

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

The Word is very near to you ... in your mouth and in your heart.

*First Reading*

Seek the Lord, and your hearts will revive.

*Psalm*

Christ Jesus is the image of the unseen God.

*Second Reading*

'Do this and life is yours.'

*Gospel*

Father, let the light of your truth  
guide us to your kingdom  
through a world filled with lights contrary to your own.  
Christian is the name and the gospel we glory in.  
May your love make us what you have called us to be.

*Old Opening Prayer*

This week's texts if you want to explore further:  
Deuteronomy 30: 10–14; Ps. 68 (69); Colossians 1: 15–20; Luke 10: 25–37



Dinah Roe Kendall (b. 1923), *The Good Samaritan* (1994)

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**ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM**



Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Year C, 10th July 2022

'And who is my neighbour?'

Today's readings celebrate the nearness of the Lord to us. Created through God and for God, we are drawn ever closer by peace and reconciliation. Not only that. We are also called to become like the Lord in our service to all.

The **First Reading** commands us to love, and gives us the means to do it. The law, or word, is not beyond our reach but is as close to us as our very hearts. And the help and compassion of the Lord for the poor and needy can be seen by our service. It is through this that, hearts will revive (**Psalm**).

The **Second Reading** makes clear that all is possible by Christ and his cross. He holds everything in being from the beginning and, even now, is drawing us together in deeper unity.

Finally, the parable of the Good Samaritan (**Gospel**) gives us a concrete example of what this service, this command to love, this deeper unity without bias or prejudice, looks like.

Let's pray, this week, that we might have renewed confidence, trust, and hope in the Good Samaritan who comes close to us in our need, that we might go out so that God's desires for all people might be seen by our loving response.

We continue to pray for the peace of the world, and for all who suffer as a result of conflict and violent attack.



### Opening Prayer

O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray,  
so that they may return to the right path,  
give all who for the faith they profess are accounted Christians  
the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ  
and to strive after all that does it honour.

## Second Reading Colossians 1: 15–20

Christ Jesus 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 –  
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.

I go to my place of prayer, to entrust myself to Christ, the image of the unseen God, present to me through the Spirit. I try to settle as I pay attention to the rise and fall of my breathing. I take my time.

I read the text, slowly, pausing wherever I am feeling drawn.  
What am I noticing?

It might feel a hard text to penetrate. I might be put off by the majestic imagery, the awkward language. If so, it might help to think of God, not as the creator of all that exists, but as the creator of me. Yes, God creates all, but also chooses, desires, to create me. How do I feel about that?

I may be feeling drawn to the words *'unity'* and *'reconciliation'*.  
Is this something I feel I need to work at – something that is dependent upon me?

I ponder the text again – it is God's work: he holds all things in unity... all things are reconciled through him. Again, I pause with this thought.  
What am I noticing within myself?

I remain with Christ, the image of the unseen God, who is as near to me as my own heart. I end my prayer by speaking to him from that heart.

## Gospel Luke 10: 25–37

There was a lawyer who, to disconcert Jesus, stood up and said to him, 'Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the Law? What do you read there?' He replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.' 'You have answered right', said Jesus. 'Do this and life is yours.'

But the man was anxious to justify himself and said to Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied, 'A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of brigands; they took all he had and then made off, leaving him half dead. Now a priest happened to be travelling down the same road, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. In the same way a Levite who came to the place saw him and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion when he saw him. He went up and bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He then lifted him on to his own mount, carried him to the inn and looked after him. Next day, he took out two denarii and handed them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and on my way back I will make good any extra expense you have'. 'Which of these three, do you think, proved himself a neighbour to the man who fell into the brigands' hands?' 'The one who took pity on him,' he replied. Jesus said to him, 'Go, and do the same yourself.'

I move slowly into this time of prayer. This text is very familiar but there may be a word or phrase that is speaking to me differently just now. I take my time, pausing often.

In time, I might like to ask myself these questions. I ponder them very slowly, pausing to speak to the Lord honestly about anything that is arising.  
He who first spoke this parable is with me now.

Who is my neighbour? Is it easier to 'serve' those who are far away than those who are much nearer?

Have there been situations or occasions when I have sought to 'justify myself'? How do I serve without bias or prejudice?

Can I recall times when I have felt in the care of a good Samaritan?  
In what ways have I been a good Samaritan to another?

I stay in the company of the One who is, and forever will be, a Good Samaritan to me. When ready, I end with a slow sign of the cross.