

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

Stay awake because you do not know  
when the master of the house is coming.  
(The Gospel Mark 13: 33-37)

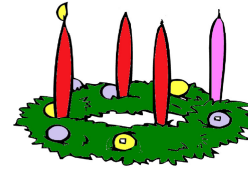


Increase our longing for Christ our Saviour ... that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming his truth..  
(Old Opening Prayer 2nd version)

O that you would tear the heavens open and come down - at your Presence the mountains would melt. (1st Reading Isaiah 63)

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.  
(Second Reading 1Corinthians 1: 3-9)

**SAINT BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM**



**1st Sunday of Advent  
Year B  
27th November 2011**

Let us pray with longing and waiting  
for the coming of our Lord.

The beautiful season of Advent invites us to grow in longing and desire for the coming of the Lord in the whole of our lives as we wait to celebrate his coming at Christmas.

Advent leads us to recognise that our hearts are made for the warmth of God's love, and that our minds stretch out to the light of his Word.

So I begin my prayer today by turning to Christ, my Saviour.

I ask him to increase and deepen my love for him.

In the celebration of his 'coming in history' at Christmas, may I be open to recognise the mystery of his constant coming into my life as I as I try to live out my faith each day.

May I prepare to meet him when he comes in glory at the end of time.

I try to still my body, mind and heart that I may be open to God's Presence.

When I am ready I read the Opening Prayer asking God to open my ear to hear what he wishes to say to me.

I notice anything which draws me to respond to him, and speak with him about what I desire.

### **Opening Prayer**

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God,  
the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ  
with righteous deeds at his coming,  
so that, gathered at his right hand,  
they may be worthy to possess the heavenly kingdom.

I pray in my own words as God moves me , or I remain quietly and peacefully in his presence, simply asking:

**COME, LORD JESUS, COME**

**2nd Reading    1 Corinthians 1: 3-9**

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ  
send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

I read the passage once or twice and begin my prayer by asking God to speak to my heart and mind and to fill me with the blessing of that grace and peace which is Paul's prayer for the Corinthians.

I reflect on the gifts of the Spirit God has given me so far and how he has deepened my faith through others - people whose goodness, love and trust have witnessed to the love and goodness of Jesus who came, and comes daily, to show his Father's unfailing love. I thank Father, Son, and Spirit for all I have received.

I ponder what it means to be 'joined to Jesus Christ' - to be one with him, to share his life, to belong to 'his Body, the Church'. I pray for the Church that she may witness more and more to God's faithful love and to the values of his Kingdom.

I read the passage again and ask that, during this Advent, I may learn to trust more deeply in God's faithfulness to his promises and wait with longing attentiveness and profound hope for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ as I journey on through life.

**The Gospel    Mark 13: 33-37**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, **stay awake**, because you never know when the time will come.

It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from his home, and left the servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to **stay awake**.

So **stay awake**, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: **Stay awake!**'

**The focus of the Gospel today is 'Stay awake!' Jesus tells us this because we do not know when or how he will 'come' to us in and through the events of our lives, the decisions we make, our joys and sorrows, the people we meet. He wants us to be ready to meet him in all these ways and to receive him as Saviour and friend so that his coming to us at the moment we die is not something to dread and fear, but something we can face as our true 'homecoming'.**

I read this Gospel, noticing what thoughts and feelings it arouses in me. I speak to Jesus as my loving friend telling him what is in my heart and asking him to come to me NOW with whatever grace I need, to grow in trusting in his love.

Trusting in God's loving kindness, I face any fears I have of what his comings may ask of me in the future and make an act of faith that Jesus' Holy Spirit will always comfort and sustain me in all his comings on my life's journey.

I end my prayer with Jesus' own prayer - Our Father ...