

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

I pray that the Kingdom of Christ may live
in my heart and come to our world.

[Opening Prayer—adapted]

(God's kingdom) is a kingdom of truth and life,
a kingdom of holiness and grace,
a kingdom of justice, love and peace.

[The Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer]

.. in him, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins.

[Colossians—2nd Reading]

when he made peace by his death on the cross.

[Colossians—2nd Reading]

Jesus,' he said, 'remember me
when you come into your kingdom.'

[Gospel - Luke 23: 42]

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



The Feast of
Christ the King
November 21st, 2010



Christ, victor over sin & death. brings a kingdom of peace into
our hearts if we open them to him as we end the Church's year.

Second Opening Prayer

Let us pray that the Kingdom of Christ may live
in our hearts and come to our world.

Father all-powerful, God of love,
you have raised our Lord Jesus Christ from death to life,
resplendent in glory as King of creation.

Open our hearts, free all the world to rejoice in his peace,
to glory in his justice, to live in his love.

Bring all people together in Jesus Christ your Son,
whose kingdom is with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever & ever.

This prayer invites me to open *my heart* to Jesus who is my
King, (or my Shepherd in the Old Testament) He is my won-
derful, always-faithful, loving friend. He is the Christ. He
is my Saviour and Redeemer from sin and death.

I pray to accept his values and so attain his peace which I
will long to give to others.

Day after day during this week I ask for the grace and help of
God's Spirit within me to draw me into a glimpse of the wonder-
ful depths of the mysteries this prayer illustrates at the end
of the Church's year.

I can start by being absolutely quiet, wordless before my Lord
... only after several minutes I may begin to savour one phrase
after another ... patiently lingering ... allowing God's Spirit to
help me realise what I am desiring & longing for from the Lord.
... I can end giving thanks and reflecting on how I now feel ...

2nd Reading - Colossians 1:11-20

[We pray for you] You will have in you the strength, based on his own glorious power, never to give in, but to bear anything joyfully, thanking the Father who has made it possible for us to join the saints and with them to inherit the light. Because that is what he has done; he has taken us out of the power of darkness and created a place for us in the kingdom of the Son that he loves, and in him, we gain our freedom, the forgiveness of our sins.

He is the image of the unseen God and the first-born of all creation, for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth:

everything visible and everything invisible,
Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers -
all things were created through him and for him.

Before anything was created, he existed, and he holds all things in unity.

Now the church is his body, he is its head.

As he is the Beginning he was first to be born from the dead, so that he should be first in every way;

because God wanted all perfection to be found in him and all things to be reconciled through him and for him, everything in heaven and everything on earth, when he made peace by his death on the cross.

> **The author marvels at God's love and power shown through the death and resurrection of Jesus: evil has been overcome - sin has been forgiven - we are destined to be with God for ever.**

> **The second part of this passage (an early Christian hymn) affirms that Christ is truly the personification of God. Through him all things can be reconciled to God.**

> I take time to become still and make that act of deep faith that God's Spirit is praying within me; this is all that matters.

> Very slowly I let myself reflect and then marvel on some of these statements about God, about Christ . . .

> I allow my heart to be touched and let feelings arise . . .

> Perhaps I then share with the Lord what I am feeling . . . then I fall back into a wondering grateful silence . . . and unhurriedly end my time of prayer giving thanks.

The Gospel - Luke 23:35-43

The people stayed there before the cross watching Jesus. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. 'He saved others,' they said, 'let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.'

The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer him vinegar they said, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.' Above him there was an inscription: 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals hanging there abused him. 'Are you not the Christ?' he said. 'Save yourself and us as well.'

But the other spoke up; and rebuked him. 'Have you no fear of God at all?' he said. 'You got the same sentence as he did, but in your case you deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong.

Jesus,' he said, 'remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 'Indeed, I promise you,' he replied, 'today you will be with me in paradise.'

> with the help of my imagination I can stay "*there before the cross watching Jesus*". . .

> I sense the atmosphere: the jeering and the taunts; the quiet crying of the women; perhaps the shocked silence of some of the onlookers . . . the concern of Jesus for his mother, and for the good thief . . .

> here is a 'King' whose throne is a cross; whose power is shown in the weakness of love, and in the strength of his compassion for others. He does not 'rule' through fear, force & oppression.

> Rather he is the 'king' who rules and leads through serving others. So, if we follow him in his kingdom-values of justice to others in this world we will be with him for ever in the next.

> I could follow St. Ignatius' suggestion of praying before the cross asking myself: in the past—what have I done for you Lord Jesus? What am I doing for you now (especially as you suffer in others?) And show me what I can do for you Lord from today onwards . . . ?