

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

May the changing moods of the human heart...never blind me to you, source of every good. [Opening Prayer]

You love all that exists...for had you hated anything, you would not have formed it. [1st Reading]

The Lord supports all who fall and raises all who are bowed down. [Psalm 144]

"....., come down. Hurry, because I must stay at your house today." [The Gospel]

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



31st Sunday of Ordinary Time
Year C
31st October 2010

'Zacchaeus, come down. Hurry, because I must stay at your house today.'

Second Opening Prayer

Let us pray in the presence of God,
the source of every good.

Father in heaven, God of power and Lord of mercy,
from whose fullness we have received,
direct our steps in our everyday efforts.

May the changing moods of the human heart and the
limits which our failings impose on hope
never blind us to you, source of every good.

* I take time to become aware that I am in the presence of God - "*the source of every good*"

* Notice the structure of this wonderful prayer:

- A description of the God to whom I open my heart.
- A request to him - the "*source of every good*" while honestly recognising my limitations and their effects in my daily life.

- A statement and further request:

Our totally faithful God gives us peace and loves us - in and through Christ - selflessly.

What does this evoke in me - a desire, through the help of God's Spirit praying within me, to try to mirror such faith more and more in my daily life?

* I ponder - perhaps day after day - this wonderful prayer, and speak to the Lord from my heart. Then slowly I end my prayer.

Afterwards, if I have time, I reflect on my prayer.

In your sight, Lord, the whole world is like a grain of dust that tips the scales, like a drop of morning dew falling on the ground. Yet you are merciful to all, because you can do all things and overlook men's sins so that they can repent. Yes, you love all that exists, you hold nothing of what you have made in abhorrence, for had you hated anything, you would not have formed it. And how, had you not willed it, could a thing persist, how be conserved if not called forth by you? You spare all things because all things are yours, Lord, lover of life, you whose imperishable spirit is in all. Little by little, therefore, you correct those who offend you admonish and remind them of how they have sinned, so that they may abstain from evil and trust in you, Lord.

Wisdom 11:22 - 12:2

The book of Wisdom is unique in the bible. It was written around 50 B.C. by a Jew in the Greek-influenced city of Alexandria in Egypt. This passage shows God's forbearance with Jews and non-Jews alike [cf. today's gospel]; his tolerance, mercy & love of all. The author evokes in the reader a realisation of his need of a deep trust in God.

I take time to become quiet, and begin by asking God's Spirit (his Wisdom) to help me as I ponder this holy word of God that it's meaning may touch my heart.

It would be good to read the passage slowly and talk to my God - the "God of power and Lord of mercy." [cf. the Opening Prayer]

Do I eventually find myself focusing on certain phrase(s) or words? If I do, stay with them reflect on them

Do any of them remind me of an event in my past or present life?

I try to become aware of how I feel and I speak to God simply -perhaps recalling the patient and humble prayers of the widow and publican in the gospels of the past two weeks; as I bring my needs to him.

When my time of prayer is over I may like to review it.

Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the town when a man whose name was Zacchaeus made his appearance; he was one of the senior tax collectors and a wealthy man. He was anxious to see what kind of man Jesus was, but he was too short and could not see for the crowd; so he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus who was to pass that way. When Jesus reached the spot he looked up and spoke to him: 'Zacchaeus, come down.

Hurry, because I must stay at your house **today.**'

And he hurried down and welcomed him joyfully.

They all complained when they saw what was happening. 'He has gone to stay at a sinner's house,' they said.

But Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to the Lord, 'Look, sir, I am going to give half my property to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody I will pay him back four times the amount.'

And Jesus said to him, '**Today** salvation has come to this

house, because this man too is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek out and save what was lost.' [Luke 19:1-10]



As I slowly read (and maybe re-read) the passage, what do I notice?

* Is it Zacchaeus? -

Excluded from the scene as he is unable to see Jesus.

Despised: he was a tax collector in league with Roman overlords,

but so desperate to see Jesus - as I watch him cast aside his dignity, pride and any concern for the crowd's opinion of himself.

*Is it Jesus as he looks up and sees the needs of Zacchaeus' heart?

I hear with amazement Jesus say "I must stay with you **today**" ?

* Is it Zacchaeus' joy, total desire to reform and hospitality to Jesus?

Is it Jesus turning the world upside down: "this man too is a son of Abraham"? Luke is telling his readers that the Church who is Jesus' presence in the world, seeks out and is the home of sinners and those so often excluded in our society.

There is much to ponder and to share from my heart with Jesus