

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

Lord, be my rock of safety, the stronghold that saves me [Ent. Ant.] ... my hiding place.... [Resp. Psalm]

The human person is created to praise, reverence and serve God. [Sp. Ex. Principle and Foundation]

We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. [M. Williamson]

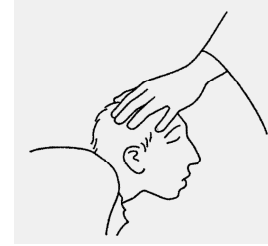
The glory of God is a human being fully alive. [St. Irenaeus]

"If you want to...you can cure me." "Of course I want to. Be cured!" [Gospel]

**What does this image say to me?**



**SAINT BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM**



6th Sunday  
in Ordinary Time,  
Year B  
12 February 2012



**Lord, be my rock of safety,  
the stronghold that saves me.**

**[Entrance Antiphon]**

I enter slowly into this time of prayer, perhaps using a simple stilling exercise to help me come to that place of inner silence where I am at home in myself and at home with God.

I reflect back on the past week, remembering its blessings and challenges and sharing with God the thoughts and feelings in my heart. In the silence I let God speak to me.

I may be drawn to ponder the wonderful images in today's Entrance Antiphon : God, "my rock of safety, the stronghold that saves me", or in the Responsorial Psalm: "You are my hiding place" I stay with the image that speaks most strongly to me, savouring it, noticing the feelings it evokes and speaking with God as I am moved.

I finish with a sign of the cross or other suitable prayer.

**The Opening Prayer or Collect**

O God, who teach us that you abide in hearts that are just and true, grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace as to become a dwelling pleasing to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ . . . .

**Second Reading: 1 Cor. 10:31 - 11:1**

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone - to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved. Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

I spend a few moments becoming still, perhaps with the help of quiet music, aware that I am in God's loving presence. I then read the text slowly, staying with words or phrases that strike me.

Perhaps I am struck by St. Paul's call to do everything "for the glory of God". What does the glory of God mean to me? I may be reminded of St. Ignatius of Loyola's emphasis also on acting always for the 'greater glory of God'. Is this something I deeply desire, something I try to live by?

I ponder a while, asking God for what I need: perhaps the grace of a deeper desire to act for God's greater glory in the concrete situations of my life, to make it the norm of my decisions, values and actions, especially my service of others.

Paul tells the Corinthians they should take him as their model, as he takes Christ as his model. Do I admire the faith that inspired Paul to speak with such conviction? I reflect with Paul and then with Jesus, about taking Paul's advice and what it might mean for my life here and now.

I end by praying slowly the words of the 'Glory be to the Father...'

**Gospel Mark: 1: 40-45**

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: "*If you want to*" he said "*you can cure me.*"

Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. "*Of course I want to!*" he said. "*Be cured!*" And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured.

Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, "Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery."

The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived.

Even so, people from all around would come to him.

I take time to be silent and still before God and then read the gospel text, perhaps a few times. Putting it aside, I enter into the scene in my imagination. (Or I may find it helpful to use the image on the reverse side of this page.)

I watch the leper approaching, notice his posture before Jesus and hear the desperation in his voice. I see Jesus respond by doing the unthinkable: touching the leper. I notice Jesus' look of compassion and the tone of his voice as he says: "Of course I want to. Be cured". I see the hand Jesus is holding, as new healthy skin starts to spread over his body and the leper is a leper no more.

How am I feeling? How does the story touch me? Perhaps I identify in some way with this man?

When he leaves, I remain there alone with Jesus, letting him look at me, feeling his love and compassion. I express what is in my heart and I wait for his words: "Of course I want to". I could end with the 'Glory be to the Father...' or other suitable prayer.