

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

I sought the Lord and he answered me. *Psalm*

The Lord stood by me and strengthened me. *Second Reading*

'You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.' *Gospel Acclamation*

God our Father, today you give us the joy
of celebrating the feast of the apostles Peter and Paul.
Through them your Church first received the faith.
Keep us true to their teaching.

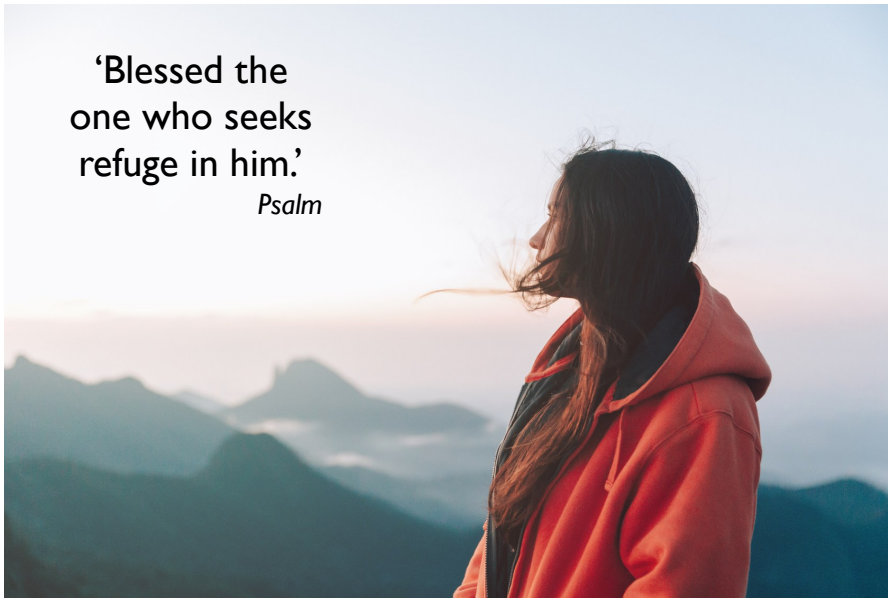
Old Opening Prayer

This week's readings:

Acts 12: 1–11; Ps. 33 (34); 2 Tim. 4: 6–8; 17–18; Matthew 16: 13–19

'Blessed the
one who seeks
refuge in him.'

Psalm



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



PREGO LEAFLET

Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles
Year A, 28th June 2026

'Who do you say that I am?'

Today we celebrate the lives of the apostles, Saints Peter and Paul. Their transformation from deeply flawed human beings into faithful followers of Christ offers us inspiration to follow their example.

In the **First Reading**, Peter is consoled and rescued from prison by an angel. Despite persecution, he remains faithful to Christ.

The **Psalm** is a joyful celebration of one who has had their prayer answered. We can imagine Peter praying it during his time in captivity.

In the **Second Reading**, we find Paul reflecting back on the trials he has faced since becoming a Christian. He assures us that Christ will comfort and strengthen all those who call upon him. Paul's determination to spread the Gospel message is why we are here today, praying together as a community built on a foundation of God's love.

The origins of our Church are described in today's **Gospel**. Simon recognises Jesus as 'Christ the Son of the Living God', and receives the title 'Rock', upon which God's church will be built. As living stones of the Body of Christ ourselves, we pray to be inspired by this continuous outpouring of love that springs forth from Peter's declaration of faith 2,000 years ago, and enthused to reach out to others by the example of Paul.

Just as our lives are forever united and sustained within the Body of Christ with Peter the rock, Paul the evangelist and all the Saints, let us pray for a spirit of unity and love within all the expressions of Church in the world today. May all who face persecution for their faith be strengthened in the knowledge of this unity.



Opening Prayer

O God, who on the Solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul
give us the noble and holy joy of this day,
grant, we pray, that your Church may in all things
follow the teaching of those through whom she received
the beginnings of right religion.

Second Reading 2 Timothy 4: 6–8, 17–18

Beloved: I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

The Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

God is present in this moment, lovingly waiting for me.

In prayerful response to such great love, I warmly invite my mind and body to settle into stillness and silence before God.

I read the text a few times, very slowly and prayerfully.

Where is the Spirit inviting me to focus this time of prayer?

Paul writes about his faith, using metaphors of fighting, racing and winning. Has my faith journey ever felt like this?

Maybe there have been times when I can relate to his experience. I ponder this.

Or perhaps it has been very different for me?

If I were to write to a close friend about my faith, what images, metaphors or events would I wish to share with them?

What would be the most important message of the Gospel that I would want to tell them about?

What opportunities is the Spirit giving me to share my faith?

Looking back over my life, where have I noticed the Lord standing by me, walking alongside me, strengthening me?

I spend a few moments in recollection.

Maybe I imagine the Lord sitting with me now, praying and encouraging me. In his presence, I share simple words of gratitude, and together we say 'Our Father ...'

Gospel Matthew 16: 13–19

At that time: When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.'

Once more, I slowly become still in the presence of God who lovingly sustains me in every moment of my life. I read the Gospel through twice.

I note where my attention has been drawn. With curiosity I ponder: what am I being invited to pay attention to in my prayer today?

I use my imagination to enter more deeply into this Gospel scene. I draw on all my senses to enrich my awareness of Jesus's relationship with his disciples, as I place myself amongst them.

I hear Jesus asking questions about his true nature. I listen to the response of the disciples, and of Simon Peter.

Now Jesus looks at me, and says: '[*my name,*] who do you say that I am?' I offer my reply. I listen.

What do I tell others about who Jesus is?

Jesus names Peter as a rock, despite knowing the flaws of his humanity: his weakness; his struggles to be faithful.

I ponder what it would be like for me to embody the qualities of a rock-like presence, rooted deeply in the reality of 'Christ the Son of the Living God', who gave his life for us.

Perhaps I imagine going about each moment of my day in this way: greeting people, listening, and being present to others, always securely grounded in Christ. How does this feel?

Once more looking at Jesus, I share with him all that has arisen during my time of prayer, and I end my prayer with words of gratitude.