

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

"Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:  
You have the message of eternal life."  
[Gospel acclamation]

"Here I am Lord! I come to do your will." [R/. to Psalm 39]

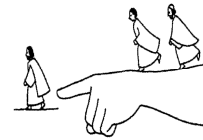
"What are you looking for?" [John 1: 38]

"You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear.  
You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here am I."  
[Psalm 39]

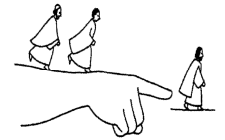
"I waited, I waited for the Lord  
And he stooped down to me; he heard my cry."  
[Psalm 39]



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



2nd Sunday  
Ordinary Time, Year B.  
January 15th, 2012



**Today's liturgy is about vocation. Each of us has a unique personal vocation: an invitation from God to be someone, to do something, for others with my life. Am I truly listening and willing to respond generously to the Lord....?**

**This is beautifully expressed in Cardinal Newman's prayer:**  
"God has created me to do him some definite service.  
He has committed some work to me  
which he has not committed to another.

I have a mission. I am a link in a chain.  
He has not created me for naught.  
I shall do his work...therefore I shall trust him.

Whatever, wherever I am, I can never be thrown away.  
If I am in sickness, my sickness will serve him,  
if I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve him.  
He does nothing in vain. He knows what he is about."

What is my image of God as I make this prayer?  
It may well help to recall Mary's example of trust in the power of God's Spirit shown in the Christmas readings of the past weeks as I offer myself to bring Christ's values into the world

**The Opening Prayer or Collect**  
Almighty, ever-living God,  
who govern all things, both in heaven and on earth,  
Mercifully hear the pleading of your people  
And bestow your peace on our times.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ . . . .

### Responsorial Psalm [Ps. 39]

R/. **Here I am Lord! I come to do your will**

I waited, I waited for the Lord  
And he stooped down to me; he heard my cry.  
He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God.

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear.  
You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here am I.

In the scroll of the book it stands written  
that I should do you will.

My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart.

Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly.  
My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord.

**The author of this psalm was experiencing hard times.**

**Patiently he turns to God, and God eventually comes to his aid.**

**How is he to respond to God's goodness?**

**Not through material offerings and rituals, BUT through the gift of himself: whatever God desires for him is his deepest desire.**

**His life then becomes a witness and proclamation of the goodness of our ever-faithful God.**

At the beginning of this new year I come before my God - perhaps eager to be even closer to him.

Maybe I invite Jesus, or Mary, or John the Baptist, or Peter to pray this psalm very slowly with me . . .

Very patiently and slowly I open my hands; with the help of the Holy Spirit I try to offer my whole being to him.

I may find myself using the response to the Psalm as a mantra.

During the week I may find that this psalm (or just a phrase from it) is a link for me between Newman's prayer of service and the Gospel's call to get in touch with my deepest desires.

Maybe my best prayer is to feel God's love for me and to wait to be given a new deeper desire to respond. . . .

### The Gospel John 1: 35-42

The next day as John (the Baptist) stood there again with two of his disciples, Jesus went past, and John stared hard at him and said, "**Look**, there is the lamb of God."

Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, "What do you **want**?" (or "What are you **looking** for?") They answered, "Rabbi", which means Teacher, "where do you **live**?"

"**Come** and **see**" he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and **stayed** with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour.

One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter.

Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, "We have **found** the Messiah", which means the Christ, and he **took** Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, "You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas" - meaning Rock.

**The movement in this gospel: John points Andrew and his companion to what gives his life meaning - Jesus.**

**Andrew and his companion are open to searching for meaning. Jesus recognises this and so invites them to *come & see*, and to "*stay*" or "*live*" with him.**

**At a deeper level, the gospel shows that - God lives in Jesus, and they live in the believer. And that the good believer lives/abides in the Father and the Son (Jesus).**

**Andrew takes Peter to Jesus who sees the potential in him.**

Taking time to slowly read and re-read this passage will be greatly rewarded. *Go* with Andrew and *stay* with Jesus.

*Open* your heart to him who *knows* my deepest desires and *longs* to help me. *Speak* to him and let him speak to you.

*Ask* for the generosity and courage to *share/offer* Christ to others who are *searching* for meaning in life.