

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

Guard me, Lord, as the apple of your eye.
Hide me in the shadow of your wings.

Psalm

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself ... comfort you and strengthen
you in everything good that you do or say.

Second Reading

May the Lord turn *my* heart towards the love of God and the
fortitude of Christ.

Second Reading

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.
Help us to become more aware of your loving design
so that we may more willingly give our lives in service to all.

Old Opening Prayer

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

2 Macc. 7: 1-2, 9-14; Ps. 16 (17); 2 Thess. 2:16-3:5; Luke 20: 27-38



He is God,
not of
the dead,
but of
the living;
for to him
all are
in fact alive!

Gospel

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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year C
10th November 2019

Being children of the resurrection,
we are sons and daughters of God.

This Sunday's readings focus on God being at our side at all times.
Through our belief in the resurrection, we are his children. Our God is
the God of the living.

In the **First Reading** it is this belief in the resurrection that gives
strength to a mother and her seven children to endure martyrdom,
rather than prove unfaithful to the Law.

The **Psalm** is a prayer of trust in God who answers the petitioner's
cry.

Paul prays for the young church in Thessalonica that they may remain
strong and faithful to Christ Jesus in the sure hope of his coming
again. The Lord is always faithful, so they can be confident and turn
their hearts towards the love of God. (**Second Reading**)

In the **Gospel**, Jesus answers a treacherous query from the
Sadducees. They try to ridicule his belief in the resurrection, but he
explains that they have not understood at all the transformation
which will take place at the time of resurrection. He does this by using
arguments from the Pentateuch which, being Sadducees, they have
to accept. Jesus is the God of the living.

This week, perhaps, we could reflect on the arguments and the words
we use to explain our faith to non-believers, and try to encourage
others above all through our example.

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.

Second Reading 2 Thessalonians 2:16–3:5

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father who has given us his love and, through his grace, such inexhaustible comfort and such sure hope, comfort you and strengthen you in everything good that you do or say.

Finally, brothers and sisters, pray for us; pray that the Lord's message may spread quickly, and be received with honour as it was among you; and pray that we may be preserved from the interference of bigoted and evil people, for faith is not given to everyone. But the Lord is faithful, and he will give you strength and guard you from the evil one, and we, in the Lord, have every confidence that you are doing and will go on doing all that we tell you. May the Lord turn your hearts towards the love of God and the fortitude of Christ.

Before I read today's passage, I consciously acknowledge the presence of the Lord within and around me. Perhaps I take a deep breath and then breathe normally, focusing on the reasons which have brought me to prayer.

When I have reached some inner quiet, I may want to ask the Holy Spirit to be with me and enlighten me in my prayer.

I slowly read the text above. Perhaps I can imagine that it is addressed to me and like-minded people around me – either as a written document, or read aloud to those present. What feelings arise in me?

Maybe I notice that my prayer is very different from Paul's. What is its focus ... giving thanks, praying for myself, for other people, for worldwide causes, or...? I tell the Lord what is in my heart just now.

As I read the text again, I may be drawn to reflect on '*the interference of bigoted and evil people*'. Who are they? Do I know any around me?

Maybe some people think that of *me*? I ponder.

How might I be able to help them turn their hearts towards the love of God?

When I am ready to close my prayer, I take my time. Slowly, if I feel able, I give thanks to the Lord for the comfort, the hope and the strength he has given me.

Gospel Luke 20: 27–38

Some Sadducees – those who say that there is no resurrection – approached Jesus and they put this question to him.

'Master, we have it from Moses in writing, that if a man's married brother dies childless, the man must marry the widow to raise up children for his brother. Well, then, there were seven brothers. The first, having married a wife, died childless. The second and then the third married the widow. And the same with all seven, they died leaving no children. Finally the woman herself died. Now at the resurrection, to which of them will she be wife since she had been married to all seven?'

Jesus replied, 'The children of this world take wives and husbands, but those who are judged worthy of a place in the other world and in the resurrection from the dead do not marry because they can no longer die, for they are the same as the angels, and being children of the resurrection they are sons of God. And Moses himself implies that the dead rise again, in the passage about the bush where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. Now he is God, not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all are in fact alive.'

If I can, before settling down to my prayer, I surround myself with my favourite 'praying objects' – a cross, a candle, perhaps a plant or a flower. I come to quiet in the way that works best for me.

Slowly, I read the text. I may need to do this several times. (If I find it confusing, I may choose to put it aside and read the Prego Plus notes.) I ask the Lord to be with me and to show me what he means.

The Sadducees are trying to trick Jesus by quoting the Old Testament. Have I experienced a similar situation? Maybe I myself have used the same approach to prove a point, or to convince someone else of my beliefs? I pause and try to recall those events and the purpose behind them. With hindsight, how do I feel about them now?

Using my own words, I speak to the Lord about all of this.

When Jesus mentions the burning bush, what memories does it trigger? What place do I feel is 'holy ground' for me?

Once again I speak to the Lord, the God of the living, who loves and understands me as I am, and thank him for being with me today.