

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

O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'

Psalm

You shall love your neighbour as yourself.

Second Reading

Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.

Gospel

Lord our God,
in you justice and mercy meet.

With unparalleled love you have saved us from death
and drawn us into the circle of your life.

Open our eyes to the wonders this life sets before us,
that we may serve you free from fear
and address you as God our Father.

Old Opening Prayer

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

Ezekiel 33: 7-9; Psalm 95 (94); Romans 13: 8-10; Matthew 18: 15-20



'Where two
or three are
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my name,
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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



PREGO LEAFLET

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A, 6th September 2026

'Love each other'

This Sunday's readings encourage us to listen to the Lord at all times, and to listen to our neighbour and to our communities too. This will sometimes ask for tough love in our relationships with each other.

In our **First Reading**, the prophet Ezekiel is called to be a watchman and stresses the obligation for us to challenge evil when we meet it.

The theme of listening which runs through our readings is clear in the **Psalm**: 'O that today you would listen to his voice. Harden not your hearts'.

St Paul reminds us in the **Second Reading** that love covers every commandment. We are called to love our neighbour as ourselves.

In our **Gospel**, we perhaps see the young Church striving to keep the values of Jesus, putting the demands of mutual love above the necessity for structures. Jesus promises to be with us and is active in our decisions and in everything that we do.

'Love does no wrong to a neighbour' says St Paul. We can remember these words as we celebrate this Season of Creation, and pray to work with others for the good of all.



Opening Prayer

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption,
look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters,
that those who believe in Christ
may receive true freedom
and an everlasting inheritance.

Second Reading Romans 13: 8–10

Brothers and Sisters: Owe no one anything, except to love each other. For the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet’, and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself’. Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

As I prepare to pray, I consider how I feel today. What graces do I ask for as I think of this? I then centre my thoughts on God, breathing in his loving presence.

I read St Paul’s words carefully. He is proclaiming some of the central teaching of our faith, repeating Jesus’s words to his disciples.

The commandments he quotes come straight from God’s words to Moses. How do I receive them today? Do I think of the law in terms of my love for others? I ponder these words.

I think of Jesus teaching these values to his disciples. How did he show this in his life and actions?

Do I see love of my neighbour as a painful duty ... or a debt – or can I act and pray with eagerness, as a disciple of Jesus? I speak to the Lord about this, especially of those occasions where I experience difficulty and need his help.

‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’

How do I accept these words?

What does loving myself mean to me?

Can I compare it to God’s love for me?

And does it imply the same thing as loving my neighbour?

Does it help if I consider God’s infinite love for my neighbour?

I speak to the Lord of this, and ask the Holy Spirit to show me how to truly love.

I listen. Perhaps I am shown how my love can expand.

I close my prayer thanking the Lord for his great love.

Gospel Matthew 18: 15–20

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, ‘If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.’

‘Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them.’

As I come to pray, I take the time to remember that I am in God’s presence. I thank him for this time of prayer. I breathe slowly, aware that the Lord holds me in his love.

I imagine Jesus sitting with his disciples. This is a precious time when he is teaching them, giving them guidelines for moments of difficulty between brothers and sisters, and of conflict in the community.

I read the text slowly a couple of times.

As I ponder these words, what do I want to say to the Lord? Is there something in my life, in my relationships, that I wish to examine with him?

I speak of this and I listen.

Perhaps I feel the need to involve someone else? To whom do I turn for wisdom where I can avoid criticism or mere gossip? I speak of this too with the Lord, asking him to guide me.

Have I, in turn, been approached for help? In what ways can I work with others to build up community?

Maybe I turn in gratitude to the Lord for my community – for the times I have received strength from others, from community in prayer.

I end my prayer with a slow and prayerful ‘Our Father’.