

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

Behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your hearts. *Entrance Antiphon*

It is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment. *Second Reading*

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. *Gospel*

Let us pray in Advent time
for the coming Saviour to teach us wisdom.

Father in heaven,
the day draws near when the glory of your Son
will make radiant the night of the waiting world.
May the lure of greed not impede us from the joy
which moves the hearts of those who seek him.
May the darkness not blind us to the vision of wisdom
which fills the minds of those who find him.

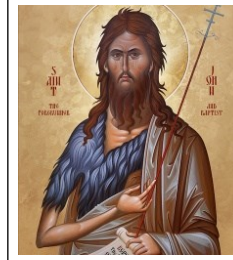
Old Opening Prayer

This week's texts if you want to reflect further
Baruch 5: 1-9; Psalm 126 (127); Philippians 1: 4-6, 8-11; Luke 3: 1-6



If you'd like to receive Prego by email each week, sign up at
www.stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com

ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



Second Sunday of Advent
Year C, 8th December 2024

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight'

Today we celebrate the many great deeds God has worked for us, as he shares with us his mercy and bountiful love. For our part, we are called to repentance of heart and to live a life of love.

Using poetic language, the **First Reading** offers a prophetic message of joy and hope. The saving presence of God brings about the transformation of his broken-hearted people, and the restoration of Jerusalem.

The **Gospel** speaks of a still more glorious restoration. John the Baptist, herald of Jesus, appears, calling us to turn again to God. John announces that all humanity is to see 'the salvation of God', anticipating the preaching of the gospel to all nations.

St Paul, in the **Second Reading**, is writing to the Philippians: a church for which he has deep affection. He encourages the new community to continue to grow in love and knowledge of Christ Jesus, so as to enable them to live even better, more fruitful lives.

The **Psalmist** remembers the joy of deliverance from exile. He begs that God will act again to bring fertility and abundance to his people.

During this season of Advent, we seek the true meaning of repentance in preparation for the coming of Jesus. We pray to leave aside anything that might hinder and blind us to God's love, and to become even more open to a deepening, faith-filled relationship with the Lord.



Opening Prayer

Almighty and merciful God,
may no earthly undertaking hinder those
who set out in haste to meet your Son,
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom
gain us admittance to his company.

Second Reading Philippians 1: 4–6, 8–11

Brothers and sisters:
I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all, making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

I take time to prepare for my prayer, pausing from the busyness of life.
I ask the Holy Spirit to renew my awareness of God's life-giving presence about me and within me. As I inhale, I breathe in divine love.
As I exhale, I breathe out that love through my whole body and out into the world.

When I am ready, I read St Paul's affectionate, personal letter a couple of times, perhaps aloud as it might have been delivered to the Philippians.
I may like to pray today for the '*knowledge and all discernment*' Paul mentions.

I notice Paul's joy as he remembers the '*partnership in the gospel*' of this Christian community. I reflect on this as I examine my own life.

Do I truly believe that the Lord longs for my active partnership to undertake the '*good work*' begun in me?

Does he need me to offer my gifts, my attention and my affection?

How can I allow his goodness, truth and beauty to come into the world?

I ponder, and speak with the Lord.

Like Paul, I entrust myself to the bountiful '*affection of Christ Jesus*', and pray for any healing I may long for.

As I end my prayer, I ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit that my love for God and for others might '*abound more and more ... to the glory and praise of God.*' *Our Father ...*

Gospel Luke 3: 1–6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall become straight,
and the rough places shall become level ways,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

As I slow down in my own way, I allow the Lord's gaze to fall on me ...
to become conscious of its active, healing, restorative power.

What do I long for today?

I allow myself to be fully 'seen' and vulnerable, asking for a sense of homecoming and belonging within God's divine gaze. I wait in quiet.

Once I feel ready, I read this familiar gospel a couple of times. I notice where I am drawn. I meditate and reflect ...

'The word of God came to John in the wilderness.'

Maybe I can find little pockets of 'wilderness' this Advent, where the humble, quiet voice of God can speak to me?

Or perhaps I notice some inner resistance to this invitation?

Again I reflect and ponder, and speak to the Lord.

I may experience a growing need for repentance: to leave aside anything that might prevent me from hearing '*the word of God*' in my daily life.

I pray to open myself to something new and wonderful this Advent: the arrival of God in the person of his Son.

I sit quietly for the remainder of my prayer time, aware of the Lord's loving gaze on me. *Glory be ...*