

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

Great is the wisdom of the Lord. *First Reading*

Open my eyes, that I may see the wonders of your law. *Psalms*

For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. *Gospel*

God our Father,
you have promised to remain for ever
with those who do what is just and right.
Help us to live in your presence.

Old Opening Prayer

This week's texts if you'd like to reflect further:
Sirach 15: 15–20; Ps. 119; 1 Cor. 2: 6–10; Matthew 5: 17–37



Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord!

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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



PREGO LEAFLET

**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A, 15th February 2026**

Lead me, guide me
for the sake of your name.

This Sunday, our readings invite us to consider God's laws and true wisdom. Our attitude may depend on whether we respond to God's law of love, or see it only as a legal imposition.

In the **First Reading**, Ben Sirach underlines how God has given us loving guidelines, but it is entirely up to us as to how we respond. God has also given us the gift of free will.

The **Psalmist** praises God's law: we will experience happiness as we seek God and follow in his ways.

St Paul (**Second Reading**) points out that true wisdom comes from God. Only the Spirit of God can reach the depths of all things.

St Matthew, in the **Gospel**, describes the relationship between the Law of Moses and the more radical vision of Jesus. Jesus has not come to abolish the Law but to complete it.

During this week, as we strive, with God's grace, to follow his law, may we be inspired by the example of so many who surround us.



Opening Prayer

O God, who teach us
that you abide in hearts that are just and true,
grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace
as to become a dwelling pleasing to you.

First Reading Sirach 15: 15–20

If you desire, you will keep the commandments,
and to act faithfully is a matter of choice.
He has placed before you fire and water:
stretch out your hand for whichever you wish.
Life and death are in front of people,
and whichever one chooses will be given to him.
For great is the wisdom of the Lord;
he is mighty in power and sees everything;
his eyes are on those who fear him,
and he knows a person's every deed.
He has not commanded anyone to be ungodly,
and he has not given anyone permission to sin.

I come to my place of prayer. I relax my body and mind in the stillness of God's presence. I offer him this time and ask for his Spirit to pray within me.

I read the text carefully, once or twice.

I note the stark contrasts: fire and water, life and death, good or evil.

The reading offers a challenge: to choose, but also to follow my decision with faithful action. How do I react to this?

Are my choices always life-giving?

What part does responsibility play, and the acceptance of consequences?

God loves me. In his infinite wisdom, God sees me and knows my every need, but he also wishes me to act, to cooperate with him.

I speak to him. What do I ask for?

Maybe the gift of discernment ... wisdom ... integrity ... or ...?

As I draw my prayer to a close, I ponder the ways that God has led me, and the graces he has given that have allowed me to cooperate with him.

I end my prayer in a spirit of thankfulness.

Gospel Matthew 5: 17–37 (shorter form)

Jesus said to his disciples, 'I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

'You have heard that it was said to those of old, "You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgement."
But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgement.

'You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery."
But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

'Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, "You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn."
But I say to you: Do not take an oath at all. Let what you say be simply "Yes" or "No"; anything more than this comes from evil.'

As I prepare to pray, I take the time to come into the Lord's presence.
I slow my breath, conscious of breathing in God's goodness and love.
I put aside other concerns and rest in his presence.

When I am ready, I read the text a couple of times.
I may like to place myself in the crowd, listening as Jesus teaches.
What strikes me in his words or attitude?

Maybe I am sometimes like the scribes or Pharisees, practising my religion externally. How can I deepen my observance? Or how has Jesus's teaching changed my motivations?

Jesus gives examples from the Law of Moses and takes each one to another level. In what way can I apply this to my life, to my experience?

Jesus's law is a Law of Love. He is not adding to my burden. I can turn to him and speak from my heart. Perhaps I express my need of his Spirit to help me follow his way.

I end my prayer with gratitude for those he has sent me to give me support and example.