

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

You will shine in the world like bright stars
because you are offering it the Word of Life

Gospel Acclamation

It is good to give you thanks, O Lord ... to proclaim your love in the
morning, and your truth in the watches of the night.

Psalm

So let us thank God for giving us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Second Reading

Let us pray that God will bring peace to the world
and freedom to this Church.

Lord, guide the course of world events
and give your Church the joy and peace of serving you in freedom.

Old Opening Prayer

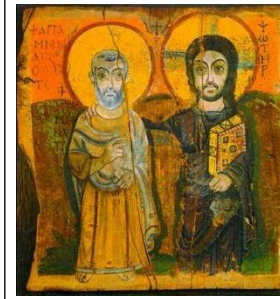
This week's texts if you want to reflect further:
Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7; Psalm 91 (92); 1 Cor. 15: 54-58; Luke 6: 39-45



Can one blind person guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit?

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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year C
27th February 2022

The disciple will imitate
their teacher

This Sunday's readings remind us that our words and actions reflect the reality of our inner selves. Even as we pray and long to live the values of Jesus, our speech may betray the ways in which we have yet to be fully converted, and show our need for God's mercy.

The **First Reading** encourages us to be discriminating in conversation with others, noticing the quality and content of another's speech before choosing to imitate them.

The **Gospel** invites us to have Jesus for our teacher and guide: '*the fully trained disciple will always be like their teacher*'. We are reminded to avoid the temptation to follow others blindly or to criticise them when our own faults are much more evident. Our lives will reflect our own purity of heart and likeness to Jesus.

Whilst this may seem a hard teaching and difficult to put into practice, St Paul tells us that we should never give up, never admit defeat, because, while we are working at the Lord's work, we can never be labouring fruitlessly. God will always give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! (**Second Reading**)

And so we can recite the **Psalm** with joy, offering praise and thanks to the Lord, who sustains those who place their trust in God. Rooted in Jesus, we will flourish like a palm tree by an oasis or a sturdy Lebanon cedar. We will proclaim the goodness of God.

Opening Prayer

Grant us, O Lord, we pray
that the course of our world
may be directed by your peaceful rule
and that your Church may rejoice,
untroubled in her devotion.

First Reading Ecclesiasticus 27: 4–7

(inclusive language version: New Jerusalem Bible)

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind,
so too the defects of a person appear in speech.
The kiln tests the work of the potter,
the test of a person is in conversation.
The orchard where the tree grows is judged by its fruit,
similarly words betray what a person feels.
Do not praise anyone who has not yet spoken,
since this is where a person is tested.

I come to my place of prayer and try to arrive at some stillness.
I remember that God our Lord is inviting me to be here, gazing on me
with an enormous love.

I note what mood I am in as I begin, bringing myself to God just as I am in
this moment of prayer.

Slowly, I read the scripture passage, one sentence at a time, while
noticing those words that have particular meaning for me.

Gently, without striving, I listen.

Perhaps I recall with joy or regret a time when my words made an
important difference to another person or situation.

I may remember with gratitude or sadness another's conversation that
was significant for me.

I share my reflections with the Lord, knowing that he understands,
inviting God to guard my heart and thoughts with peace.

Perhaps I pray that my desire to live the values of Jesus may be evident
through the content of my spoken words.

I end my prayer by thanking the Lord for being with me ...

Glory be ...

Gospel Luke 6: 39–45

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind person
guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is
not superior to the teacher; the fully trained disciple will always
be like their teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your
brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can
you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that
is in your eye", when you cannot see the plank in your own?
Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you
will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your
brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a
rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by
its own fruit; people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather
grapes from brambles. A good person draws what is good from
the store of goodness in their heart; a bad person draws what is
bad from the store of badness. For a person's words flow out of
their heart.'

Coming to my prayer, I do not rush; taking time, I allow myself to become
still in body and mind in the presence of God. I ask the Holy Spirit to help
me to pray.

I remember that, although I am a sinner, I am also uniquely loved and
already forgiven by God, whatever my prayer might reveal to me.

When I am ready, I read these familiar words slowly, perhaps several
times, noticing the phrases that seem to stand out for me. I ponder these
words, sharing my thoughts and feelings with the Lord.

By whom do I allow myself to be led? Perhaps I see circumstances where
I am like the one who cannot see and follows blindly.

I ponder my relationships with others. Maybe I try to lead others, but
need more discernment, or have a tendency to criticise.

I ask the Lord to show me what I need to see about myself.

Where in my life do I need the guidance of Jesus, my teacher, so that I
may reflect his goodness, more and more? I ask for all that I need.

After a while, I end my prayer slowly, giving thanks.

Our Father ...