

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

For thus says the Lord:

Now towards her I send flowing peace, like a river. *First Reading*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Second Reading

The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest. *Gospel*

Father, in the rising of your Son
death gives birth to new life.

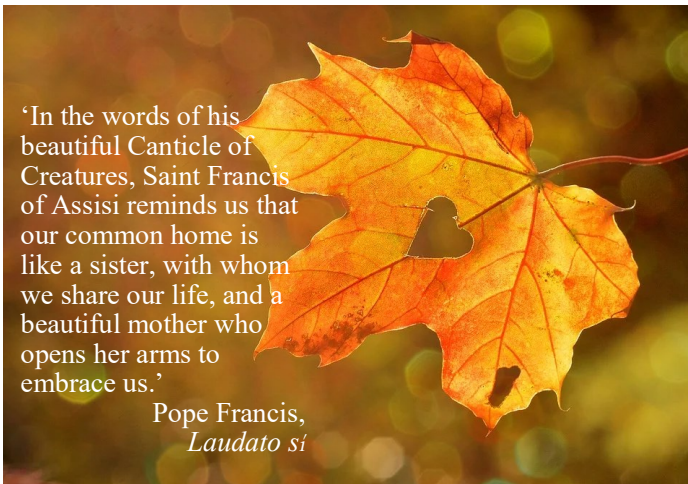
The sufferings he endured restored hope to a fallen world.
Let sin never ensnare us with empty promises of passing joy.

Make us one with you always,
so that our joy may be holy
and our love may give life.

Old Opening Prayer

This week's readings:

Isaiah 66: 10–14, Psalm 65(66), Galatians 6:14–18, Luke 10:1–12. 17–20



'In the words of his beautiful Canticle of Creatures, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister, with whom we share our life, and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.'

Pope Francis,
Laudato si

Cry out
with joy
to God
all the
earth!

Psalm

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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



Fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time
Year C, 3rd July 2022

The Kingdom of God is very near you!

We are called and sent to bring the deep peace of the kingdom of God into the world.

The prophet Isaiah (**First Reading**) proclaims a joyful time of peace that flows like a river from the healing, comforting love of God, which is compared to the intimate, tender bond between a mother and a baby.

The same spirit of contented happiness is reflected in today's **Psalm** of jubilation, where the whole earth cries out with joy to the Lord.

The members of the Early Church community in Galatia are encouraged to be at peace with one another through Christ, who makes us a new creation in him. Christ is the source of all peace and unity in the world (**Second Reading**).

In the **Gospel**, Jesus sends seventy-two of his followers ahead of him. He is confident that they will have all they need for their mission through all they have learnt from following his way. He instructs them to bring his peace and healing into the communities that they visit.

In a world that cries out more than ever for the peace of Christ, especially for the people of Ukraine, this is our calling today.

Jesus stands among us and sends us before him, to declare his peace and to heal and encourage people in the knowledge that the Kingdom of God is very near.

Let us pray that the whole Christian community will joyfully answer this call.



Opening Prayer

O God, who in the abasement of your Son
have raised up a fallen world,
fill your faithful with holy joy,
for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin
you bestow eternal gladness.

Galatians 6: 14–18

The only thing I can boast about is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. It does not matter if a person is circumcised or not; what matters is for them to become an altogether new creature. Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, who form the Israel of God.

I want no more trouble from anybody after this; the marks on my body are those of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, my brothers and sisters. Amen.

Although I approach my prayer alone, I am aware that I belong to a global community of Christians from different cultures, traditions and practices, united in our love of Christ. In awareness of this worldwide fellowship of Christ, I come to my place of prayer.

I allow my body and mind to gently slow down.

I imagine sitting in the presence of Jesus and silently praying together.

How do I feel as I sit here with the Lord?

What do I want to share with the Lord as I come to prayer today?

I tell the Lord and I wait upon him ... and I listen ...

I ask the Lord to guide me in this time of prayer. When I feel ready, I read the passage slowly and prayerfully, repeating it as many times as I need.

I ask Jesus about the cross. I share with him my moments of suffering and loss, my fears and my doubts.

I wait upon the Lord.

The writer speaks of becoming '*an altogether new creature*' – what does this mean for me? Do I feel new in Christ? Or perhaps my faith feels jaded and in need of renewal?

I share my deepest thoughts with Jesus.

Jesus hears me. I listen ... and I feel his presence near me.

I bring my prayer to a close in the way that I began, in awareness that in Christ I belong to the family of the 'Israel of God'.

*May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be in our spirit,
my brothers and sisters. Amen.*

Luke 10: 1–12.17–20 (part)

The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them out ahead of him in pairs, to all the towns and places he himself was to visit. He said to them, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest. Start off now, but remember, I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Carry no purse, no haversack, no sandals. Salute no one on the road. Whatever house you go into, let your first words be, 'Peace to this house!' And if someone of peace lives there, your peace will go and rest on them; if not, it will come back to you. Stay in the same house, taking what food and drink they have to offer, for the labourer deserves their wages; do not move from house to house, and eat what is set before you. Cure those in it who are sick, and say, 'The Kingdom of God is very near you.'

I help my mind to prepare for prayer by slowing down and settling my body first. I focus my attention on my breathing, following each in and out breath.

When I am stilled enough for prayer, I read the Gospel passage a few times until I become familiar with it. I use my imagination to picture Jesus sending out the seventy-two and giving them his guidance.

What do the followers look like?

I wonder if there is a tone of urgency ... calm confidence ... compassion ... or perhaps something else in how Jesus speaks to his followers?

What am I drawn to in the words of Jesus?

Perhaps I imagine that Jesus comes to my faith community and meets with me and my fellow followers. He is preparing and encouraging us, and wants us to go before him into the streets, neighbourhoods and areas that are familiar to us.

Jesus sends me and his followers out with nothing but ourselves. Why?

Do I feel ready to accept his call?

How do I feel about this mission he is giving to me?

I share with Jesus my fears and hopes, asking for whatever I need to be able to set out before him. I listen to what Jesus says to me.

I close my prayer by imagining praying the *Our Father* with Jesus by my side.