

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

"Let hearts rejoice who search for the Lord. Seek the Lord and his strength, seek always the face of the Lord."  
[Entrance Antiphon]

"God, be merciful to me, a sinner." [The Gospel]

"The humble man's prayer pierces the clouds"  
[1st Reading: Ecclesiasticus 35: 12-14. 16-19]

"The Lord is close to the broken-hearted" [Psalm 33]

". . . in the Lord my soul shall make its boast." [Ps. 33]

## 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



30th Sunday in Ordinary Time—  
Year C. 24th October 2010

### 1st Opening Prayer

Let us pray for the strength  
to do God's will.

Almighty and ever-living God,  
strengthen our faith, hope and love.

May we do with loving hearts what you  
ask of us and come to share  
the life you promise.

Today's readings emphasise that God loves the weak - those who admit their need of him. He promises that he will always be with us with his power if we trust him.

In union with many others throughout the world I begin my prayer desiring to be still, to listen to God, & to be open to him.

Do not rush - maybe you only have time for one phrase at the moment . . . That's O K!

*Ponder* it - what does it mean to me today?

How does it make me *feel*? - what do I *desire* now . . . ?

Now slowly from within yourself, at a level deeper than words, "*speak*" to the Lord from your heart.

Now lapse back into *silence* - delighting at being with the Lord.

Can I now say and truly mean - "may I do with a loving heart what you, Lord, are asking of me . . ." ?

I end my prayer (no matter how short it's been) giving thanks.

**The 2nd Reading [2 Timothy 4: 6-8.16-18]**

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing. The first time I had to present my defence, there was not a single witness to support me. Every one of them deserted me - may they not be held accountable for it. But the Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen

**Paul, by now is an aged prisoner in Rome. He is awaiting trial and almost certain execution. He is forsaken by many who should have stood by him. He writes this letter to his young disciple Timothy and the small group of Christians living in an alien culture many miles away in Ephesus. He is encouraging them from his own experience of the power of God's Spirit.**

- + Slowly and reverently I read this letter asking God's Spirit to make it active in my heart: the living word of God.
- + Perhaps I am in the court in Rome with Paul who is in chains . . . What happens *within* me . . . ?
- + Perhaps I am invited by Timothy to join his Ephesians Christians . . . what happens *within* me as I see their faith . . . ?
- + Perhaps I ask the Lord: "may I have the desire to be open to your invitation to me this week - to encourage and inspire others in their faith as Paul and Timothy did."
- + I end offering myself to the Lord trusting in his power working through me in my life.

**The Gospel [Luke 18: 9-14]**

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else.

'Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector.

The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, "I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get."

The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

This man, I tell you, went home at rights with God; the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted.

I settle down and slowly read the story - maybe twice. I become part of the drama . . . watching the two contrasting characters: their body-language. . . listening to the tone of their voices.

The Pharisee is justified by what he did (cf. he gave alms, etc.); he is self-centred, closed in on himself. So in a way God can't help him. He is unaware that his goodness comes from God, and not from himself.

The Tax collector is justified by who he was - his relationship with God. He has self-knowledge, so is open to God: "God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

God sees that the sinner, not Himself, is hurt by sin. So He loves and forgives him.

And who am I today. . . ?

Am I sometimes one and sometimes the other . . . ?

What do I find myself saying to the Lord - from my heart. . . ?  
As always, I try to end my prayer giving thanks to the Lord