

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

The truth I have now come to realise is that God does not have favourites. *First Reading*

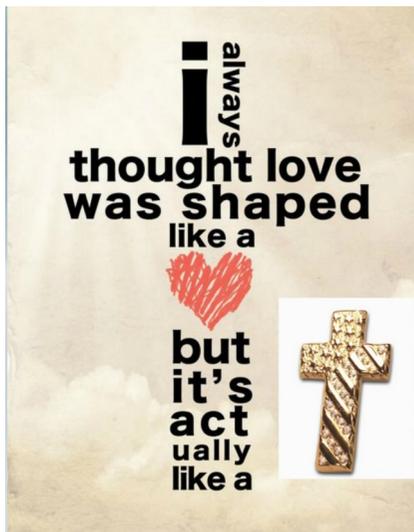
This is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us. *Second Reading*

As the Father has loved me so I have loved you. Remain in my love. *Gospel*

You did not choose me, no, I chose you ... to go out and to bear fruit. *Gospel*

Ever-living God,  
help us to celebrate our joy  
in the resurrection of the Lord  
and to express in our lives the love we celebrate.  
*Old Opening Prayer*

This week's texts if you'd like to reflect further:  
Acts 10: 25–26.34–35.44–48; Ps. 97 (98); 1 John 4: 7–10; John 15: 9–17



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**ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM**



Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Year B, 9th May 2021

God is love  
and we show we know God  
when we act with generous love

God's love is both profoundly faithful and utterly overwhelming. This is what this Sunday's readings reveal, with the **First Reading** showing a love that is also universal. The early disciples, at first limited in their mission, are now convinced that God's love embraces everyone.

It's a theme taken up in the **Second Reading** where St John says that God *is* love and acts lovingly when he sends his Son to reveal what true love means. God's outreach to the whole human race is what today's **Psalms** sing of so joyfully.

In the **Gospel**, St John goes on to speak ever more deeply of God's love for us. He recalls Jesus's teaching about his loving relationship with his Father and of his desire to make this relationship both known and available. All are invited into that same intimate relationship!

Perhaps this week, I might ask for the grace to let that teaching sink into my heart and become a reality in the way I live and by the fruit I bear. 'Help me, Lord, to respond to your friendship by being a true friend to you through my loving relationships with my sisters, brothers and all of creation. Amen.'

### Opening Prayer

Grant, almighty God,  
that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy,  
which we keep in honour of the risen Lord,  
and that what we relive in remembrance  
we may always hold to in what we do.

## Second Reading 1 John 4: 7–10

**M**y dear people,  
let us love one another  
since love comes from God  
and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.  
Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,  
because God is love.  
God's love for us was revealed  
when God sent into the world his only Son  
so that we could have life through him;  
this is the love I mean:  
not our love for God,  
but God's love for us when he sent his Son  
to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

As always, I spend some time stilling myself and preparing my heart to be opened by this week's scripture. Like St Peter in today's First Reading, God is preparing me for the next stage on my journey of faith. So I try to become calm, open and willing to entrust myself into God's loving care.

Now I slowly read St John's text, pausing often to savour the words. What is drawing me here? Where am I feeling touched within? I wait to let this 'love letter' percolate through my heart.

Perhaps I am noticing a doubt that this good news is for *me* ...? Maybe I struggle to believe that God's love for me could be anything like the love he has for his Son ... or I feel too unworthy ever to be truly Jesus's friend? I share this with the Lord.  
I read again and ponder...

I pause to reflect on John's insistence that it is God's love for me, not my love for God, which is the important thing.  
How do I feel now? For what do I want to give thanks?

I end my prayer by reading the passage once again, speaking to the Lord about any desire to respond that I can sense growing within me.

I conclude in the words of Bishop Richard of Chichester: *'Most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.'*

## Gospel John 15: 9–17

**J**esus said to his disciples: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. No-one can have greater love than to lay down their life for their friends.

You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know their master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

You did not choose me: no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name.

What I command you is to love one another.'

How am I coming to this time of prayer? What is my mood like today? Sad, heavy, burdened? Joyful, light, hopeful? I take my time to move gently into prayer, aware of how I am feeling.

I read the Gospel slowly two or three times. There is no rush. Perhaps these words will help me to identify the grace I am seeking at this time.

If helpful, I could place myself in the scene, around the table of the Last Supper. Jesus is speaking directly to me, telling me of his love for me, how he has chosen me for friendship and for commissioning.  
How does it feel to be called and chosen?

Union with Jesus leads to fruitful service and John is basically saying that love is a verb, not a noun. Love cannot exist apart from action and we see love most fully in the actions of Jesus.

How have I been loved in life ... ? What comes to mind and how does that make me want to respond?

How does the reality of God's unconditional love help me to love even more?

I remain in God's love for me and end my prayer slowly:

*Our Father ...*