



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

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy ... it is through grace that you have been saved. (2nd Reading – Ephesians 2)

We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as ... He had meant us to live it. (2nd Reading – Ephesians 2:10)

God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life through him. (Gospel John 3:15)

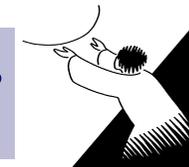
The person who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God. (Gospel John 3:21)



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



**4TH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B**  
**6 MARCH 2016**



**God sent his Son into the world so that through him the world might be saved**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Let us pray that by growing in love this Lent we may bring the peace of Christ to our world.

God our Father, your Word, Jesus Christ, spoke peace to a sinful world and brought humankind the gift of reconciliation by the suffering and death he endured.

Teach us, the people who bear his name, to follow the example he gave us: may our faith, hope and charity turn hatred to love, conflict to peace and death to eternal life.

I begin my prayer by turning to God with faith in his presence and with the desire to open my heart and mind to Him.

I still my body and mind as best I can, becoming conscious of my breathing and allowing it to carry my desire to love and praise.

I read the prayer slowly, savouring any word or phrase which holds or stirs me and responding to it as God draws me.

Is God's Spirit showing me what 'bearing the name Christian' asks of me today? How do I respond in faith, hope?

I ponder the grace of being one of the 'people who bear his name' and ask that I may grow in faith, hope and love.

I end by praying for the peace and reconciliation of Christ for our broken world.

## THE 2ND READING EPHESIANS 2: 4-10

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith, not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

*This Reading puts before us the wonderful mystery of God's faithful, saving love. As though ignoring our sinfulness, God sends his only Son Jesus to show us the extent of his freely given love and mercy and teach us how precious we are to God: 'we are God's work of art'.*

I read the passage slowly and reflectively, marvelling at the truths it reveals. What is God telling me in this Reading? Is there a truth which God is revealing to me now as his special gift?

I ask Jesus to help me grasp that I am truly God's work of art, loved and valued for who I am! What do I want to say to him?

I know that I am a 'work in progress' and that God has not finished with me yet! I speak with God about the ways I can grow and become who he calls me to be.

I remain in God's presence with love and gratitude that he has called me into life and being and I ask for a deeper faith in him.

## THE GOSPEL JOHN 3: 14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus: The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown that they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.

*The great themes of Light and Darkness are put before us in this Gospel. Nicodemus was a Pharisee who came to Jesus 'at night' – a searcher seeking for 'light' and finding it in Jesus, the Light of the world. Belief in Jesus is a choice made in the darkness of faith – a choice which leads into the Light, enables us to live by the truth, and offers us the gift of eternal life.*

I come consciously into God's presence asking to be open to him and to all his gifts. I read the Gospel again, slowly and prayerfully, allowing it to speak to me. I may want to thank him for the gift of faith, and ask him to stir up in me the desire to live more fully in the light of Christ.

In that light I may see how God has led me through times of doubt or darkness into a deeper belief in his only Son. What do I want to share with God now? Perhaps I can end with a prayer of trust that God's Spirit will always lead me out of my 'darkness' and into the light of grace.

I wait in silence and longing for God's coming in whatever way he chooses. I may feel moved to pray the 'Our Father'.