

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

My plans for you are peace and not disaster. *Entrance Antiphon*

Stand upright, hold your heads high,
because your liberation is near at hand. *Alleluia verse*

Not a hair of your heads will be lost.
Your endurance will win you your lives. *Gospel*

He said not, 'You shall not be troubled, you shall not be overwhelmed, you shall not be overtaken by sickness';
but he said, 'You shall not be overcome.'
Mother Julian of Norwich, Revelations of Divine Love

Let us pray that God will help us to be faithful.
Father of all that is good,
keep us faithful in serving you,
for to serve you is our lasting joy. Amen.
Old Opening Prayer

This week's texts if you want to reflect further:
Malachi 3: 19–20; Psalm 97 (98); 2 Thessalonians 3: 7–12; Luke 21: 5–19



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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time,
Year C
17th November 2019

Acclaim the King, the Lord!

As we come towards the end of the Church's year, the readings encourage us to look at our world with open eyes, without pretence; to be filled with hope because God is faithful, working always for good. Even if we have to suffer, God is with us.

The prophet Malachi, in the **First Reading**, promises that arrogant evil-doers will not always prosper. The day of the Lord is coming when evil will be punished but those who know the Lord will experience healing, like the warming rays of the sun.

The **Psalms** is a joyful invitation for all creation to praise the Lord, who is coming to rule with fairness and justice.

St Paul reminds us we should work quietly and humbly at our daily tasks while waiting for Christ's return. Without anxiety, we are to contribute to our families and community (**Second Reading**).

In the **Gospel**, Jesus warns of the future destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. His disciples will face persecution and hostility, illness and famine, but these catastrophes do not mean the end of the world. God will care for them and give them the words to speak to those who persecute them. By enduring, they will give witness to their faith and receive all that he has promised.

This week, I may like to pray for trust and gentle perseverance in following Jesus, so I am able to live according to his values.

Opening Prayer

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God,
the constant gladness of being devoted to you,
for it is full and lasting happiness
to serve with constancy
the author of all that is good.

Psalm 97 (98)

R./ The Lord comes to rule the peoples with fairness.

Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,
with the sound of music.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
acclaim the King, the Lord.

Let the sea and all within it, thunder;
the world, and all its peoples.
Let the rivers clap their hands
and the hills ring out their joy
at the presence of the Lord.

For the Lord comes, comes to rule the earth.
He will rule the world with justice
and the peoples with fairness.

As I come to my place and time of prayer, I pause to remember that God our Lord is welcoming me here. I ask the Holy Spirit to help me as I pray. Slowly, taking whatever time I need, I come to stillness. As I do so, I notice my thoughts and feelings in this moment, offering them to God who loves me just as I am. It may be that there is much to share, and on some days this may be my whole prayer.

I read the psalm, one line at a time, noticing the words or phrases that seem to catch my attention. I stay with these lines, mulling over them; noticing my thoughts and feelings; sharing with the Lord as I am moved. I listen for whatever God might want to share with me.

I may like to imagine the musical instruments, the singing, the people acclaiming the Lord. Or perhaps I picture the whole of creation – seas, sea creatures, rivers, hills and mountains, the world and all peoples – in an act of praise of God.

Where am I in the hymn of joy? Am I able to participate or is something holding me back? I share with the Lord.

What would it look like to see the Lord '*rule the world with justice and the peoples with fairness*'? I share my hopes and dreams with God.

Am I called to do something this week to help bring about God's kingdom?

After a time, I end my prayer slowly, giving thanks. *Glory be ...*

Gospel Luke 21: 5–19

When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, Jesus said, 'All these things you are staring at now – the time will come when not a single stone will be left on another; everything will be destroyed.' They put to him this question; 'Master, when will this happen, and what sign will there be that this is about to take place?'

'Take care not to be deceived', he said, 'because many will come using my name and saying, "I am he" and, "The time is near at hand." Refuse to join them. And when you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened, for this is something that must happen but the end is not so soon.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will fight against nation. There will be great earthquakes and plagues and famines here and there; there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

'But before all this happens, men will seize you and persecute you; they will hand you over to the synagogues and to imprisonment, and bring you before kings and governors because of my name – and that will be your opportunity to bear witness. Keep this carefully in mind: you are not to prepare your defence, because I myself shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relations and friends; and some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives.'

After coming to stillness in the presence of God, in whatever way seems best for me, I read this Gospel slowly, noticing its impact on me.

The disciples are told that the fine things they value will be destroyed. I take time to notice what I value and hold dear in my life.

Perhaps some things that I value are more precious than others? What do I treasure most? What does Jesus say to me about it, or them? I share with the Lord, who will help me to choose that which is of greatest worth.

Is there anything to let go of? What am I prepared to lose in order to keep that which is most precious to me? I ask for what ever grace I need.

I end my prayer, offering all that I have and am to God. *Our Father...*