

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

Give your servant an understanding mind ...
that I may discern between good and evil.

First Reading

The unfolding of your word gives light, and understanding. *Psalm*

The Kingdom of Heaven is the opposite of the superfluous things that the world offers; it is the opposite of a dull life: it is a treasure that renews life every day and leads it to expand towards wider horizons.

Pope Francis (Angelus, 26 July 2020)

God our Father, open our eyes to see your hand at work
in the splendour of creation, in the beauty of human life.

Touched by your hand our world is holy.

Help us to cherish the gifts that surround us,
to share your blessings with our brothers and sisters,
and to experience the joy of life in your presence.

Old Opening Prayer

This week's texts if you want to reflect further:

1 Kings 3: 5, 7–12; Ps. 118 (119); Romans 8: 28–30; Matthew 13: 44–52

'The kingdom of heaven is like
treasure hidden in a field ...'

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

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, 26th July 2026

'The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant ...
who, on finding one pearl of great value,
went and sold all that he had and bought it.'

The readings for this Sunday invite us to think about what we truly value. They show the importance of wisdom, encouraging us to trust God's plan, and to value the kingdom of heaven above all else.

Solomon responds humbly when, in a dream, God asks him, 'what shall I give you?' Solomon seeks an 'understanding mind ... to discern between good and evil in governing God's people'. Putting others' needs before his own pleases God, who gifts Solomon with wisdom. (**First Reading**)

The **Gospel** also talks about choosing what is most important. Jesus tells two parables describing the value of the kingdom of heaven. We hear how coming across treasure brings someone great joy, while finding the one pearl of great price impels a merchant to buy and keep it.

The **Psalmist** describes God's word as more important than the finest gold: it is true treasure, offering lasting wisdom, comfort and delight.

St Paul (**Second Reading**) assures us that God already has a plan in place for all who love God. Even when life is difficult, God is guiding and shaping us to be like Jesus.

This week, we pray to live each day with the wisdom to know what truly matters, and to let go of anything that holds us back. 'Lord, help us to share the joy of following you, wherever and however we can.'



Opening Prayer

O God, protector of those who hope in you,
without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy,
bestow in abundance your mercy upon us
and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide,
we may use the good things that pass
in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure.

First Reading 1 Kings 3: 5-6a, 7-12

In those days: The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, ‘Ask what I shall give you.’ And Solomon said, ‘O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?’

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, ‘Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life, or riches, or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.’

As I settle into my prayer, I gently place myself before the Lord. I can trust that he is always with me, loving me unconditionally, exactly as I am. I invite the Holy Spirit, the breath of life, to guide my prayer, and to open my heart to whatever God may wish to show me.

I turn to the text. What am I noticing? What especially draws me? Perhaps it is Solomon’s concern for the people rather than for himself ... or his humility and desire to serve ... or his openness...? Or perhaps I am moved by the Lord’s gift of wisdom?

I may like to imagine myself in the young Solomon’s place, being told by the Lord, ‘Ask what you would like me to give you.’ I ponder what is going on in my life just now. How will I answer the Lord? What do I most want to have, or to be? What matters most?

Perhaps there’s a decision I need to make. I tell the Lord about it, alongside my hopes and desires, my concerns and needs. I listen to what he may be saying, confident that he knows what is best for me.

When ready, I bring my prayer slowly to a close, expressing my gratitude for all that I have already received.

Glory be to the Father ...

Gospel Matthew 13: 44-46 (part)

At that time: Jesus said to the crowd: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and covered up. Then in their joy, they go and sell all that they have and buy that field.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.’

Making sure I’m comfortable yet attentive, again I settle into stillness.

In time, I read the passage slowly and carefully, at least twice.

I ponder any word, line or image that particularly stands out for me.

What is its significance? How is it speaking to me?

Maybe I picture myself in the crowd, listening to Jesus. What do I notice about the tone of his voice ... the expression on his face?

How do I feel as Jesus describes the kingdom of heaven?

Perhaps joyful, nervous, challenged ...?

In the first parable, the treasure seems to have been stumbled upon, whereas in the second, the pearl has been hard sought.

Maybe I sense the joy of finding and recognising the treasure, no matter how long it may have taken.

I reflect on what knowing and loving Jesus, the true treasure, means to me. I ponder the riches he offers.

Perhaps there is something I’m clinging on to that I need to let go of so that I can follow him more closely?

I pause for a few moments, thanking God for my faith: this sheer gift, given through God’s boundless love for me.

I ponder how I can try to make the values of Jesus my own ... in my life, my community, the world. In what way can I share these values with others?

How am I being challenged to be a better disciple?

Knowing that I can be totally honest with Jesus, and speaking from my heart, I ask for whatever I need.

I end by thanking God for this time of prayer.

Our Father ...