

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

Beloved; see what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God.

First Reading

Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, says the Lord, and I will give you rest.

Gospel Acclamation

Blessed are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. *Gospel*

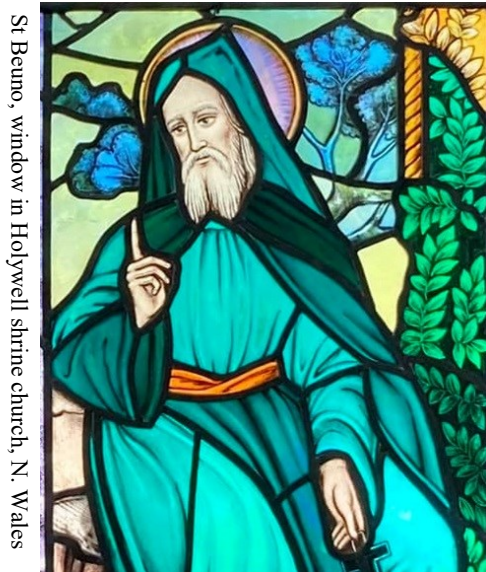
God our Father, source of all holiness,
the work of your hands is manifest in your saints,
the beauty of your truth is reflected in their faith.

May we who aspire to have a part in their joy
be filled with the Spirit that blessed their lives,
so that having shared their faith on earth
we may also know their peace in your kingdom.

Old Opening Prayer

This week's texts if you'd like to reflect further:

Revelation 7: 2–4.9–14; Psalm 23 (24); 1 John 3: 1–3; Matthew 5: 1–12a



St Beuno, window in Holywell shrine church, N. Wales

'Blessed are the
pure in heart,
for they shall
see God'

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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



PREGO LEAFLET

The Feast of All Saints
Year C, 2nd November 2025

'Beloved ...'

Today's feast day is a commemoration of all those women and men whose lives were centred on the Gospel. Their example can inspire us to live like them, rooted always in God's love.

The **First Reading** describes part of St John's vision of a heavenly realm, where people from every age, nation, tribe and culture are united as one in constant joyful praise of God.

The **Psalmist** sings of a world full of the presence of God. He encourages us to seek the Lord so that we receive God's abundant blessings.

Our **Second Reading** is a joyful, encouraging letter of love to the early Christian Church. They (and us now) are addressed as 'Beloved'. We are reminded of our true nature as God's children. The writer counsels that the 'world' may not recognise this, but this is indeed our reality. This is our faith, and we are called to transform the world by leading lives centred on Gospel values, as did all the saints that we celebrate today.

The **Gospel** is Matthew's version of the Beatitudes. Jesus teaches powerful, courageous – and possibly costly – Gospel values. If we choose to live by them, we can begin to realise the kingdom of God on earth.

On this feast, we can take encouragement from knowing that we belong to an eternal community of saints. With them, let us pray as **Pilgrims of Hope** for all those who are persecuted for expressing their faith in the Gospel.



Opening Prayer

Almighty ever-living God, by whose gift
we venerate in one celebration the merits of all the Saints,
bestow on us we pray, through the prayers of so many intercessors,
an abundance of the reconciliation with you
for which we earnestly long.

Second Reading 1 John 3: 1–3

Beloved: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies themselves as he is pure.

As I come to prayer, I keep this feast of All Saints in mind. Perhaps it may help me to imagine praying with a saintly figure who has always inspired me. Whatever Gospel values or compassionate acts I admire in them, I ask the Lord for the grace to follow their example.

I then invite my mind and body to become still before the Lord in the way that I find most helpful.

When I feel settled, I slowly read this epistle attributed to St John. I read it as often as I need, and notice which words or phrases draw my attention.

I ponder why this is.

Perhaps I focus for a while on that one word, '*Beloved*'.

What does it feel like to be addressed in such an intimate way?

I then imagine God gazing upon me, and hear God addressing me as '*Beloved*'. How do I feel now? How do I want to respond to God's love for me?

I am addressed here as one of 'God's children'. What would it be like to see the world with eyes of wonder, like an innocent child?

Fr Daniel O' Leary once said that God's imagination enflames the world, and is always waiting to be discovered, hiding everywhere and in everyone. He tells us that children often have this imagination in abundance – and can also more readily believe that they are lovable.

Am I able to feel this 'lovableness' in myself? If I struggle with that, I ponder what obstacles prevent me from seeing myself as God sees me.

As a 'child of God', I consider whether I am ever curious and playful in prayer like a child.

Or am I always serious and very grown up about it all?

What would it be like to imagine playing with God, with his loving gaze always upon me ... '*Beloved*' to '*Beloved*'? I speak to the Lord about this.

In time, I bring my prayer to a close by making a slow, prayerful sign of the cross.

Gospel Matthew 5: 1–12a

At that time: Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.

I prepare to pray with the Beatitudes – or perhaps '*Be-attitudes*' – by inviting my body, my mind, my soul to *Be Still ... Be Silent ... Be Present ...* to simply *Be Me*.

As I come before the Lord now, I become aware of the flame of God within me that calls me '*Be-loved*'.

Slowly, prayerfully, and conscious of God's love for me, I read the Gospel as many times as I need. Where is my spirit drawn as I read?

Perhaps I imagine sitting down with Jesus on a mountain. Why a mountain, I wonder?

As I sit, I listen deeply with my whole being, so that I do not simply hear his words, but am moved by his presence and his desire to teach.

Which Beatitude(s) (again, perhaps, '*Be-attitudes*'?) resonate(s) with me today?

Turning to Jesus, I share my deepest desires and concerns with him.

I listen to his response.

I make each Beatitude a form of prayer in itself.

I pray for the poor in spirit ... the bereaved ... for people with gentle courage tirelessly working for peace and justice ... for those who face persecution ... for those who dedicate their lives to the Gospel.

Perhaps I, too, have experienced humiliation or hostility because of my faith. Knowing that Jesus understands how this felt, once more I turn to him for consolation and guidance.

When I am ready to end my prayer, with Jesus we pray together, *Our Father ...*