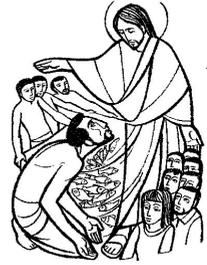




AMDG  
FIFTH SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME  
YEAR C  
10TH FEBRUARY 2019



**Here I am, Lord, send me ...**

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.

This week's readings are full of reassurance and inspiration. However aware we are of our own human limitations, God never stops believing in us, and he needs us to be his messengers. We only need to find the courage to respond to his invitation.

The *First Reading* describes Isaiah's mystical vision before the divine court in the Temple. Before God's glory and holiness, Isaiah feels lost and unworthy. But once his lips have been cleansed, he hears God's call for a messenger and offers himself as the one to be sent out.

The *Psalmist* also imagines himself adoring with the angels in the Temple, as he glories in the God who hears us, loves us, and stretches out his hand to save us.

St Paul sees himself as the least of the apostles, but he has complete faith in the risen Lord and in the gift of God's grace working within him. (*Second Reading*)

Peter agrees rather unwillingly to 'put out into deep water' (*Gospel*), and is then overwhelmed as he witnesses God's power at work in the miraculous catch of fish. But Jesus tells him to set aside his fears and sense of unworthiness, for even greater work now awaits him. The other disciples, too, leave everything to follow Jesus.

This week, we pray that God will help us to listen to his call as courageously as did Isaiah and Peter, and then be generous in offering ourselves fully for whatever work he needs us to do.

## FIRST READING ISAIAH 6: 1–8

**I**n 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'.

As I come to prayer, I can trust that the Lord is here, waiting for me.  
I ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as I take time to become open and still.

I read the description of Isaiah's vision, slowly, more than once.

I may like to try and imagine the grandeur of the Temple building, using all my senses ... I hear the song of the angels ... I smell the clouds of smoke ...

I see God himself seated in great glory....

Perhaps I simply rest here awhile in awed reverence, before the Lord.

I notice what moves me ... what pleases me ... or perhaps troubles me?

God enables Isaiah to move on from his initial wretchedness.

Perhaps I think of times when I, too, have felt lost and unworthy ... when I have needed God to touch me and help me hear his voice calling.

I share my thoughts and feelings with the Lord as I would with a beloved friend.

I ask him, with confidence, for anything I need.

God always needs willing messengers, like Isaiah. I ponder this.

Who are the 'messengers' that I admire in my own life, or in this world?

What enables me to recognise them? I take time to give thanks for them.

God needs me as his messenger too. How might he be inviting me to work with him today? I ask him to guide me where he needs me to go ... to help me have the courage to say: '*Here I am, Lord, send me*'.

In time I slowly draw my prayer to a close with a slow sign of the cross.

## 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 you will catch’. Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

I take time to read this passage slowly and prayerfully, conscious that the Lord is here right now, desiring my company, wherever I may be.

Perhaps I am inspired to place myself in the scene ... watching how Jesus talks to the crowds ... noticing his invitation to Simon Peter ... his words of reassurance and affirmation ... the response that he inspires.

What particularly touches me here today?

Jesus uses Peter’s everyday skills to do something unexpected and remarkable ... made possible because Peter trusts his invitation.

I ponder the ways in which God can use *my* ordinary gifts to do extraordinary things.

Might God be inviting me, like Peter, to launch out into ‘deeper water’, even if at first I think there might be no purpose ...?

I speak to the Lord as to a trusted friend, and listen for his response. Is there anything I need to let go of to help me follow Jesus with greater freedom? I ask for any help I need.

When I am ready, I end my prayer in gratitude: *Glory be ...*

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

I answered, 'Here I am, send me'.

*First Reading*

I thank you Lord, with all my heart!

*Psalm*

'Put out into deep water ....'

*Gospel*

Do not be afraid: from now on, it is people you will catch. *Gospel*

*This week's texts if you want to reflect further*

*Isaiah 6: 1–8; Psalm 137 (138); 1 Corinthians 15: 1–11; Luke 5: 1–11*



**'We have been  
fishing all night  
and caught  
nothing,  
but because  
it is you who ask,  
I will do it.'**



ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH  
IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM

**JESUIT**  
Ministries



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