

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

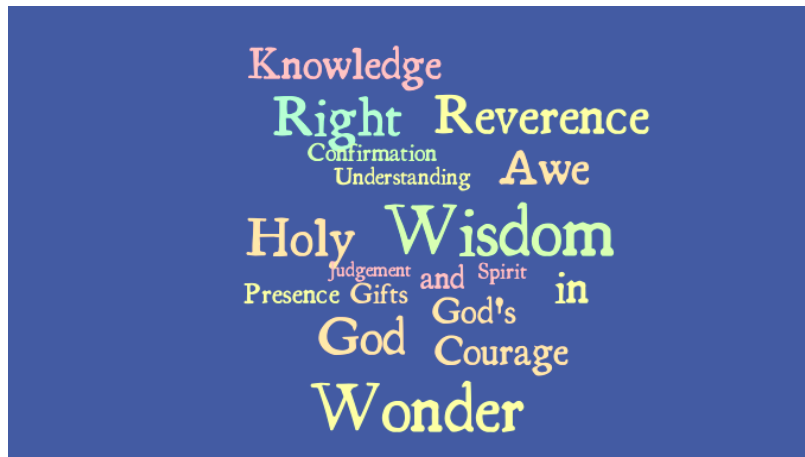
All the earth shall bow down before you, O God. *Entrance Antiphon*

The Lord takes delight in you. *First Reading*

Let us pray for the gift of peace.
Almighty and ever-present Father,
your watchful care reaches from end to end
and orders all things in such power
that even the tensions and the tragedies of sin
cannot frustrate your loving plans.

Help us to embrace your will,
give us the strength to follow your call,
so that your truth may live in our hearts
and reflect peace to those who believe in your love.
Old Opening Prayer

This week's texts if you'd like to reflect further:
Isaiah 62: 1-5; Psalm 95 (96); 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11; John: 2: 1-11



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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year C
16th January 2022

'Do whatever he tells you.'

In the **First Reading** this week, Isaiah uses the beautiful imagery of a wedding to describe the ways in which the deep love of God for his people will transform our lives. God delights in us: '*As the bridegroom rejoices in his bride so will your God rejoice in you*'.

Another wedding scene is described in today's **Gospel**. At the beginning of his public life, Jesus's love and care transform a wedding feast from disaster to joyous celebration by turning water into wine.

St Paul teaches the church in Corinth about how God works through the many different people in the church so that they (and we) can use their gifts in a variety of ways in his service, united by the one Spirit working through them all to transform the lives of others.
(**Second Reading**)

The **Psalm** invites us to praise God and to proclaim the good news of God's transforming love to all peoples.

In what ways do we need the Lord to transform our lives this week?

Opening Prayer

Almighty ever-living God,
who govern all things, both in heaven and on earth,
mercifully hear the pleading of your people
and bestow your peace on our times.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 12: 4–11

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. One may have the gift of preaching with wisdom given to them by the Spirit; another may have the gift of preaching instruction given by the same Spirit; and another the gift of faith given by the same Spirit; another again the gift of healing, through this one Spirit; one, the power of miracles; another, prophecy; another the gift of recognising spirits; another the gift of tongues, and another the ability to interpret them. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who distributes different gifts to different people just as he chooses.

I try to begin prayer slowly, allowing myself to settle into stillness in the gaze of God who loves me totally just as I am.

I notice my preoccupations and how I am feeling as I begin, offering my whole self to the Lord.

I ask the Holy Spirit to help me to pray.

As I read the scripture passage, I may like to recall the people whose gifts have helped me to know, love and serve God more faithfully. I give thanks for the variety of gifts that have supported me by working in all sorts of different ways in different people.

What gifts has the Holy Spirit given me? I take time to reflect.

I ask the Lord to show me the ways in which he has been working in me, perhaps, at times, even in the midst of great difficulties.

Is there a gift or gifts for which I might want to ask the Holy Spirit to help me, or to help others?

I share my needs with the Lord, trusting that God will always be with me.

I end my prayer with a slow *Glory be* ...

Gospel John 2: 1–11

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine'. Jesus said, 'Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews. Each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water,' and they filled them to the brim. 'Draw some out now', he told them, 'and take it to the steward.' They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from – only the servants who had drawn the water knew – the steward called the bridegroom and said, 'People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink; but you have kept the best wine till now.'

This was the first of the signs given by Jesus; it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

As I come to pray, I try to find a measure of stillness in whatever way is best for me.

When I am ready, I read the gospel story, perhaps several times, until I am familiar with the words and phrases.

Putting aside the sheet, I try to place myself in the scene. I may like to sit with Jesus as he enjoys the crowded wedding party, hearing the sound of joyful voices, smelling and tasting the wonderful food and drink on offer, seeing the happiness of the wedding couple.

What is it like to sit with Jesus at the feast?

I notice my thoughts and feelings. What would I want to say or to ask him? I take time to listen to what he may say to me.

Then I listen to the conversation as Mary speaks with Jesus. What do I notice now? I stay with Jesus, watching as he instructs the servants. Maybe I speak with the Lord about what he is doing and why.

I imagine Mary as she turns to me. 'Do whatever he tells you', she says.

What is Jesus asking of me today? What grace or help will I need?

After a time, I end my prayer, expressing gratitude to God.