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, and who judged me faithful enough to call me into his service even though I used to be a blasphemer and did all I could to injure and discredit the faith. Mercy, however, was shown me, because until I became a believer I had been acting in ignorance; and the grace of our Lord filled me with faith and with the love that is in Christ Jesus. Here is a saying that you can rely on and nobody should doubt; that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I myself am the greatest of them; and if mercy has been shown to me, it is because Jesus Christ meant to make me the greatest evidence of his inexhaustible patience for all the other people who would later have to trust in him to come to eternal life. To the eternal King, the undying, invisible and only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever, Amen.

Paul's letters were usually addressed to whole communities. Today's reading is an extract from one of the three 'pastoral' letters he wrote to individuals; two of these were addressed to Timothy who he referred to as 'true child of mine in the faith'.

As I settle into my time of prayer, I consciously and gently enter into the presence of my merciful Father. I may like to imagine that Paul has written this letter to me personally. Putting all distractions aside for a while, I give his message my full attention. I 'open' it as I would a letter from a dear friend, taking time to read it several times.

I notice Paul's tone; he speaks with conviction, honesty and gratitude; his message is both serious and joyful, a powerful testimony to the loving mercy of God, for all people, for me.

I take time to reflect on all that Paul has said to me... what aspect touches me most deeply... what can I take from it into my daily way of life? Will I be able to share his words with others?

Paul was transformed by God's grace, is there a grace I would like to ask of my 'eternal King'...is there anything I would like to thank and praise him for?

Glory be to the Father...

Gospel - Shorter Form - Luke 15:1-10

The tax-collectors and sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man', they said, 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'What man among you with a hundred sheep, losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one till he found it? And when he found it, would he not joyfully take it on his shoulders and then, when he got home, call together his friends and neighbours? 'Rejoice with me,' he would say, 'I have found my sheep that was lost.' In the same way, I tell you, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine virtuous men who have no need of repentance. 'Or again, what woman with ten drachmas would not, if she lost one, light a lamp and sweep out the house and search thoroughly till she found it? And then, when she had found it, call together her friends and neighbours? 'Rejoice with me.' she would say, 'I have found the drachma I lost.'

In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing among the angels of God over one repentant sinner.'

Jesus has just invited 'those who have ears to hear' to listen to what he has to say. To the annoyance of the Pharisees and Scribes it is the so called sinners and outcasts, the undesirables that Jesus has already been seen to keep company with, that come to hear him.

Giving myself time to become still I read how Jesus challenges self-righteousness and the wrong image of God that this attitude portrays.

I prayerfully focus on the behaviour of the man and woman who have lost and subsequently found something precious to them. Have I ever experienced anything like this; can I identify with them? - - - -

I turn my attention to the Pharisees and Scribes, do I in any way share their belief that sinners, those who are lost, are to be shunned, not only by me, but by God? - - -

I take Jesus' final words into my prayer, applying them to myself and to others. I speak to Jesus about these things, telling him what consoles or troubles me. - - -

In the name of the Father...