

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

Resentment and anger, these are foul things,
and both are found with the sinner. [Ecclesiasticus - 1st Rdg]

Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you,
and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.
[Ecclesiasticus - 1st Rdg]

"The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy." [R/. to Ps 102]

And so we can pray . . .

"Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those
who trespass against us . . ."

If a man nurses anger against another,
can he then demand compassion from the Lord?
[Ecclesiasticus 27—1st Rdg]

"The life and death of each of us has its influence on others."
[Romans 14:7—2nd Reading]

Looking towards next week

**What does next week hold for me, and how do I feel God
may be calling me?**

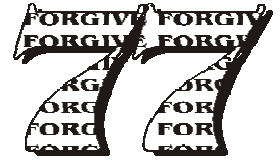
And so, what do I want to ask of God for myself & others?



SAINT BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



24th Sunday - Yr A.
11th September
2011



In today's gospel, Matthew's teaching to his Christian community
reaches its climax with Jesus' instruction on forgiveness.
We would do well to heed it as we reflect on the recent riots and
looting in some English cities, and on the continuing troubles in
Libya, Syria and other parts of the world.
Our Church should be above-all a place of forgiveness.

Opening Prayer [1st version]

Let us pray that God will keep us faithful in his service

Almighty God, our creator and guide,
may we serve you with all our heart
and know your forgiveness in our lives.

This opening prayer can help us put this Sunday's Scripture
readings into practice.

I can only forgive others and myself if I try to experience
God's forgiveness in my own life.

Without this forgiveness, I can remain bitter and often
sceptical of other people's willingness to forgive.

I may like to look back on the past week or the summer
vacation: when did I feel the faithful presence of God,
or experience his glory and power in creation?

Have there been occasions when, on reflection, I realise he was
there gently guiding me?

How do I now feel?

In what ways am I being called to serve / respond to the Lord -
to be an agent of God's forgiveness and new life for others.

I end my prayer slowly giving thanks to God.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps.103: 1-4, 9-12]

**R/. The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.**

My soul give thanks to the Lord, all my being bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings.

It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion.

His wrath will come to an end; he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults.

For as the heavens are high above the earth
So strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins.

Precisely because sin is the most shattering experience in the psalmist's life he is able to recognise the truth that God's grace is greater than our sin and God's love is stronger than his anger.

It is well worth praying this psalm very slowly.
Allow its beauty and truth to touch my heart.
Savour each phrase as and when I feel moved.

I may like to pray it *with* Jesus - aloud or in silence. Perhaps I listen to the tone of his voice, or I watch the look on his face. .

Does a particular phrase or word hold my attention? What happens? How do I feel? What do I find myself reflecting upon?

I may find myself praying for a heart-felt awareness of the enormity of God's love and forgiveness. . . .

In today's gospel, Jesus continues preaching on forgiveness. Now Peter asks him—just how forgiving must we be? Jesus' parable (perhaps coming out of the influence of this psalm) shows that our forgiveness must try to imitate the totality of God's for each of us.

This story can touch our hearts if we enter the scene:

I may be the king, or the servant, or his wife, or one of his children, or one of the other servants. . . .

Or the scene may bring to mind a situation I face today. . . .

How am I moved? What grace(s) do I find myself praying for?

The Gospel - Matthew 18: 21-25.

Then Peter went up to Jesus and said "Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?" Jesus answered "Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.

"And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt.

At this the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said, "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt.

Now as this servant he went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. 'Pay what you owe me,' he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay his debt.

His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him.

Then the master sent for him. "you wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay his debt.

And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart."