

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

If it seems to come slow, wait for it; it will surely come;  
it will not delay.

*First Reading*

O that today you would listen to his voice!

*Psalm*

'Increase our faith!'

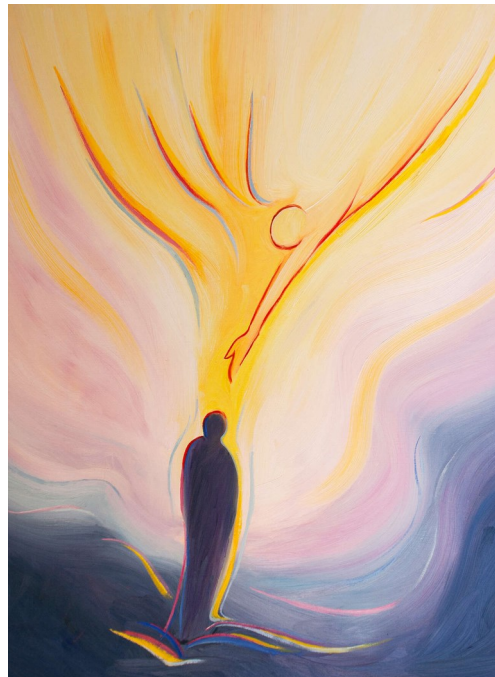
*Gospel*

Almighty and eternal God, Father of the world to come,  
your goodness is beyond what our spirit can touch  
and your strength is more than the mind can bear.

Lead us to seek beyond our reach  
and give us the courage to stand before your truth.

*Old Opening Prayer*

This week's texts if you want to reflect further:  
Habak. 1: 2-3; 2: 2-4; Ps. 94 (95); 2 Tim.1: 6-8,13-14; Luke 17: 5-10



For God gave us a  
spirit not of fear,  
but of power and love  
and self-control

2 Timothy 17

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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM

## PREGO LEAFLET



Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Year C, 5th October 2025

'Fan into flame the gift of God'

This Sunday, our readings lead us to consider the gift of faith, to ponder our trust in a faithful God, and to ask for the strength to offer humble service.

In the **First Reading** the prophet Habakkuk complains loudly to God that he does not help in the face of tyranny and oppression. The Lord's reply is to wait faithfully, for justice will come.

The **Psalm** is a song of praise and worship, but also encourages us to listen to the Lord, to be open to God today.

The **Second Reading** warns Timothy never to be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord. He has been given the gift of the Spirit, which he must continually enliven, relying on God's power in times of trial.

The disciples, in the **Gospel**, ask the Lord, 'Increase our faith'. Jesus responds with the parable of the mustard seed, and then follows on with another about self-forgetfulness and service of others. A life of faith is one that liberates us to follow the voice of the Spirit.

As **Pilgrims of Hope** in this Jubilee Year, we pray for the end of all forms of slavery and trafficking in our world. May governments collaborate in their efforts to fight against it, and may victims find freedom and rehabilitation in compassionate communities.



## Opening Prayer

Almighty ever-living God,  
who in the abundance of your kindness  
surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat you,  
pour out your mercy upon us to pardon what conscience dreads  
and to give what prayer does not dare to ask.

## Second Reading 1 Timothy 1: 6–8, 13–14

**B**eloved: I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear, but of power, and love and self-control. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God. Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

As I settle to pray, I ask the Lord to help me slow down, to be aware of his presence within me. I may sit before a lit candle.

I read the passage a couple of times.

This is Paul (or someone writing in his style), in prison, encouraging his friend Timothy. When do I feel the need of support?

When, where, or with whom can I find it? I speak to the Lord about this.

Maybe some phrases of the reading remain with me.

Why do I think that I respond to them?

When have I felt that God has given me ‘a spirit ... of power, and love, and self-control?’ I think of an example, however small.

How can remembering this in times of fear or timidity help me, or make me stronger in my faith and actions?

I am reminded to be more aware of the gifts of the Spirit, to fan them into flame. What particular gift do I feel I have received? I ponder what this may mean in my life today.

The writer also points to Christ and his suffering for the Gospel ‘in faith and love’.

I may wish to thank the Lord for his unconditional love for me, shown in his Passion and death.

I ask him to strengthen all those suffering in the world.

I end my prayer thanking God for all the good gifts he has entrusted to me.

## Gospel Luke 17: 5–10

**A**t that time: The apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith!’ And the Lord said, ‘If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, “Be uprooted and planted in the sea”, and it would obey you.

‘Will any one of you who has a servant ploughing or keeping sheep, say to him when he has come in from the fields, “Come at once and recline at table”? Will he not rather say to him, “Prepare supper for me, and dress properly and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterwards you will eat and drink”? Does he thank the servant because he did what he was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, “We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.”’

As I prepare to pray, I take a couple of deep breaths, taking the time to become conscious that I am in God’s presence and asking the Spirit to help me pray.

When I’m ready, I take up the text and read it slowly a couple of times.

I may observe the apostles. Their request, ‘Increase our faith’, follows some challenging teaching by Jesus. Are they overwhelmed?

When do I feel like this?

How does Jesus respond? What will their little seed of faith achieve?

With honesty and humility, I ponder my own seed of faith.

I speak to the Lord from my heart. What do I ask for?

Or maybe, what does he ask from me?

I may wish to rest here, knowing that the Lord can work in and through me if I cooperate.

The second parable about the servant is different. How do I react to it? Maybe there are privileges that I expect?

Or maybe I wish to consider the selfless service of others?

Or I can simply contemplate the service of my Saviour himself.

I gather my prayer together, and spend some time in silent gratitude.

I end with a *Glory be* ...