

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

Father, you show your almighty power
in your mercy and forgiveness. [Opening Prayer]

Continue to fill us with your gifts of love. [Opening Prayer]

It is the Lord who loves the just,
The Lord who protects the stranger. [Psalm 145]

"As a person dedicated to God, you must aim to be saintly
and religious, filled with faith and love, patient and gentle.
[2nd Rdg - 1 Timothy 6: 11]

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

26th Sun-
day in
Ordinary
Time Yr C.
September
26th, 2010



Love of riches can harden
our hearts.
"If they will not listen either
to Moses or to the prophets,
they will not be convinced
even if someone should rise
from the dead."
[Today's gospel]

Opening Prayer

Let us pray for God's forgiveness and the happiness it brings.

Father, you show your almighty power
in your mercy and forgiveness.

Continue to fill us with your gifts of love.
Help us to hurry toward the eternal life you promise
and come to share in the joys of your kingdom.

*This week you may find it helpful to come to this prayer having
first prayed and reflected on the Psalm and the Gospel - as
laid out on the next pages.*

= Slowly I allow my heart and mind to open to God's presence
with me here and now as I begin this prayer . . .

= I may wish to recall the past week: where I have experienced
and even felt God's "gifts of love" for me? Where I have been
privileged to meet his kingdom values such as love and justice,
in other people . . . ?

= Perhaps chastened by the application of the gospel to my own
life, I appeal to God's mercy and forgiveness . . .

= I allow God the time to soften my heart. I may ask for trust
that he will give me what I need to work through me this com-
ing week . . .

Psalm 145

R/. My soul, give praise to the Lord.

It is the Lord who keep faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed .
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the Lord who loves the just, the Lord who protects the stranger.

He upholds the widow and orphan
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age.

**This psalm invites me to reflect on God's everlasting
faithfulness and enormous love for everyone,
especially 'the weak' of any sort in the world.**

**I first allow this love to touch my heart, and only then
I can look at my response - in the light of today's gospel.**

The Gospel - Luke 16: 19- 31s

Jesus said to the Pharisees: "There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. And at his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even came and licked his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.

In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his bosom. So he cried out, 'Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames' Abraham replied 'remember that during your life good things came your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony'

. . The rich man replied, 'Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father's house, since I have five brothers, to give them warning so that they do not come to this place of torment too.'

'They have Moses and the prophets,' said Abraham, 'let them listen to them.' 'Ah no, father Abraham,' said the rich man, 'but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent.'

Then Abraham said to him, 'If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead.'"

**The Pharisees loved money and ridiculed Jesus
who confronted them with the division in their hearts.
Today's gospel points to the injustice which can ensue.**

*= The Rich man did not even notice Lazarus at the gate !
= Yet....as long as that poor man lay uncared for at his feet, the rich man was totally condemned for failing to be just. He did not know (care?) what love means. He did not know what a truly human society and true religion means.*

The parable is telling us that we are the rich man's five brothers. Jesus has risen from the dead, yet are we listening to the gospel?

- = I give myself time to read the text. With the help of my imagination & all my senses, I slowly enter this powerful scene.
- = I draw close to Lazarus *outside* the gate: what do I see? How do I feel . . . ? I enter *into* the rich man's house: what do I see? How do I feel . . . ?
- = I pray - "Lord, show me if my heart is hardened against any sector of society; any neighbour; member of my family or . . . ?"
- = I may pray the Our Father: 'give US this day our daily bread'