

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

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous deeds; he has revealed to the nations his saving power, alleluia. [entrance antiphon]

God our Father, look upon **me** with love. [1st opening prayer]

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God. [2nd reading]

Trust in God still and trust in me. [the Gospel]

Whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself. [the Gospel]

*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**



5th Sunday of Easter  
Year A  
2011



**I am the Way, the Truth and the Life**

2nd Opening Prayer

Let us pray in the freedom of the sons and daughters of God.

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have revealed to the nations your saving power  
and filled all ages with the words of a new song.

Hear the echo of this hymn.  
Give us voice to sing your praise throughout this Easter season.

**In this Easter season we are enjoying the new life which has come to us through the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is compared to a new song which we can echo in our hearts.**

After reading this prayer several times, I try to remember how I felt when I last heard a new hymn, did I like it or not?

Was I ready to hear new words, a new tune, or did I cling to the old familiar ones?

I read the prayer again and reflect on the freedom I have to use my voice to praise God and tell others of my friendship with him.

I express my joy and gratitude to the Lord in my own way, in words or in song.

**May your love be upon us, O lord,  
as we place all our hope in you.**

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;  
For praise is fitting for loyal hearts.  
Give thanks to the lord upon the harp,  
With a ten stringed lute sing him songs.

For the word of the Lord is faithful  
And all his words to be trusted.  
The Lord loves justice and right  
And fills the earth with his love.

The Lord looks on those who revere him,  
On those who hope in his love,  
To rescue their souls from death,  
To keep them alive in famine.

Psalm 32

**I may come to prayer today carrying within me the worries and anxieties of everyday life, or my heart may be full of joy and gratitude. I spend a few moments reflecting on how I am feeling. I ask the Holy Spirit to guide me in my prayer.**

If it helps, I begin by saying softly or singing the response  
*May your love be upon me, O Lord,  
As I place all my hope in you.*

I do this several times until I feel really still.  
I ponder for a while the words of the psalmist.  
Which phrase especially touches me?  
Has there been a time in the past when I have been moved by these words and sentiments?  
I imagine the gaze of the Lord as I place my hope in his love. I remain still in wordless adoration.  
When it is time to close my prayer, I may want to express my thanks and praise, as the psalmist did, with music, perhaps simply humming a favourite tune or hymn, or I may prefer to take my leave quietly grateful for the moments spent together.

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father’s house; if there were not, I would have told you.

I am now going to prepare a place for you. and after I have gone and prepared you a place,

I shall return to take you with me, so that where I am, you may be with me too. You know the way to the place where I am going’.

Thomas said, "Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus said: "I am the Way; the Truth and the Life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.

If you know me, you will know my Father too.

From this moment you know him and have seen him."

Philip said, "Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied."

Jesus said to him,

“Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me?”

“To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, ‘Let us see the Father’?”

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of these work, if for no other reason.

I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, and will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father. [John 14: 1-12]

Each one has their own way of praying this text. I may be drawn to use my imagination endeavouring to 'be there' at the Last Supper, hearing Jesus speaking directly to me. Or, I may prefer to simply hear the story as St John relates it to his readers, taking time to listen intently to the richness of the text, noting the various points that Jesus stresses to his disciples.  
However I approach my prayer today, I ask myself how I am feeling. Do I, like the disciples, come with a troubled heart?  
Thomas and Philip could not fully understand the mysteries Jesus was revealing to them. Do I also have questions, what would I like to say to Jesus?  
I look again at the depth of the text, where am I most drawn to ponder at this moment in my prayer, in my life?  
I speak to Jesus, remembering his words, '  
*Trust in God still, and trust in me.'*  
When I am ready, I slowly end my prayer.