

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

'Here I am, send me.'

First Reading

Before the angels I will bless you, O Lord.

Psalm

I preach what the apostles preach; and this is what you all believed.

Second Reading

'Put out into deep water!'

Gospel

Father,
watch over your family
and keep us safe in your care,
for all our hope is in you.

Old Opening Prayer

This week's texts if you'd like to reflect further:
Isaiah 6: 1-8; Psalm 137 (138); 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11; Luke 5: 1-11



They left
everything
and followed
him.

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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year C
6th February 2022

'Put out into deep water!'

The readings for this Sunday speak of Christ's call to us, and the mission given to each of us to follow him and to proclaim the Lord's message.

The prophet Isaiah describes a vision of the Lord of Hosts (**First Reading**). Although overwhelmed by his own sinfulness, the prophet experiences the gift of forgiveness and answers the call to be the Lord's messenger.

The **Psalmist** is full of praise and thanks for all the gifts that the Lord brings; he is overcome with gratitude that the Lord has answered his call.

In the **Second Reading**, St Paul tells the Corinthians that however unworthy his previous life has been, he has been given the grace to teach others. What he teaches has been handed down from the apostles and others who knew Jesus and witnessed his resurrection, and is the source of our belief.

In the **Gospel** we read of Jesus's calling of Simon, James and John. Having fished all night without success, the disciples respond to Jesus's invitation to 'put out into deep water', and are rewarded with an enormous catch of fish. Assuring them they have nothing to fear, Jesus gives them their mission as fishers of people.

This week, we pray that as we hear Christ calling us to our own unique mission, we will have the courage to put aside our fears of unworthiness. We ask the Lord for the grace to place all our faith and trust in him, and for the generosity to play our part in building his kingdom here on earth.

Opening Prayer

Keep your family safe, O Lord,
with unfailing care, that,
relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace,
they may be defended always by your protection.

First Reading Isaiah 6: 1–8

In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord seated on a high throne; his train filled the sanctuary; above him stood seraphs, each one with six wings. And they cried out one to another in this way, 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. His glory fills the whole earth.' The foundations of the threshold shook with the voice of the one who cried out and the Temple was filled with smoke. I said: 'What a wretched state I am in! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have looked at the King, the Lord of hosts.' Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding in his hand a live coal which he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. With this he touched my mouth and said: 'See now, this has touched your lips, your sin is taken away, your iniquity is purged'. Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying: 'Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?' I answered, 'Here I am, send me'.

I come to the place where I have chosen to pray, and begin to settle. Perhaps I light a candle as a visible sign of the Lord's presence with me. I take a few deeper breaths – taking in God's loving welcome, and letting go for a while of any concerns and stresses I may be carrying. I slowly read the text, perhaps letting my imagination paint a picture of the scene. As I stand with Isaiah looking up at the Lord on his throne, maybe I can hear the cries of the seraphs ... feel the rumbling of the building ... smell the clouds of smoke ... I notice the effect this has on me – is it an image that inspires me? Or does it cause me some concern? Whatever my reaction, I may want to stay with it for a short while – asking the Holy Spirit to help me explore more deeply. Hearing Isaiah cry out to the Lord, ashamed of his sinfulness, I may recall times when I, too, have felt wretched about what I have done, or perhaps failed to do. However unworthy I may feel, am I able to give thanks for the forgiveness and mercy the Lord lavishes on me? When I am ready, I share my thoughts and feelings with the Lord. As I ponder my response further, I perhaps become aware of the Lord inviting me, too, to be his messenger. Even if it's not yet clear what I'm to do, I end my prayer, if I can, by answering '*Here I am, send me.*'

Gospel Luke 5: 1–11

Jesus was standing one day by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats – it was Simon's – and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch'. 'Master,' Simon replied, 'we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.' And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled the two boats to sinking point. When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man'. For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is men and women you will catch'. Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

I open my heart and mind to the Lord's loving presence with me as I settle down to pray. As I slowly immerse myself in the text, it may help to be at the edge of the lake, watching closely as Jesus approaches the fishermen. What do I notice about Jesus that engenders such trust in them? – that overcomes any reluctance or scepticism I might initially see in their faces? What do I see in their reactions as they struggle to load the catch – incredulity, awe, wonder, perhaps even fear ...? Maybe I can identify with Peter, overwhelmed by the bounty that has come from trusting in Jesus. Do I share his sense of not being worthy of the gifts I have been given? As I hear Jesus tell Peter, James and John not to be afraid of the task they will now take on, what does that mean for me? When I feel ready, I speak to the Lord, asking him to give me the grace to follow him and leave behind what might keep me from him.