

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

Cry out with joy to God all the earth
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise. (Responsorial Psalm)

Speak out with a voice of joy; let it be heard to the ends
of the earth: The Lord has set his people free, alleluia.
(Entrance Antiphon)

May our mortal lives be crowned with the ultimate joy of
rising with him. (Opening Prayer)

I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advo-
cate to be with you forever, that Spirit of truth. (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 or oth-
ers?



SAINT BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



6th Sunday
Of Easter
Year A
29 May, 2011



**Speak out with a voice of joy; let it be heard to the ends
of the earth: The Lord has set his people free, alleluia.**
[Entrance Antiphon]

2nd Opening Prayer: (2nd Version)

Let us pray in silence, reflecting on the joy of Easter.

God our Father, maker of all, the crown of your creation was the
Son of Man, born of a woman, but without beginning;
he suffered for us but lives forever.

May our mortal lives be crowned with the ultimate joy
of rising with him, who is Lord for ever and ever.

As I begin this time of prayer, I try to become silent and still,
aware of God's presence, ready to receive all that God desires
to offer.

I read the prayer slowly, reflectively, letting the words touch
my heart and lead me to deeper appreciation of all God's gifts,
especially the gift of Jesus, the 'crown of creation'.

I am reminded of how Jesus became human, suffered and died
but now "lives forever" and I let the joy of his victory over
death, the joy of the resurrection, fill my whole being.

Finally I pray with Christians everywhere that we may so live
our lives as followers of the risen Christ that we share 'the
ultimate joy' of rising with him.

The 1st Reading — Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17

Philip went to the Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were for example unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

This reading gives a snapshot of life in the early church, telling how the gospel is spreading across the region of Samaria, the area to the north of Jerusalem, between Judea and Galilee.

I read the text slowly, pondering how the faith of the Samaritans leads to 'great rejoicing'. I speak to God about the gift of faith, what it means to me, the joy it brings to my life.

Philip proclaims Christ to the people and is believed because of the miracles he works. I may be drawn to reflect on the coherency between the faith I profess in words and the way I live my Christian life. I ask God for what I need.

The Samaritans receive the Holy Spirit at the hands of Peter and John. I thank God for the gift of the same Spirit today, remembering especially all the newly baptised and confirmed members of the church.

The Gospel - John 14: 15-21

Jesus said to his disciples: "If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you forever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in the Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him."

In imagination I place myself in the scene, as Jesus speaks these heartfelt words to his disciples. I notice the tone of his voice and the effect of his words on those present. What effect do I notice in myself as I listen?

I hear Jesus assure his friends that he will not abandon them. Perhaps I recall times when I have felt abandoned and alone. I listen again to Jesus' words and let them console and reassure me of his continued presence with me.

Jesus speaks of the intimate relationship between him and his Father, in which I am given a share. He also promises to send the Holy Spirit to be his continued presence with all who believe. As I reflect on the meaning of these truths, what response do I want to make?

I read the passage again, this time hearing Jesus' words addressed to me personally and speaking to him as to a friend.