

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

- * , Lord, as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me (*Entrance Antiphon*).
- * Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth (*Antiphon of Resp Psalm*).
- * The Lord will guard you from evil, he will guard your soul (*Resp Psalm*).
- * 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*).
- * Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love (*Communion Antiphon*).

The old Second Opening Prayer

Let us pray to the Lord who bends close to hear our prayer.
Lord our God, Father of all,
you guard us under the shadow of your wings
and search into the depths of our hearts.
Remove the blindness that cannot know you
and relieve the fear that would hide us from your sight.

**DOES THIS IMAGE
SAY
SOMETHING
TO ME
ABOUT
PRAYING
FOR JUSTICE?**



Prego Partner

Is there someone with whom it may be helpful for me to share my reflection this week?

ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM

29th Sunday of Ordinary Time
Year C
20th October 2013



Be Persistent and Patient

As I come to my place of prayer I take time to settle, become still, and focus my attention on God. I relax my body, mind and breathing, aware that each breath I take is a gift of life. I thank God who gives me this life, and I share with God those moments in the past week when I have experienced 'life'. I savour what stands out, grateful for the experiences.

Today's Gospel — and the first reading — are a challenge to trust God enough to be persistent in our prayers for justice. God is justice, and wants justice to reign among us. The second reading is an invitation to proclaim God's word by the Scripture of our lives. It may be then that God's answer to our prayers lies in the meeting point, the correlation between what we ask for and our 'becoming' what we pray for.

So—am I sensitive to injustice? Am I prepared to stick my neck out to bring about justice? To what extent do I reflect in my life the justice that I ask God to send?

I talk this over with God, and bring my prayer to a close with an Our Father.

The Collect

Almighty and ever-living God,
grant that we may always conform our will to yours
and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart.

2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14—4:2

You must keep to what you have been taught and know to be true; remember who your teachers were and how, ever since you were a child, you have known the holy scriptures - - from these you can learn the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be holy. This is how those who are dedicated to God become fully equipped and ready for any good work.

Before God and before Christ Jesus who is to be judge of the living and the dead, I put this duty to you, in the name of his Appearing and of his kingdom: proclaim the message and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it. Refute falsehood, correct error, call to obedience—but do all with patience and with the intention of teaching.

In today's Gospel, Jesus encourages us to be persistent in asking God for justice. But how do we know what to ask for? In the above reading Paul tells Timothy that he will receive all the guidance that he needs in Scriptures.

I read the passage . . .slowly . . more than once, if necessary.

- What parts stand out for me . . .words, . . phrases . . . invitations . . . challenges . . . ideas?
- I turn these over in my mind . . .'listening' to what they might be saying to me . . . identifying how I feel about them . . . And sharing my feelings with God.
- I reflect on how I 'proclaim' the word. Is my life 'Scripture' for others? What do they see of God/Jesus when they see me? What would I like them to see in me . . .and how can I help myself become the person I would like them to 'see'?
- Scripture IS the Word of God. I ask God for the gift of loving—and living—the scriptural word.

THE GOSPEL - Luke 18: 1-8

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. “There was a judge in a certain town,” he said, “who had neither fear of God nor respect for man. In the same town there was a widow who kept on coming to him and saying, ‘I want justice from you against my enemy!’ For a long time he refused, but at last he said to himself, ‘Maybe I have neither fear of God nor respect for man, but since she keeps pestering me I must give this widow her just rights, or she will persist in coming and worry me to death.’ ”

And the Lord said, “You notice what the unjust judge has to say? Now will not God see justice done to his chosen who cry to him day and night even when he delays to help them? I promise you, he will see justice done to them, and done speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth?”

Jewish judges were expected to be partial to widows, orphans and strangers, because they were vulnerable. In the above passage the judge has to be brow-beaten into acting justly on behalf of the widow, and stands in contrast to God who encourages and responds to persistent prayer for justice, even though he may appear to delay.

I read the passage slowly, imagining the widow in her persistent push for justice. How do I view her action? What might I do in her place? Do I have her conviction that persistence in the end will win the day, and do I have her determination and energy to keep going, trusting in a fruitful outcome?

What areas of injustice am I aware of in my life-situation, my world? Do I take them to God in prayer? What do I ask for when I do this? Do I keep my eyes open for 'signs' that God is answering my prayer?

I share my thoughts, feelings and concerns with God, speaking with him as one friend speaks with another.