

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

Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God. *Second Reading*

'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' *Psalm*

'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass me by.  
Nevertheless, let it be as you, not I would have it.' *Gospel*

Let us pray for a closer union with Christ during this holy season.

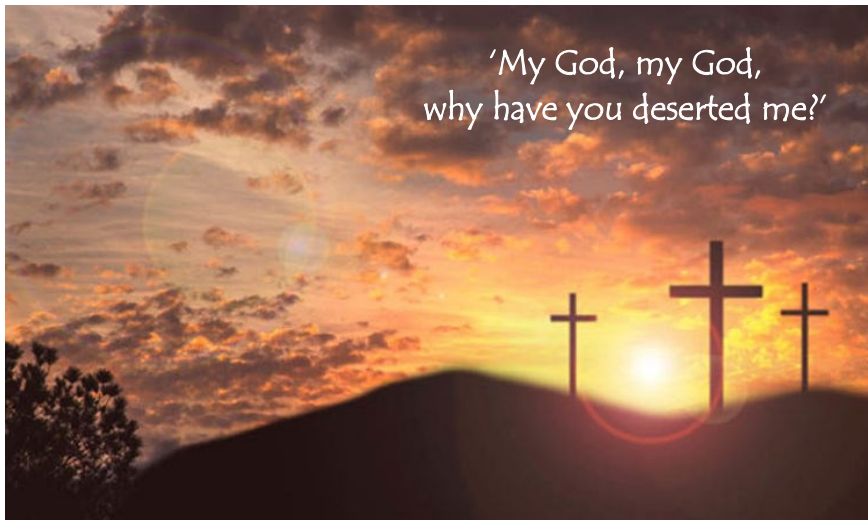
Almighty ever-living God, you have given the human race  
Jesus Christ our Saviour as a model of humility.

He fulfilled your will by becoming man  
and giving his life on the cross.

Help us to bear witness to you  
by following his example of suffering  
and make us worthy to share in his resurrection.

*Old Opening Prayer*

This week's texts if you want to reflect further:  
Isaiah 50: 4-7; Ps. 21 (22); Philippians 2: 6-11; Matthew 26: 14 - 27: 66



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



Palm Sunday of the Passion of our Lord  
Year A, 2nd April 2023

Praise to you, O Christ,  
King of eternal glory!

As we begin Holy Week, our readings take us from the joy and Hosannas of Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem to a profound contemplation of his suffering and death.

In the **First Reading** from Isaiah we meet the suffering servant: the disciple who suffers without offering resistance, but is supported by God so that he can bring life to others.

The **Psalm** will accompany us through the week, as well as being quoted by Matthew in our Gospel. It foreshadows Jesus's sufferings but also hints at his future glory.

The **Second Reading** is a wonderful hymn which underlines Jesus's divinity, but also his obedience and suffering before his exaltation and glory.

In the **Gospel** we hear the Passion narrative of St Matthew, in which Jesus is betrayed, mocked, denied, accused and crucified. His body is laid in the tomb, and a guard is placed to secure it.

This week, may we follow Christ in his Passion, holding each other, and our suffering and tortured world, in prayer. May Mary be with us in this journey and help us understand the value of following the example of her Son.



### Opening Prayer

Almighty, ever-living God,  
who as an example of humility for the human race to follow  
caused our Saviour to take flesh and submit to the Cross,  
graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering  
and so merit a share in his Resurrection.

### First Reading Isaiah 58: 7–10

The Lord God has given me  
a disciple's tongue.  
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied,  
he provides me with speech.  
Each morning he wakes me to hear,  
to listen like a disciple.  
The Lord God has opened my ear.  
For my part, I made no resistance,  
neither did I turn away.  
I offered my back to those who struck me,  
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;  
I did not cover my face  
against insult and spittle.  
The Lord God comes to my help,  
so that I am untouched by the insults.  
So, too, I set my face like flint;  
I know I shall not be shamed.

I come to my place of prayer. I take time to relax, to breathe gently and offer this time to the Lord.

I may pray for the grace to enter into the mystery of the Passion of our Lord, to be present to him and to deepen my compassion.

When I'm ready, I read the passage slowly a couple of times.

As I read this prophetic text, can I relate the words to Jesus's Passion?

What strikes me or touches me particularly?

How does it make me feel?

I speak to the Lord, or maybe just remain with him without words.

Perhaps my own suffering or humiliation rises in my prayer and I can bring this before the Lord.

Or maybe I consider all those suffering today, all over the world, in so many different ways. Can I see Jesus suffering in them and pray this passage for them all, that he may come to their help?

I ask the Lord to be with me too during this Holy Week.

I close my prayer thanking the Lord for this time with him.

### Gospel Matthew 27 (part)

When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him. Above his head was placed the charge against him. It read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews'. At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said, 'So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!' The chief priests, with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way, saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of the Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, 'I am the son of God'.' Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli Lama sabachthani?'. That is, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said, 'Wait! See if Elijah will come to save him'. But Jesus, again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked: the rocks were split: the tombs opened. Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said, 'In truth this was a son of God.'

I take the time to settle to pray, perhaps before a cross or crucifix.

I ask the Spirit to be with me as I prepare to contemplate Jesus's Passion.

There is so much even in this excerpt of the Gospel. I choose the part that has touched me. Why has it done so? I sit in silence before my Lord.

When I am ready, I speak to him of what is in my heart.

Perhaps I ask him for the grace to follow him more closely during this sacred week. I finish with a slow, reverent sign of the cross.