

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

Now I know there is no God in all the earth except in Israel!

First Reading

He has remembered his truth and his love.

Psalm

We may be unfaithful but he is always faithful. *Second Reading*

One of them turned back ... threw himself at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. *Gospel*

Lord, our help and guide,
make your love the foundation of our lives.

May our love for you express itself
in our eagerness to do good for others.

Old Opening Prayer

This week's readings:

2 Kings 5: 14–17; Psalm 97 (98); 2 Timothy 2: 8–13; Luke 17: 11–19



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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



Twenty-eighth Sunday of
Ordinary Time, Year C
9th October 2022

Sing a new song
to the Lord!

The scripture readings this week highlight the importance of gratitude. It is shown to be that perfect response to the Lord's constant goodness to us. Whatever cleansing we are seeking or hardships we are bearing (**First Reading**), the Lord has been, is, and will work for our good.

He will do this on our behalf through his right hand and holy arm (**Psalm**).

And however wavering our own stance to God might be, God is always faithful to us (**Second Reading**).

For St Ignatius, ingratitude was 'the most abominable of all sins' and in the **Gospel** we see it is the 'foreigner' – a Samaritan – who turns back to give thanks for his healing. Jesus appreciates this and encourages him in his faith, something the other nine miss.

This coming week, I might quietly reflect upon the ways my gratitude can be seen to be simply an echo of grace – my response to what God has already given.

We continue to pray for the peace of the world, and for all who suffer.



Opening Prayer

May your grace, O Lord, we pray,
at all times go before us and follow after
and make us always determined to carry out good works.

Psalm 97 (98)

R./ Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders.

Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation.

The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord, all the earth,
ring out your joy.

Naaman the leper (in today's First Reading) goes down to immerse himself in the river, while the Samaritan in the Gospel turns back to throw himself at Jesus's feet. As I begin this time of prayer, how might I become immersed in the goodness of God, in the life of the Holy Spirit?

I spend some minutes becoming still at the Lord's feet.

After a while, I read the psalm slowly. I may like to repeat it, or may simply pause after each line, to allow the words to deepen in me.

What am I noticing? How am I feeling?

Where do I feel drawn to linger?

Is the psalm, in some way, connecting to my life at present?

I adopt a position of prayerful gratitude.

I look back over my day, my week, the past year, even my life ...
for what am I truly grateful?

In what ways have I had a sense of the Lord working wonders for me?

How am I blessed?

Now, how have I been a blessing for others?

How is the Lord's justice, truth and love revealed to others through me?

I ponder these questions with an open heart, then end, *Glory be* ...

Luke 17: 11–19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered one of the villages, ten lepers came to meet him. They stood some way off and called to him, "Jesus! Master! Take pity on us."

When he saw them he said, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." Now as they were going away they were cleansed. Finding himself cured, one of them turned back praising God at the top of his voice, and threw himself at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan. This made Jesus say, "Were not all ten made clean? The other nine, where are they? It seems that no one has come back to give praise to God, except this foreigner." And he said to the man, "Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you."

I spend some moments entering, once again, the stillness that is being offered to me through this time of prayer.

I might like to pray this text imaginatively. I ask for the help of the Holy Spirit. Then, I read the gospel and 'enter it' with my mind's eye.

I see what is happening and hear what is being said: the reactions of the crowd, the desperation of the lepers, the 'pity' of Jesus.

What am I noticing?

What is it like for the ten to live as outcasts, on the edges of the villages, along the borders of places? Then, to be accepted by Jesus and caught up in the moments of being healed?

I watch the Samaritan move off with the other nine, then return joyfully to Jesus to give thanks. Before, he stood a long way off; now, he can throw himself at Jesus's feet.

And how does Jesus feel to be remembered in that moment?

I reflect on my own spiritual life. What is my own experience of the compassion and mercy of God? Do I really perceive all life as coming from God's goodness? Do I praise God only in joyful moments? Can I also be grateful even in the midst of suffering?

I remain at the Lord's feet for some time, listening to what he might be saying about my faith.

I end with a sign of the cross.