

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

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ.

(2nd Reading)

The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all.

(Responsorial Psalm)

My thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways are not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks.

(1st Reading)

Lord, may these gifts which we now offer to show our love and our belief be pleasing to you.

(Prayer over the gifts)

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
and for others?*



SAINT BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



20th Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Yr A
18th September
2011



Life to me IS Christ

Opening Prayer [1st Version]

Let us pray that we will grow
in the love of God and of one another:

Father, guide us as you guide creation
according to your law of love.

May we love one another and come to perfection
in the eternal life prepared for us.

I try to still my body, mind and heart so that I may become aware of God's loving presence surrounding me and within me. I ponder Paul's words, 'Life to me is Christ' and pray that this truth may become increasingly the guide of my life and of all my actions.

I pray the opening prayer, making its desires my own and holding before God whatever thoughts or desires arise. I wait, as best I can, in quiet faith that God holds me in his love and I thank and praise him for his goodness and care.

I pray the prayer again, reflecting that God's love reaches out to the whole of his Creation but especially to his human creation, made in God's image and likeness. I pray that I may become more Christ-like and so grow in recognising Christ in everyone I meet. I end with the Sign of the Cross

Responsorial Psalm - Ps. 144

I will bless you day after day
and praise your name forever.
The Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts.

I pray this psalm of praise of God several times, recognising that it teaches me some of the qualities of God which he calls on us, his children, to manifest in our own lives because we are made in his image.

I remember how Jesus showed forth these qualities and slowly ponder each in turn: he is 'kind and full of compassion'; he is 'slow to anger, abounding in love'; he is 'just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds'. I ask him to teach me to grow like him.

The Gospel - Matthew 20: 1-16

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went.

Then at about the sixth....the ninth....the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too". In the evening the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first."

So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it but grumbled "The men who came last have done only one hour and you have treated them the same as us, tho' we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered... "My friend, I am not being unjust to you. Did we not agree on one denarius? ...I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first and the first last.'

On first reading this Gospel most of us probably feel it is rather unfair that they don't all get paid for the amount of work done! And this is exactly the point of the story. The Kingdom of heaven is not something we earn or deserve—it is a totally free gift of God, given not according to our 'merits', but out of God's extravagant and lavish love poured out for ALL his children. It is a lesson too, for the Disciples: they were Jesus' first followers but those of us who come later will also enter the Kingdom—even latecomers like us!!

I read the Gospel several times asking to recognise how every grace I have ever received is God's free gift. I reflect on my life. Are there times when I have failed to grasp this? Perhaps I have forgotten at times that even my good desires and actions are the fruit of God's grace. I talk with God about all of this and thank him for his great love and generosity. I pray for those who have not yet heard his invitation into his 'vineyard'.