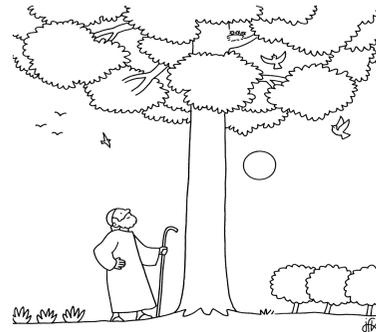


**'If you have faith as small
as a mustard seed ...
nothing will be impossible
for you.'**



AMDG
27TH SUNDAY
ORDINARY TIME YEAR C,
2 OCTOBER 2016

**'Love ought to show itself more by deeds
than by words.'**
St Ignatius Loyola

OPENING PRAYER

**Let us pray that God will forgive us our failings and
bring us peace.**

**Father your love for us surpasses all our
hopes and desires.**

**Forgive our failings, keep us in your peace and lead
us in the way of salvation.**

I begin my prayer by turning to God with faith, asking him to draw me into the silence of his loving presence.

I read the prayer once or twice, assenting to its truths and making its desires my own.

I recall how God has shown his goodness to me in my own life through the gift of faith and the love and care of family, friends and others. I thank God for this and ask God's blessing on all who have led me closer to him.

I ask God to fill me with the strength to live faithful to him and to have the courage to witness always to his truth, goodness and love.

I end with the Our Father.

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

Father, your love for us passes all our hopes and desires.

Opening Prayer

God's gift was ... the Spirit of power, and love, and self-control.
So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord.

Timothy 1: 6-8

Lead us to see beyond our reach and give us the courage to stand before your truth. *Opening Prayer*

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us.
Responsorial Psalm

REFLECTIONS

What does the week hold for me, and how do I feel God may be calling me?

And ... what do I want to ask of God for myself and others?

Prepared by St Beuno's Outreach in the
Diocese of Wrexham



LDS

SECOND READING: 2 TIMOTHY 1: 6-8, 13-14

I am reminding you to fan into a flame the gift that God gave you when I laid my hands on you. God's gift was not a spirit of timidity, but the spirit of power, and love, and self-control.

So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord, or ashamed of me for being his prisoner; but with me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God.

Keep as your pattern the sound teaching you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. You have been trusted to look after something precious; guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

These words of encouragement from Paul to Timothy, his convert, are a reminder to us all of the precious gift of faith God has given us and of the need to witness to it in our daily lives through the power of the Spirit living in us.

I read the passage slowly and thoughtfully, stopping where a word or phrase touches my heart and moves me to respond. I ask God to 'fan into a flame' his spirit of love within me now.

I look at how I witness God's love, through the ways I act, speak and think.

Am I ashamed or embarrassed to be known as a Catholic in my workplace or when people mock my Christian faith? I ask to be strong in my faith but to act gently.

I reread the passage thanking God for whatever message it has for me and asking to be open to his word and his call.

I end with thanksgiving and praise.

THE GOSPEL LUKE 17: 5-10

The Apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.' The Lord replied, 'Were your faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea," and it would obey you.

'Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, "Come and have your meal immediately?" Would he not be more likely to say, "Get my supper laid; make yourself tidy and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink yourself afterwards?" Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told?

'So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say "We are merely servants; we have done no more than our duty."'

Using the image of the mustard seed, Jesus teaches the apostles the importance of faith and that God's love is always a free gift.

I take time to slow down and to enter into the silence, becoming aware of God's loving presence within me and around me. I then read the text slowly, putting myself in the scene with the apostles as they ask Jesus to increase their faith.

Do I believe that faith can bring about extraordinary things? Have I experienced this in my own life and that of others? I speak with Jesus, perhaps thanking him for the amazing things God has done through me and others, even with our mustard-sized faith.

I hear Jesus tell the apostles that God's love cannot be earned, only received. I ponder on this and when ready, I talk to him about what is in my mind and heart.

I end with the Sign of the Cross, placing my whole trust in God.