

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

The Lord is kind and full of compassion. *Psalm*

Now I am making the whole of creation new. *Second Reading*

God will wipe away all tears ... there will be no more death,
and no more mourning or sadness. *Second Reading*

My little children. *Gospel*

Love one another as I have loved you. *Gospel*

God our Father,
look upon us with love.
You redeem us and make us your children in Christ.
Give us true freedom
and bring us to the inheritance you have promised.
Old Opening Prayer

This week's readings:
Acts 14: 21–27; Psalm 144 (145); Apocalypse 21: 1–5; John 13: 31–35

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The love
which moves me
and makes me
choose something
has to descend
from above.

St Ignatius of Loyola
Spiritual Exercises, 184

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ST. BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



Fifth Sunday of Easter
Year C
19th May 2019

**'Love one another,
just as I have loved you'**

As Eastertide continues, we can take fresh heart that we are part of God's glorious plan to bring about a new creation. Jesus's new commandment to love one another as he loves us is the key to transforming the world.

The exhilarating mission of Paul and Barnabas in the **First Reading** helps us to see what can be achieved when we allow God to work within us, even as we endure hardships on the way.

The **Psalm** calls us to sing with the whole creation of God's mighty deeds; his glory, his goodness and his compassion for us.

The vision of the heavenly Jerusalem in the **Second Reading** promises a new creation where the bond between God and his people is fully restored.

In the **Gospel**, Father and Son are together glorified as Jesus prepares to leave this world. Now Jesus gives his friends a new charge: to love one another as he loves us, so we can be recognised as his disciples.

This week I might pray to love others more and more as Jesus loves us, so that I can help play my own part in making all things new.

Opening Prayer

Almighty ever-living God,
constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us,
that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism
may, under your protective care, bear much fruit
and come to the joys of life eternal.

Second Reading Apocalypse 21: 1–5

I John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, ‘You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.’

Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: ‘Now I am making the whole of creation new’, he said.

As I come to prayer, I can trust that the Lord is here, waiting for me. I ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as I take time to become open and still.

I read the text slowly, reverently, a few times. I may like to imagine myself standing alongside St John, witnessing this great act of beauty and transformation.

What feelings and thoughts begin to stir within me?

I pause awhile, simply resting in God’s loving presence.

I listen to God promising to make his home among us; to be with us always.

Where am I most aware of his loving presence this day ... ?

Perhaps in my own home, my community, my church ... in those around me?

And how might others be aware of God dwelling within me?

I ask the Lord to help me see through his eyes.

I ponder what things might need ‘making new’ both within me and all around me in this Easter season of hope. I ask the Lord to show me ... and to help me see how he is calling me to labour with him in this work of renewal.

I speak to him of what is in my heart, and ask for any graces that I need, confident of his love.

Before I end my prayer, I bring before the Lord anyone whose tears need to be wiped away today, whether known to me or in the wider world.

When I am ready, I draw my prayer to a close with my own words of gratitude, and make a slow sign of the cross.

Gospel John 13: 31–35

When Judas had gone, Jesus said:
‘Now has the Son of Man been glorified,
and in him God has been glorified.
If God has been glorified in him,
God will in turn glorify him in himself,
and will glorify him very soon.
‘My little children,
I shall not be with you much longer.
I give you a new commandment:
love one another;
just as I have loved you,
you also must love one another.
By this love you have for one another,
everyone will know that you are my disciples.’

I take time to come to stillness in the way that suits me best, conscious of stepping into this holy space before the Lord. I ask God to help me respond to him today with openness and generosity.

I read these words from St John slowly, taking time to savour them.

Maybe it helps to imagine myself sitting with Jesus and his friends at supper, as he speaks of his imminent departure.

Perhaps I hear him addressing me, too, as one of his beloved ‘little children’ ... or perhaps I simply rest quietly in these words of glory and love. How do I want to respond to Jesus, my Lord, who is fully human, yet fully divine?

Jesus calls his friends to love in a radical new way, with the self-giving love that he himself embodies. How do I feel to be entrusted with this? Inspired? ... challenged? ... privileged ... or ...?

Maybe I think of people I admire who seem able to radiate this radical love of Jesus. What does it mean to live my life so others can see me as a disciple of Jesus?

I share my deepest thoughts with the Lord as I would with a trusted friend, asking for whatever grace I need.

In time, I gently end my time of prayer, perhaps with the words ‘Glory be to the Father ...’, as I ask the Lord to deepen his life within me.