

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

Open our eyes to the wonders this life sets before us,
that we may serve you free from fear
and address you as God our Father.
(2nd Opening Prayer)

What person can know the intentions of God?
Who can divine the will of the Lord?
(1st. Reading : Wisdom 9:13-18)

Make us know the shortness of life
that we may gain wisdom of heart
(Resp. .Psalm Ps.89: 12)

Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me
cannot be my disciple
(Gospel Luke 14: 25-33)

Looking towards next week

What does next week hold for me and how do I feel God
may be calling me?
So what do I want to ask of the Lord for myself or others?



ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



23rd Sunday
in Ordinary Time Yr C
5th September 2010

**Anyone who does not carry his cross
and come after me cannot be my disciple.**

Opening Prayer 2nd Version

Let us pray to our just and merciful God:
Lord our God, in you justice and mercy meet.
With unparalleled love you have saved us from death
and drawn us into the circle of your life.
Open our eyes to the wonders this life sets before us
that we may serve you free from fear and address you
as God our Father.

I take time to still my mind and heart and to become aware of
God's presence with me and in me as I begin my prayer.

I read the prayer slowly two or three times, pondering the truths it
contains. I praise and thank God for the love and life he holds out to
me personally and to all who turn to him in their need.

I think of those who suffer injustice in our world today and beg
God in his mercy to pour out his healing grace on them especially
the refugees who seek asylum out of fear for their lives.

I look at my own life-situation asking God to show me any lack of
justice or mercy in the way I treat or speak of others. If I have suf-
fered any injustice in my own life I ask to learn to forgive those
who have hurt me.

I pray the Our Father — especially the phrase “forgive us our of-
fences as we forgive those who have offended us.”

1st Reading from the book of Wisdom 9: 13-18

What human being can know the intentions of God? Who can divine the will of the Lord?

The reasonings of mortals are unsure and our intentions unstable; for a perishable body presses down the soul, and this tent of clay weighs down the mind with its many cares.

It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth, laborious to know what lies within our reach; who, then, can discover what is in the heavens?

As for your will, who could have learnt it had you not granted Wisdom and sent your holy spirit from above?

Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened and people have been taught what pleases you, and saved, by Wisdom.

This reading is part of Solomon's beautiful prayer for the gift of Wisdom so that he might govern God's people well - a prayer which God answered generously. Perhaps today we could pray specially for the Pope and the other Bishops of the Church that they may be gifted with the wisdom needed in their service of our Church and world today.

I read the passage slowly and reflectively, pondering the truths it puts before me. I think of how limited human giftedness and wisdom are in the face of the mystery of God and I ask that we, his human children, may learn to be both humble and wise.

I ask to see where in my own life I take for granted the gifts God has given me, failing to see that they are for the good of others and for God's glory, not mine!

I ask to grow in true wisdom and in humble gratitude and I praise the greatness and loving kindness of God.

The Gospel: Luke 14: 25-33

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundations and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying: "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish".

Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace.

So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

In the Gospel Jesus teaches his hearers the seriousness and cost of following him, even if it means 'hating' loved ones. (The word 'hating' here means refusing to let anyone or anything in my life come before Jesus and my love for him.)

After reading this Gospel I may feel a little uncertain about what my own discipleship asks. I talk with Jesus about this and ask him to deepen my love for him and fill me with his strength.

I ask for the wisdom to understand what following him asks of me in my life situation and for the grace to respond generously.

I give God thanks for the gift of faith and for my Baptismal call to be a disciple of Jesus and I ask to grow in love so as to follow Jesus more closely.