

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

When a wicked person turns away from the wickedness they have committed and does what is just and right, they shall save their life.

First Reading

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit.

Second Reading

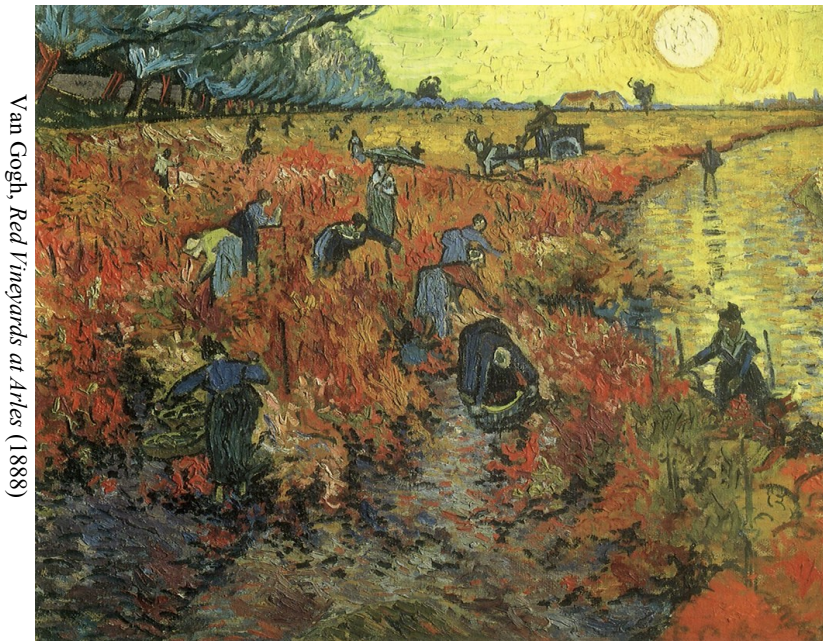
Let us pray for God's forgiveness and for the happiness it brings:

Father, you show your almighty power
in your mercy and forgiveness.

Continue to fill us with your gifts of love.
Help us to hurry toward the eternal life you promise
and come to share in the joys of your kingdom.

Old Opening Prayer

This week's texts if you'd like to reflect further:
Ezekiel 18:25–28; Ps. 25 (24); Philippians 2:1–11; Matthew 21:28–32.



Van Gogh, *Red Vineyards at Arles* (1888)

'Go and work in the vineyard today'

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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM

PREGO LEAFLET

**Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A, 27th September 2026**

*'True Humility
is not thinking
less of yourself;
it is thinking of
yourself less.'*
C. S. Lewis

**'In humility count others more
significant than yourselves'**

Second Reading

The readings this week invite us to reflect on where we put our energies, and remind us that we can only serve our own, deep needs by responding to God's call to love and serve others.

In the **First Reading** the prophet, Ezekiel, tells us that we will only ever experience the fullness of life if we reject wickedness and pursue what is right and just.

The **Psalm** offers words of great encouragement, reminding us of God's constant guidance and salvation for those humble enough to receive it. We are reassured of his mercy and compassion, should we stray from his path.

The **Second Reading** continues in the same vein, inviting us to reject selfish ambition and pride in favour of humility, sympathy and generosity towards others.

In the **Gospel**, Jesus uses the familiar parable of the two sons to illustrate the difference between mere words and concrete action. He emphasises how status, power and religion mean nothing unless they are used in ways that serve others in God's love.

This week, may we remain mindful of how we might respond to God's call to live a full and meaningful life through service and kindness to others.



Opening Prayer

O God, who manifest your almighty power
above all by pardoning and showing your mercy,
bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us
and make those hastening to attain your promises
heirs to the treasures of heaven.

Second Reading Philippians 2: 1–11

Brothers and Sisters:
If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy; complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to their own interests, but also to the interests of others.

I reach a place of quiet, and sit with this short extract from the reading for a while. I might want to imagine receiving this as a personal message addressed directly to me from St Paul, perhaps as a text or email. As I read, it might feel more personal to replace 'Brothers and Sisters' with my own name.

I take a moment to ponder how St Paul's words reflect my own feelings at the moment: where do I feel *encouragement*, *comfort*, *affection* or *sympathy*? I may be conscious that I lack these in some areas of my life.

I stay with whatever situations or people rise to the surface and take time to share them with the Lord, who knows and loves me through and through.

How readily do I respond to the invitation to be '*in full accord and of one mind*'? There may be a relationship or issue that challenges me in this respect.

Gently and with honesty, I open up to the Lord about any ways in which I may be putting my own interests before the interests of others; about how my words and actions might be creating division rather than promoting unity.

What does it mean for me to *count others as more significant than myself*? Perhaps I feel challenged, or even angered by this. I talk to the Lord, and then listen to him, as the model of humility, about how my thinking and behaviour can better reflect and reconcile love for him, love for myself and love for others.

I bring my prayer to a close by slowly saying and taking into my heart the words of the '*Our Father*'.

Gospel Matthew 21: 28–32

At that time: Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." And he answered, "I will not", but afterwards he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, "I go, sir", but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterwards change your minds and believe him.'

When I have become still, I read the gospel slowly. I become aware of the vineyards in which God may be calling me to do his work today: in my family, my community, my work, the Church, or other places.

I spend some time in conversation with the Lord about where I tend to put my energies; how my everyday actions and priorities respond to his call.

Perhaps there are areas in which I am like the first son, who is reticent or unwilling to say 'yes'. I reflect on what might be driving that response: fear?; cynicism?; cost?; tiredness?; uncertainty?; anger?; or other priorities?

I share these reasons openly with the Lord. Then, in quiet, for as long as I need, I listen to his response.

Mindful of the second son, I confront situations in which I have failed to live up to my own commitments, responsibilities or promises.

Confident in God's tender love and forgiveness, I reflect on how this has impacted on others and on myself.

Where might God be encouraging me to shift and respond more generously to his invitation to serve him by serving those around me?

I turn to the actions of others, giving thanks for those who have supported and helped me, often in quiet unexpected ways. I pray that others, particularly those in positions of authority, carry out their obligations in a spirit of generosity, love, justice and care.

I end with a prayer that the Lord may inspire in me the necessary change, in mind and heart, to serve him more faithfully and humbly this week.