

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

God raised him from the dead,  
and to that fact we are the witnesses.

*First Reading*

The Lord hears me whenever I call him.

*Psalm*

We have our advocate with the Father,  
Jesus Christ, who is just.

*Second Reading*

You are witnesses to this.

*Gospel*

Father in heaven, author of all truth,  
a people once in darkness has listened to your Word  
and followed your Son as he rose from the tomb.

Hear the prayer of this newborn people  
and strengthen your Church to answer your call.  
May we rise and come forth into the light of day  
to stand in your presence until eternity dawns.

Amen. *Old Opening Prayer*

This week's texts if you want to reflect further:  
Acts 3: 13–15, 17–19; Psalm 4 (5); 1 John 2: 1–5; Luke 24: 35–48



They  
offered him  
a piece of  
grilled fish,  
which he  
took and ate  
before their  
eyes.

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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



Third Sunday of Easter  
Year B  
15th April 2018

## *Christ, our Advocate with the Father*

We are celebrating the Easter season with joy. This week's readings remind us how much Jesus has won for us, and that his forgiving love is always there for us all.

In the **First Reading**, Peter clearly puts the responsibility for the death of Jesus onto the Judaeen people, who had received so much. Yet they can still turn to the risen Christ and repent.

They, and we, may well use **Psalm 4 (5)** as our cry and prayer for mercy. The Psalm is at the same time full of confidence and trust.

The **Second Reading**, from St John's letter, speaks unambiguously of sin, but reminds us that we have the remedy – Jesus Christ, our Advocate with the Father.

The **Gospel** offers us another of the appearances of Jesus after the Resurrection. He meets the fear and agitation of the disciples by offering peace, allowing them to touch him and share a meal with him.

Our readings also underline *our* role as witnesses. May we go forward this week, confident in God's love for us, and eager to witness to him.

### **Opening Prayer**

May your people exult forever, O God,  
in renewed youthfulness of spirit,  
so that, rejoicing now  
in the restored glory of our adoption,  
we may look forward in confident hope  
to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection.

## Second Reading 1 John 2: 1–5

I am writing this my children,  
to stop you sinning;  
but if anyone should sin,  
we have our advocate with the Father,  
Jesus Christ, who is just;  
he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away,  
and not only ours,  
but the whole world's.  
We can be sure that we know God  
only by keeping his commandments.  
Anyone who says, 'I know him', and does not keep his  
commandments, is a liar,  
refusing to admit the truth.  
But when anyone does obey what he has said,  
God's love comes to perfection in him.

I take the time to become aware of God's presence,  
grateful that I have some moments to spend with him.

I may light a candle, connecting with the light of the Easter candle  
and the risen Jesus.

I read the text slowly.

John is writing a letter. Can I see it as addressed to me?

What does the word '*advocate*' say to me?

Do I feel that I can turn to Jesus in whatever situation ...  
sin, trouble, grief, confusion, weakness of faith ...?

His sacrifice has saved me, and saves the world.

I turn to him and speak to him, maybe in love, gratitude and praise ...

The light of Easter can enable me to see his way with greater clarity.  
How does this text speak to me today?

I ponder the Lord's action in my daily life,  
and maybe ask him to draw me ever closer.

I slowly end my prayer, with *Glory be to the Father* ...

## Gospel Luke 24: 35–48

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road  
and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.  
They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood  
among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of  
alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he  
said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in  
your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch  
me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you  
can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and  
feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they  
stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to  
eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took  
and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was  
still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of  
Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled.' He  
then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to  
them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and  
on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance  
for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations,  
beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

I come to my place of prayer, placing myself gently in the presence of my  
risen Lord.

After reading the Gospel slowly a couple of times, I may put myself in the  
upper room with the disciples – listening excitedly to the account of  
Emmaus, them speaking of Jesus – and suddenly he is here.

How do I feel? How do I react? Am I brave enough to touch him?

What can I say to him?

I sit quietly, or maybe I ponder some of these questions.

I listen to his words. Do they bring me peace?

Jesus speaks of the scriptures.

Are Christ's death and resurrection central for me?

As a forgiven sinner am I ready to be his witness?

How can I do this in my life?

I speak from my heart, before ending my prayer with gratitude.