

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

It is your face, O Lord that I seek; hide not your face from me.

Entrance Antiphon

With God on our side, who can be against us?

Since God did not spare his own Son, we may be certain that he will not refuse anything he can give.

Second Reading

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil before all his people.

Psalm

Let us pray for the grace to respond to the Word of God.

God our Father,
help us to hear your Son.
Enlighten us with your word,
that we may find the way to your glory.

Old Opening Prayer

This week's texts if you'd like to reflect further:
Gen. 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18; Ps. 115 (116); Rom. 8: 31-34; Mark 9: 2-10



In their
presence
Jesus was
transfigured

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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



Second Sunday of Lent
Year B, 28th February 2021

'This is my Son,
the Beloved.'

Trust in the Lord is the theme that links all this week's readings. As we continue our Lenten journey, we are reminded of the extent of the Lord's love and generosity – if we but listen to his voice and place our trust in him.

In the **First Reading** we see the depth of Abraham's trust in God as he is asked to sacrifice his beloved son. Abraham's faithfulness is rewarded with more blessings than he could ever have imagined.

The **Psalmist** gives thanks and praise to the Lord who has freed him, reminding us that he trusted God even when sorely afflicted. Like him, we can rejoice as we walk in the presence of the Lord.

In the **Second Reading**, echoing the story of Abraham and Isaac, St Paul challenges us to recall the enormity of God's love for the world in giving up his Son. With Jesus standing at the right hand of God pleading for us, we can have confidence in placing all our trust in him.

In the **Gospel**, Jesus asks Peter, James and John to trust him and not speak of the wonder of what they have witnessed on the mountain top.

This week we pray for the grace to trust and to listen ever more closely to the voice of the Lord, so that we too might walk in his presence.

Opening Prayer

O God, who have commanded us
to listen to your beloved Son,
be pleased, we pray,
to nourish us inwardly by your word,
that, with spiritual sight made pure,
we may rejoice to behold your glory.

Second Reading Romans 8: 31–34

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God’s right hand he stands and pleads for us.

I come to the place where I will pray, perhaps lighting a candle or placing a favourite image of the Lord before me. I take whatever time I need to let my thoughts settle and gradually become aware of God’s presence. Perhaps I see his loving gaze on me, hear his voice welcoming me, or feel the warmth of his embrace ...

When I am ready, I turn my attention to the scripture passage.

As I read slowly through the text, I take in each word and phrase.

I let the words sink in; perhaps I am drawn to a particular section where I let myself linger?

Maybe I repeat this out loud, relishing the words, and noticing any feelings which are stirred in me.

I ponder: what does God’s gift of his Son mean for me?

I speak to the Lord about this – as one friend to another.

I may be drawn to recall times in my life when I knew how it felt to have God on my side.

Perhaps with hindsight, I realise that even in the most difficult and challenging moments, too, he was there supporting me, giving me what he could? I share my recollections with the Lord.

In time, I may want to imagine Jesus standing there at God’s right hand. What might I ask Jesus to plead for?— for me; for those dear to me; for my community?

I talk to the Lord about these needs, confident in the knowledge that he ‘will not refuse anything he can give’, and asking him for the grace to trust ever more deeply in his love for me.

As I prepare to take my leave, I end my time with the Lord, offering my thanks and praise for his presence in my life.

Gospel Mark 9: 2–10

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. ‘Rabbi’, he said, ‘it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.’ He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.’ Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what ‘rising from the dead’ could mean.

As I come to spend some time with the Lord, I gather my thoughts.

This is the Second Sunday of Lent, which always tells of Jesus’s transfiguration. What comes to my mind? Perhaps I remember other years when I’ve read this text, and I recall what I experienced then.

But today I try to read the text as if it is new to me. I stay with whatever draws me.

Jesus and the disciples go to a high mountain to be by themselves.

Where do I go when I want to be alone? Perhaps I imagine Jesus and his friends going there with me too.

I try to imagine us settling together and an easy conversation starting.

What happens next? What is it like?

How do I react? How do I feel?

‘You are my Son, the Beloved, listen to me’. A beloved child ...? Me ...?

I turn to the Lord and ask him to help me understand what has just taken place. I listen and trust him.

Eventually, we come home. I let Jesus and his friends go, thanking them for having been with me. Like the disciples, I may want to speak with others and discuss what it all means, but for now I go ‘In the name of the Father ...’