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

Let my prayer come into your presence: Incline your ear to my cry for help.
Entrance Antiphon

Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her. *First Reading*

O God, you are my God, at dawn I seek you.
On you I muse through the watches of the night ...
In the shadow of your wings I rejoice. *Psalm*

Almighty Father, strong is your justice and great is your mercy.
Protect us in the burdens and challenges of life.
Shield our minds from the distortion of pride
and enfold our desire with the beauty of truth.
Old Opening Prayer

This week's texts if you want to reflect further:
Wisdom 6: 12–16; Psalm 62 (63); 1 Thessalonians 4: 13–18; Matthew 25: 1–13



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Behold, the bridegroom is here!

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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



PREGO LEAFLET

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, 8th November 2026

Behold the Bridegroom!

As we come to the end of the liturgical year, the readings are increasingly concerned with the end of time and the Second Coming of the Lord.

In the **First Reading**, Wisdom is personified as an attractive lady, who seeks to comfort and support those who love and seek her. She prepares us for the virgins in the Gospel who are looking out for the bridegroom.

Continuing the theme of watching, the **Psalmist's** main ambition is to find God. He will certainly be ready when the Lord comes.

Using apocalyptic language, Paul reminds the Thessalonians that whether dead or alive, the Lord will be with them, so they can comfort one another. (**Second Reading**)

In the well known parable of the wise and foolish virgins, Matthew reminds his audience that the Lord will eventually come, but that we must not only exercise patience, but also be ready at all times to welcome him. (**Gospel**)

This week, we might pray particularly for all those who will be unprepared when the Lord comes, whether because they don't know him, or because they have given up waiting.

Opening Prayer

Almighty and merciful God,
graciously keep from us all adversity,
so that, unhindered in mind and body alike,
we may pursue in freedom of heart
the things that are yours.

Psalm 62 (63)

R./ My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God whom I seek;
for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts
like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.

Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary
to see your power and your glory,
for your kindness is a greater good than life;
my lips shall glorify you.

Thus will I bless you while I live;
lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name.
As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied,
and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you.

Iwill remember you upon my couch,
and through the night-watches I will meditate on you:
you are my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.

I come to quiet by gently handing over to the Lord my worries and anxieties, trusting that he will look after them.

I then slowly read the Psalm several times. Perhaps I focus on different elements that strike me as I read.

For example, I may notice the places where the psalmist prays: the sanctuary ... at night in bed. I pause. Where do I usually speak with the Lord?
Why is that? I ponder.

I may be struck by the references to the body: movements, eyes, lips, hands, mouth. What about me? I reflect on my own movements when I pray.

Perhaps I notice the way the Psalmist addresses God, the tone of his voice.
What does it tell me about their relationship?

I pause; maybe I am drawn to compare it with my own.

This may be the time when I want to share with the Lord what has come to the surface as I read this Psalm. I spend a few moments listening to what he says to me.

As I conclude my prayer, I thank him for the precious time we have spent together.

Gospel Matthew 25: 1–13

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.' While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

After taking time to set down anything that troubles me at the moment, I slowly read the Gospel text several times.

I try to visualise the scene, the characters; their words and actions. I may not have time to focus on more than one element now, but can return to the text later.

The story revolves around being prepared, waiting and bringing light.
Perhaps I focus on these notions as they occur in my own life.
How much do I like to be ready, prepared for all eventualities?

There may have been instances in my life when it was important for me to have everything planned. I recall those times.
How did I react towards those who weren't ready? I share with the Lord.

The young girls await the coming of the bridegroom.
I ponder. What will have been in their mind? If I had been in their shoes, what would I have done?

How do I behave when I await an important event? Am I very quiet, or rather do I need to chat? Do I withdraw within myself or anxiously pace about?
What does that tell me?

I may be struck by the contrast of the darkness of the night and the light of the lamps to welcome the bridegroom, the Lord.

If I can, I resolve to be a light for others around me, helping them to wait for the Lord, whether they are prepared or not.

Thank you Lord, for being with me today and everyday.