

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

'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant ...
I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach
to the end of the earth.'

First Reading

I delight to do your will, O my God.

Psalm

Pour on me, O Lord, the Spirit of your love.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray to our Father for the gift of peace.

Father of heaven and earth, hear our prayers,
and show us the way to peace in the world.

Old Opening Prayer

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

Isaiah 49: 3, 5–6; Psalm 39 (40); 1 Corinthians 1. 1–3; John 1: 29–34.



'Behold
the Lamb of God,
Behold him
who takes away
the sin of
the world.'

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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



PREGO LEAFLET

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A, 18th January 2026

John bore witness:

'I saw the Spirit descend from heaven
like a dove'.

The main events of Christmastide are now behind us, and until Lent, we follow the Sundays of 'Ordinary Time'. This Second Sunday in Ordinary Time returns to the event of Jesus's baptism.

In the **Gospel**, John the Baptist recognises in Jesus the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. John bears witness that Jesus truly is the Son of God.

In the **First Reading**, the Prophet Isaiah speaks of the Servant, whom Christians have long identified with Jesus. He will be a light for the nations, so that salvation can reach the end of the earth.

The **Psalmist** gives thanks for the help he has received. He delights in doing God's will, offering his skills of listening and speaking to those around him.

Paul, in the **Second Reading**, greets the young Church in Corinth with grace and peace from God.

This week, we might reflect on the witness that we ourselves give as Christians, and determine to listen to those around us with an 'open ear'. We also pray for salvation and peace to reach everyone throughout the world.



Opening Prayer

Almighty ever-living God, who govern all things,
both in heaven and on earth,
mercifully hear the pleading of your people
and bestow your peace on our times.

Psalm 39 (40)

R./ Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will.

I waited, I waited for the Lord,
and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.

You delight not in sacrifice and offering,
but in an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and sin offering.
Then I said, 'Behold, I have come.'

In the scroll of the book it stands written of me:
'I delight to do your will, O my God;
your instruction lies deep within me.'

Your uprightness I have proclaimed in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord.

Why am I here today, attempting to pray? Perhaps because I want to spend some quality time with the Lord ... or because I feel I 'should' ... or perhaps for some other reason? Yet what matters to the Lord is that I *am* here.

So maybe like the psalmist, all I need to do is to 'wait for the Lord', quietly, humbly. After a while, when I have managed to reach some inner calm, I slowly read the psalm itself.

Maybe I am very familiar with these verses and can bring to mind the very first time I read them. What impact did they have on me then?

Perhaps I was with someone who helped me see beyond the written words? I recall any such moments and give thanks.

I may be able to remember times in my life when the Lord 'heard my cry'. What was it like? How do I feel about it now?

The psalmist tells us that God does not delight in 'sacrifice and offering'. As I realise the Lord is not asking me to do the impossible, what is my reaction? Relief, encouragement, delight, gratitude ...?

Maybe I decide to use my ears and lips for the Lord's greater glory.

In time, I conclude my prayer with the response:
'Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will.'

Gospel John 1: 29–34

At that time: John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me." I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptising with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John bore witness: 'I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptise with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptises with the Holy Spirit." And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.'

Before reading the Gospel text, I take a few moments to come to quiet. I probably know what works best for me: focusing on the flame of a candle, looking at a cross, taking a few deep breaths, or closing my eyes are all tried and tested ways to become still.

In time, I read the text, possibly several times. Many phrases may be very familiar. I stop and ponder. When have I heard them before?

I relive those moments. What do they mean to me now?

I consider 'the sin of the world'. What does sin mean today? Violence, aggression, greed, loneliness, selfishness ...?

I speak to the Lord about these issues.

John the Baptist twice claims not to 'know' the Lord. Do I know him? I ponder. Maybe I am struck by the resolute way John bears witness, fearlessly recounting the coming of the Spirit at Jesus's baptism, declaring him to be the Son of God. Perhaps I reflect on how I feel when I hear people today openly witnessing to their religious beliefs.

How far do I myself 'bear witness' in my everyday life?

I may recall a time when I was put in a situation where I needed to state clearly what my beliefs were. What happened? How did I feel?

How do people know that I am a Christian? Maybe my 'witnessing' occurs in small deeds rather than in grand declarations?

Once again, I share with the Lord from my heart.

When the time comes to finish my prayer, I reflect:

What have been the main insights in today's prayer? What has been good, enlightening, encouraging? What have I found difficult?

I thank the Lord for being with me. *Glory be ...*