

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

"(Lord) you are good and forgiving,
full of love for all who call to you."

[Entrance Antiphon]

"Fill our hearts with love for you, increase our faith."

[Opening Prayer]

Almighty God, every good thing comes from you

[Opening Prayer]

. . .conduct your affairs with humility,
and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts

[Ecclesiasticus - 1st Rdg]

"If anyone loves me he will keep my word,

And my Father will love me, and we shall come to him."

[Alleluia verse]

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



22nd Sunday in
Ordinary Time Year
29th August 2010



Scripture often pictures God's Kingdom, the perfect society, as
a banquet.

In the New Testament, the meals in which Christians share -
and the Eucharist is among them - are meant to be true signs
of that yet-to-be-realised banquet and Kingdom. They are oc-
casion of **joy** flowing from the belief that **our identity** lies in
being loved by God, and of **sharing** this joy unselectively.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, every good thing comes from you.

Fill our hearts with love for you, increase our faith,
and by your constant care protect the good you have given us.

= How am I feeling as I start to give time to the Lord? Eager
to pray? Tired? Anxious. . . or what?

= I tell the Lord, and ask God for what I feel I need : to be
able to praise him; to ask for a deeper faith, or whatever . . . ?

= This prayer prompts me to realise how faithful God is to me;
how he cares constantly for me, and so I may find myself re-
flecting on some of the "good things" that I now realise have
been given me today.

= I give myself time to ponder them and to give thanks to God.

= Perhaps I am moved to ask forgiveness for those times I
have lacked faith and trust in God today.

= I end my prayer giving thanks and praise to my loving God.

1st Reading - Ecclesiasticus 3: 17-18, 20, 28-29

My child, conduct your affairs with humility,
and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts.
Humble yourself the more, the greater you are,
and you will find favour with God.
What is too sublime for you, seek not,
into things beyond your strength search not.
The mind of a sage appreciates proverbs,
and an attentive ear is the joy of the wise.
Water quenches a flaming fire,
and alms atone for sins.

'Lectio Divina' encourages us to read the two texts on this page.
To reflect on a phrase which draws me. . .
To allow it to touch my heart . . .
To speak to God about whatever comes to my mind & heart

*[Ecclesiasticus links more with the first half of the gospel passage.
This psalm below refers more to the second part: to God's care for
the poor, and to those rejected and oppressed in society - a theme of
Luke's gospel]*

R/. God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

The just rejoice and exult before God; they are glad and rejoice.
Sing to God, chant praise to his name; whose name is the LORD.

The father of orphans and the defender of widows
is God in his holy dwelling.
God gives a home to the forsaken;
he leads forth prisoners to prosperity.

A bountiful rain you showered down, O God, upon your inheritance;
you restored the land when it languished; your flock settled in it;
in your goodness, O God, you provided it for the needy.

R. God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

[Psalm 68]

Gospel - Luke 14; 1, 7-14

Now it happened that on a Sabbath day he had gone to share a meal
in the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they watched him
closely.

He then told **the guests** a parable, because he had noticed how they
picked the places of honour. He said this: -

`When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take your
seat in the place of honour. A more distinguished person than you
may have been invited, and the person who invited you both may
come and say, `Give up your place to this man.' And then, to your
embarrassment, you will have to go and take the lowest place.

No; when you are a guest, make your way to the lowest place and
sit there, so that, when your host comes, he may say, `My friend,
move up higher.' Then, everyone with you at the table will see you
honoured. For everyone who raises himself up will be humbled,
and the one who humbles himself will be raised up."

Then he said to **his host**, "When you give a lunch or a dinner, do
not invite your friends or your brothers or your relations or rich
neighbours, in case they invite you back and so repay you. No;
when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the
blind; then you will be blessed, for they have no means to repay
you and so you will be repaid when the upright rise again."

How do I define status: by rank or occupation? What are the
criteria Jesus applies to others, to me?

How do I value people? Whom do I think are of worth? Whom do
I "cultivate"? Whom do I invite or exclude from my heart?

I read the story several times allowing God's Spirit to invite me
into the scene: Jesus talking to the host, to the guests, to me.

I ask God's Spirit to help me discern the values of the Kingdom
illustrated in this parable, and how they apply to the different
areas in my life.

I ask patiently for the graces of generosity and of service of
others.