

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

O Lord, you have been our refuge from generation to generation.

*Psalm*

'Who can discern what the Lord wills?'

*First Reading*

Whoever does not bear their own cross and come after me  
cannot be my disciple.

*Gospel*

God our Father,  
you redeem us and make us your children in Christ.  
Look upon us, give us true freedom  
and bring us to the inheritance you promised.

*Old Opening Prayer*

This week's texts if you want to reflect further:  
Wisdom 9: 13-18; Psalm 89 (90); Philemon 9-10.12-17; Luke 14: 25-33

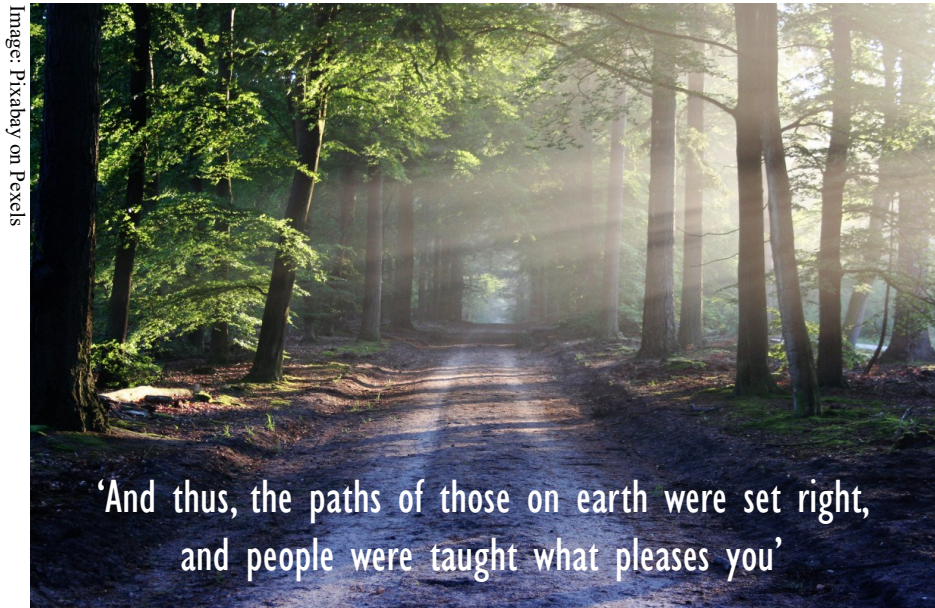


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**ST. BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM**



PREGO LEAFLET

**Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Year C, 7th September 2025**

True discipleship

The readings this week are all about allowing God's love to guide every aspect of our lives. By turning to God for guidance, he will always keep us on the right path.

The **First Reading** shows the gulf between God's ways and the ways of the world. We are reminded of the importance of staying connected to God's will and wisdom, and encouraged that this will be revealed to us through the Holy Spirit.

The **Psalm** reminds us that the natural order of the world holds both beauty and disorder, death and renewal. In the same spirit, no matter what our faults and failings, God is infinitely patient, and forever inviting us to return to him. His mercy and love will endure.

St Paul writes to his close friend, Philemon, in the **Second Reading**. Paul's heartfelt appeal on behalf of Philemon's runaway slave, Onesimus, reveals the new order of the Christian mission: that all are equal in the eyes of God.

In the **Gospel**, Jesus highlights to his followers that the path of the Lord is not without suffering or sacrifice. It requires patience and courage, and an ability to put God's love above all things.

As **Pilgrims of Hope** in this Jubilee year, we are reminded that God is full of mercy and compassion. May this week's readings inspire and encourage us to take responsibility for understanding, upholding and sharing our Christian mission.



### Opening Prayer

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption,  
look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters,  
that those who believe in Christ  
may receive true freedom  
and an everlasting inheritance.

### First Reading Wisdom 9: 13–18

What human being can learn the counsel of God?  
Or who can discern what the Lord wills?  
For the reasoning of mortals is worthless,  
and our designs are likely to fail,  
for a perishable body weighs down the soul,  
and this earthly tent burdens the mind full of thoughts.  
We can hardly guess at what is on earth,  
and what is at hand we find with labour;  
but who has traced out what is in the heavens?  
Who has learned your counsel,  
unless you have given wisdom  
and sent your holy spirit from on high?  
And thus, the paths of those on earth were set right,  
and people were taught what pleases you.

I take time to find a place of quiet, and gradually become aware of the Lord. I read the passage slowly, perhaps a few times, and allow the words to sink in. I notice any phrases or words that stand out.

I consider what I do when I am in need of support or advice. Perhaps a particular instance comes to mind when I have struggled to know what to do for the best. Perhaps I tend to allow my thoughts to take over ... or to dwell excessively on certain things? Are there things I am struggling to let go of?

Without judgment of myself or others, I sit quietly with the Lord for as long as I need, to allow his peace and wisdom to enter my heart.

I ponder the different ways in which the Holy Spirit reveals God's wisdom to me. There may be a trusted friend or loved one whose advice is particularly encouraging and helpful. I thank the Lord for them, and take a moment to reflect on how I can learn from their example in the way that I offer support to others.

I talk to the Lord about how I might turn to him more readily, and be truly open to his counsel in all that I say and do. I spend some time sharing whatever comes to mind, knowing that he is listening with unwavering attention and unconditional love.

I end with a prayer of gratitude, knowing that God always makes himself available to me. All I need to do is turn to see him.

### Gospel Luke 14: 25–33

At that time: Great crowds accompanied Jesus, and he turned and said to them, 'If anyone comes to me and does not hate their own father and mother, and wife and children, and brothers and sisters, yes, and even their own life, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear their own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.'

For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, "This man began to build and was not able to finish."

Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that they have, cannot be my disciple.'

I come to my place of prayer, and slowly allow myself to become still. Then I turn to the text. I might want to place myself in the scene, perhaps as part of the great crowds following Jesus. I imagine the excitement and intensity of the situation. Perhaps I am trying to get Jesus's attention, or stand out above the rest? Perhaps I am happy simply to follow the crowd and observe?

How do I react to Jesus's words? It might help to replace the word 'hate' with the alternative words 'forsake' or 'love ... less'. I spend time reflecting on what it means for me to respond to Jesus's call to love God above all things, even those relationships, possessions, positions and values that are very dear to me.

I consider who and what guides my decisions and reactions. Do I have a tendency to defer to the opinions and values of others, rather than truly discerning what God is calling me to do? Perhaps there are times when I am impulsive or reactive?

I talk to the Lord openly about whatever rises to the surface. Slowly, I reflect on how and when I might more actively take a breath, 'sit down', and listen to what God wants of me when I respond to particular situations.

When I am ready, I end my prayer with an '*Our Father...*'