

PRAYER FOR LIVING

**Serving Christ the King:
“Whatever you do to the least of
My brethren, you do to Me.”**

NOVEMBER
YEAR A



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Sunday, 1st November, All Saints.

Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14, 1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them: 'How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: and his disciples, joined him, they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven; this is how they persecuted the prophets before you.'

Living as God's Beloved Children

In the first reading, St. John the Evangelist reminds us that we are children of God. This is our deepest identity, and no one can take it away from us. Holiness does not begin with being perfect or achieving great things. It begins with accepting God's unconditional love and letting that love guide the way we live and relate to others.

In the Gospel, Jesus describes the life of God's children as people who are poor in spirit, merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers, and who hunger and thirst for what is right. The saints lived in this way. They lived through struggle and hardship, but they stayed close to God and let His love guide their choices. Through their everyday acts of love, they showed what God's kingdom is like. Today, we too are called to live as God's beloved children by loving others wherever God has placed us.

Reflective questions:

Which Beatitudes speak to me most right now? Why?

Monday, 2nd November, All Souls.

Isaiah 25:6-9, Romans 5:5-11, Matthew 11:25-30

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to little children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do.

Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. 'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

Finding Hope and Rest in God's Love

As we celebrate All Souls' Day, we remember those who have died and feel the pain of their absence. Yet, even in our grief, we hold on to hope. In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah reminds us of God's promise to overcome death, wipe away every tear, and welcome His people into lasting peace. This promise does not remove our sorrow, but it assures us that we do not mourn alone. God draws close to us, offering comfort and strength as we place our loved ones in His loving care.

In the Gospel, Jesus invites us to enter into His rest. When we are burdened by sadness or the anxieties of life, we are called to share those burdens with Him, trusting we do not have to carry them alone. Today, let us remember that we are deeply loved by God, and with Him by our side, we find strength to keep walking this journey of life.

Reflective question:

How can Jesus' invitation to rest bring me comfort in times of grief or difficulty?

Tuesday, 3rd November, St. Martin de Porres.

Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 14:15-24

One of those gathered round the table said to Jesus, 'Happy the man who will be at the feast in the kingdom of God!' But he said to him, 'There was a man who gave a great banquet, and he invited a large number of people. When the time for the banquet came, he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, "Come along: everything is ready now". But all alike started to make excuses. The first said, "I have bought a piece of land and must go and see it. Please accept my apologies." Another said, "I have bought five yoke of oxen and am on my way to try them out. Please accept my apologies." Yet another said, "I have just got married and so am unable to come". The servant returned and reported

this to his master. Then the householder, in a rage, said to his servant, "Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in here the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame". "Sir" said the servant "your orders have been carried out and there is still room. "Then the master said to his servant, "Go to the open roads and the hedgerows and force people to come in to make sure my house is full; because, I tell you, not one of those who were invited shall have a taste of my banquet".

A Humble Heart, a Place at God's Table

In the first reading, St. Paul says, *"In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus: His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality to God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave..."* Though Jesus is God, He chooses to draw near to us, not with power or pride, but with compassion, humility and love. He freely sets aside privilege and puts Himself in service of others. His humility is not weakness, but strength rooted in love and trust in God. St. Paul invites us to let Jesus' attitude shape how we think and live, so we too place ourselves in the service of others.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of a great banquet. When the invited guests make excuses and refuse to come, the host opens his door to the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame. The banquet points to God's generous invitation to share in His life and joy. We are called to accept God's invitation by having a willing heart. Like those invited to the banquet, we can be so caught up in our responsibilities, possessions and plans that we leave little room for Him. Today, let us make room for God in our lives by responding not only in prayer, but also by making time to serve someone in need. In this way, they too may know that God welcomes them at His table.

Reflective question:

When have I been so caught up in my responsibilities, possessions, or plans that I have left little room for God, and how can I make room for Him by serving someone in need?

Wednesday, 4th November, St. Charles Borromeo.

Philippians 2:12-18, Luke 14:25-33

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife,

children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. 'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, 'Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish'. Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

The Cost of Following Jesus

Jesus calls everyone to follow Him, and He is honest about what discipleship asks of us. To be His disciple means putting Him first, not by loving our families less, but by letting our love for Him guide every relationship and choice.

We do not follow Jesus only when it is convenient. He invites us to live His way each day: to love generously, serve humbly, and speak and act truthfully. As the builder estimates the cost of a tower and the king considers the cost of war, we too must consider what following Jesus requires. The journey may be difficult, but Jesus calls us to persevere and remain faithful. May we choose to follow Him wholeheartedly, with courage and love.

Reflective question:

What might be holding me back from making Jesus the centre of my life?

Thursday, 5th November, 31st Week in Ordinary Time.

Philippians 3:3-8, Luke 15:1-10

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them: 'What man among you with a hundred sheep, losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one till he found it? And when he found it, would he

not joyfully take it on his shoulders and then, when he got home, call together his friends and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," he would say "I have found my sheep that was lost." In the same way, I tell you, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine virtuous men who have no need of repentance. Or again, what woman with ten drachmas would not, if she lost one, light a lamp and sweep out the house and search thoroughly till she found it? And then, when she had found it, call together her friends and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," she would say "I have found the drachma I lost." In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing among the angels of God over one repentant sinner.'

Lost and Found

The love of Jesus is more than a feeling; it reaches out and brings the lost home. As the Good Shepherd, He seeks every person with mercy and unconditional love. Jesus invites us to do the same: to step beyond our comfort zones and care for those who feel lost in fear, anxiety or loneliness, even when loving them is difficult. Every person is worthy of love.

To shepherd others with Jesus' heart, we must first let Him find us. When pride, anger, or fear lead us astray, our Good Shepherd is ready to bring us home. Let us draw close to Him and learn to love others as He does.

Reflective question:

How can I show the people around me the love of the Good Shepherd?

Friday, 6th November, 31st Week in Ordinary Time.

Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 16:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There was a rich man and he had a steward denounced to him for being wasteful with his property. He called for the man and said, "What is this I hear about you? Draw me up an account of your stewardship because you are not to be my steward any longer." Then the steward said to himself, "Now that my master is taking the stewardship from me, what am I to do? Dig? I am not strong enough. Go begging? I should be too ashamed. Ah, I know what I will do to make sure that when I am dismissed from office there will be some to welcome me into their homes." Then he called his master's debtors one by one. To the first he said, "How much do you owe my master?" "One hundred

measures of oil” was the reply. The steward said, “Here, take your bond; sit down straight away and write fifty”. To another he said, “And you, sir, how much do you owe?” “One hundred measures of wheat” was the reply. The steward said, “Here, take your bond and write eighty”. ‘The master praised the dishonest steward for his astuteness. For the children of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind than are the children of light.’

Living for the Kingdom

In the first reading, St. Paul warns against allowing our earthly desires to become our god and taking pride in things we should be ashamed of. He reminds us, *“For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ...”* Our true home is in heaven. We are called to place our hope in Christ rather than in the passing, fleeting pleasures of this world. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the dishonest steward, who is about to lose his job but, instead of despairing, starts planning his future by helping his master’s debtors. Jesus is not praising his dishonesty but pointing to his foresight. If people are so shrewd in planning for their future, how much more should we be wise in using our time and resources and preparing for what truly matters. Following Jesus means living with purpose, ensuring our words and actions reflect our commitment to Him.

Reflective question:

Does my daily use of time and resources reflect that my true home is with God?

Saturday, 7th November, 31st Week in Ordinary Time.

Philippians 4:10-19, Luke 16:9-15

Jesus said to his disciples, ‘I tell you this: use money, tainted as it is, to win you friends, and thus make sure that when it fails you, they will welcome you into the tents of eternity. The man who can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great; the man who is dishonest in little things will be dishonest in great. If then you cannot be trusted with money, that tainted thing, who will trust you with genuine riches? And if you cannot be trusted with what is not yours, who will give you what is your

very own? No servant can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.’ The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and laughed at him. He said to them, ‘You are the very ones who pass yourselves off as virtuous in people’s sight, but God knows your hearts. For what is thought highly of by men is loathsome in the sight of God.’

Faithful in What We Have

Today, in the first reading, St. Paul reminds us that true contentment comes from trusting God in every circumstance. He states, *“I have managed on whatever I have; I know how to be poor, and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation, and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength.”* Indeed, with God’s strength, we can face each day with contentment, courage and gratitude.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells us, *“You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.”* Jesus calls us to use the gifts and possessions God has entrusted to us wisely and faithfully. Our choices show what we value most. We cannot serve both God and money, for our hearts belong to God. Today, let us be grateful for all we have and generously share with others.

Reflective question:

Am I using what I have, my gifts and resources, in a way that serves God and others?

Sunday, 8th November, 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Wisdom 6:12-16, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, “The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.” At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said

to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out". But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves". They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you". So, stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

Walk in Wisdom

Today's first reading reminds us that wisdom, a gift of the Holy Spirit, is near to all who truly seek her. Wisdom helps us to choose what is good, listen before we speak, and notice where God is leading us. We grow in wisdom through prayer, Scripture and the guidance of people who help us grow in faith.

Like the wise bridesmaids in today's Gospel, we are called to keep the lamps of our faith burning. Others can encourage us, but they cannot live our faith for us. Each day, we nurture our relationship with God by making time for Him and putting love into action by listening patiently, forgiving someone, or helping a person in need. These simple choices help us to stay ready to welcome Him.

Reflective question:

How can I keep my faith alive and share God's love today?

Monday, 9th November, The Dedication of The Lateran Basilica.

Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12, 1 Corinthians 3:9-11, 16-17, John 2:13-22

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market'. Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up'. The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary:

are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

Built on Christ, A Dwelling for God

In today's first reading, St. Paul tells us, *"You are God's building...For the foundation, nobody can lay any other than the one which is already been laid, that is Jesus Christ."* Jesus is our firm foundation. He gives our lives meaning, fulfilment, strength, and direction. When we build our lives on Him, we remain steadfast through difficulties without losing hope. We may still feel afraid, tired or uncertain, but we are not facing them alone. His words guide us and His love gives us strength.

In the Gospel, Jesus cleanses the temple, showing that worship is not just a place or an outward practice. Rather, it is about making room for God in our hearts. True worship begins in the heart. Like the temple, our hearts can become crowded with worries, distractions, selfishness or resentment. Jesus invites us to let Him clear away whatever prevents us from drawing close to God. As we make room for Him each day, may our lives become a place where we welcome God's presence and share Him with others.

Reflective question:

What choices help me build my life more firmly on Christ?

Tuesday, 10th November, St. Leo the Great.

Titus 2: 1-8, 11-14, Luke 17:7-10

Jesus said to his disciples: '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".'

Faithful in Humble Service

In today's Gospel, Jesus describes a servant working hard in the field. Would the master tell him to eat as soon as he comes home? Instead, the master would ask the servant to serve him a meal first. Only then would the servant eat. The master does not need to thank the servant for doing his duty. In the same way, when we have done all God asks of us, we should humbly say, *"We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty."*

Following Jesus means serving others with humility and gratitude in our homes, workplaces, and communities, not looking for praise or recognition. Even when no one notices, we can offer our small acts of love to God, trusting that He sees our efforts and helps us grow in our love and faith.

Reflective question:

Do I seek recognition, or can I serve lovingly even when no one notices?

Wednesday, 11th November, St. Martin of Tours.

Titus 3:1-7, Luke 17: 11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered one of the villages, ten lepers came to meet him. They stood some way off and called to him, 'Jesus! Master! Take pity on us.' When he saw them he said, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests'. Now as they were going away they were cleansed. Finding himself cured, one of them turned back praising God at the top of his voice and threw himself at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan. This made Jesus say, 'Were not all ten made clean? The other nine, where are they? It seems that no one has come back to give praise to God, except this foreigner.' And he said to the man, 'Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you.'

Grateful Hearts

Ten lepers, suffering from a painful illness that separated them from their families and communities, call out to Jesus from a distance, *"Jesus! Master! Take pity on us!"* Jesus hears them and tells them to go and show themselves to the priest. As they set out, they are healed. Yet only one turns back. His gratitude draws him closer to Jesus and opens him to deeper healing as he recognises God's mercy and love.

Today's Gospel passage invites us to notice God's loving presence and recognise the moments He has touched our lives. We can sometimes take God for granted. Like the nine lepers, we often turn to Jesus in times of need, but once our difficulty has passed, we can become so focused on what comes next that we forget to recognise His care and give thanks. May we follow the example of the one leper who returned, learning to notice God's presence and to give thanks with sincere hearts.

Reflective question:

What gifts from God am I truly grateful for today?

Thursday, 12th November, St. Josaphat.

Philemon 7-20, Luke 17:20-25

Asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was to come, Jesus gave them this answer, 'The coming of the kingdom of God does not admit of observation and there will be no one to say, "Look here! Look there!" For, you must know, the kingdom of God is among you.' He said to the disciples, 'A time will come when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man and will not see it. They will say to you, "Look there!" or, "Look here!" Make no move; do not set off in pursuit; for as the lightning flashing from one part of heaven lights up the other, so will be the Son of Man when his day comes. But first he must suffer grievously and be rejected by this generation.'

The Kingdom of God is Among You

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that God's Kingdom does not come with signs that everyone can see and point to. It is already present among us in Jesus' words and works, and wherever love, mercy, justice, and faithfulness take root. The Kingdom is not simply something we wait for in the future; it is God's presence and reign unfolding in our lives, often in small, quiet ways. We often expect God to act in dramatic or distant ways and overlook the ordinary moments in which He is already at work, such as a word of kindness, an act of mercy, the courage to remain faithful in hardship. These small moments reveal God's love and help His Kingdom grow among us.

Let us become signs of the Kingdom for others by bringing hope where there is disappointment, compassion where there is suffering, and peace where there is division.

Reflective question:

Where have I noticed signs of God's Kingdom in my life?

Friday, 13th November, 32nd Week in Ordinary Time.

2 John 4-9, Luke 17:26-37

Jesus said to the disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it also be in the days of the Son of Man. People were eating and drinking, marrying wives and husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. It will be the same as it was in Lot's day: people were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, but the day Lot left Sodom, God rained fire and brimstone from heaven and it destroyed them all. It will be the same when the day comes for the Son of Man to be revealed. 'When that day comes, anyone on the housetop, with his possessions in the house, must not come down to collect them, nor must anyone in the fields turn back either. Remember Lot's wife. Anyone who tries to preserve his life will lose it; and anyone who loses it will keep it safe. I tell you, on that night two will be in one bed: one will be taken, the other left; two women will be grinding corn together: one will be taken, the other left.' The disciples interrupted. 'Where, Lord?' they asked. He said, 'Where the body is, there too will the vultures gather'.

Loving and Staying Awake

In the first reading from the Second Letter of John, we are reminded that *"to love is to live according to his commandments: this is the commandment which you have heard since the beginning, to live a life of love."* St. John presents love not simply as a feeling, but as a way of living. We love when we treat others with kindness and respect, speak honestly, forgive and seek what is good for others. Every act of love, small or big, becomes a way of walking in the path Jesus has shown us. We might fail to love from time to time, but we can always begin again by asking God to make our hearts kinder and more attentive to others.

In the Gospel, Jesus recalls the days of Noah and Lot, when people went about their routines without realising how fleeting life is. His words are

not meant to frighten us, but to awaken us to what truly matters: living a life of love. May we put love into action so that ordinary moments today become places where we encounter God's presence.

Reflective question:

How can I show God's love through my choices, words and actions today?

Saturday, 14th November, 32nd Week in Ordinary Time.

3 John 5-8, Luke 18:1-8

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. 'There was a judge in a certain town' he said 'who had neither fear of God nor respect for man. In the same town there was a widow who kept on coming to him and saying, "I want justice from you against my enemy!" For a long time he refused, but at last he said to himself, "Maybe I have neither fear of God nor respect for man, but since she keeps pestering me I must give this widow her just rights, or she will persist in coming and worry me to death".' And the Lord said 'You notice what the unjust judge has to say? Now will not God see justice done to his chosen who cry to him day and night even when he delays to help them? I promise you, he will see justice done to them, and done speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth?'

Keep Praying, Keep Trusting

Jesus speaks to us today about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. Yet, when our prayers seem unanswered and life remains difficult, we can grow discouraged. Our time with Jesus may begin to feel like a routine, and we may find excuses to avoid it. Still, Jesus invites us to stay close to Him.

Prayer is more than something we do at certain times of the day. It is a relationship with God that shapes the way we live. We bring Him our joys, sadness, worries, doubts and hopes. As we share our lives with Him, we learn to recognise His presence in everyday moments. Even when we have no words left, we remain with Him in silence, trusting Him and allowing His love to guide us.

Reflective question:

When prayer feels difficult or God seems silent, how can I continue to stay close to Him?

Sunday, 15th November, 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'It is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third is one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness". Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness". Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."

Faithfulness

In the second reading, St. Paul reminds us that *“the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night.”* Since we do not know when the Lord will come again, we are not called to live in fear or worry. Instead, we are called to live as children of the light and of the day, grounded in faith, guided by love and sustained by hope. In this way, we remain spiritually awake, and each day becomes an opportunity to welcome Him and follow Him.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the talents, in which the master entrusts five, two, and one talent to the servants, respectively. The two faithful servants use what they have been given, while the other one buries his talent out of fear. God has entrusted each of us with different gifts and responsibilities. We may sometimes compare ourselves with others or feel that what we have is too small to matter. Yet, Jesus calls us to be faithful with what we have in our hands each day. Let us use our gifts to love and serve others. When we do, even small acts of faithfulness can bear fruit.

Reflective question:

What would it mean for me to stay spiritually awake in my daily life?

Monday, 16th November, 33rd Week in Ordinary Time. St. Margaret of Scotland, St. Gertrude the Great

Revelation 1:1-4; 2:1-5, Luke 18:35-43

As Jesus drew near to Jericho there was a blind man sitting at the side of the road begging. When he heard the crowd going past he asked what it was all about, and they told him that Jesus the Nazarene was passing by. So he called out, 'Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me'. The people in front scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he shouted all the louder, 'Son of David, have pity on me'. Jesus stopped and ordered them to bring the man to him, and when he came up, asked him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' 'Sir,' he replied 'let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Receive your sight. Your faith has saved you.' And instantly his sight returned and he followed him praising God, and all the people who saw it gave praise to God for what had happened.

Let Me See Again

As Jesus enters Jericho, a blind man hears the crowd passing by and cries out, “*Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me!*” Others try to silence him, but he keeps calling. His persistence teaches us not to let discouragement weaken our faith. In our lives, we may feel discouraged by difficulties, the doubts of others, or our own fears and weariness. At times, we may wonder whether prayer makes a difference. The blind man reminds us to keep turning to Jesus, even when the answer seems delayed or the way forward is unclear. Through prayer, we put faith into practice by bringing our needs honestly to God and trusting in His love and care.

When Jesus restores his sight, the man does not return to his old routines, but he follows Jesus and praises God. His healing brings not a new way of seeing, but also a new way of living. We are called to respond to God’s love with gratitude, follow Jesus with faithfulness, and share His goodness with others.

Reflective question:

How can I respond to Jesus’ love and mercy by following Him today?

Tuesday, 17th November, St. Elizabeth of Hungary.

Revelation 3:1-6, 14-22, Luke 19:1-10

Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the town when a man whose name was Zacchaeus made his appearance; he was one of the senior tax collectors and a wealthy man. He was anxious to see what kind of man Jesus was, but he was too short and could not see him for the crowd; So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus who was to pass that way. When Jesus reached the spot he looked up and spoke to him: 'Zacchaeus, come down. Hurry, because I must stay at your house today.' And he hurried down and welcomed him joyfully. They all complained when they saw what was happening. 'He has gone to stay at a sinner's house' they said. But Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to the Lord, 'Look, sir, I am going to give half my property to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody I will pay him back four times the amount' And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek out and save what was lost'.

Finding Renewal in Jesus

Zacchaeus has wealth and power, yet something is missing from his life. His riches cannot give him the peace and acceptance he longs for. When Jesus passes through Jericho, he climbs a tree to see Him, and that choice changes his life forever. Jesus stops, calls him by name and says, "*Zacchaeus, come down. Hurry, because I must stay at your house today.*" Zacchaeus hurries down joyfully. As he opens his home to Jesus, he also opens his heart to change, turning from dishonesty to integrity and from selfishness to generosity.

We too may look for happiness in money, success or approval of others, yet still feel empty. We may hold on to anger and let worries keep us distant from others. Jesus meets us where we are and longs to enter our homes and our lives. When we welcome Him, His love reaches the places where we feel wounded or alone. His presence can bring healing, not by removing all hardship, but by helping us face it with hope and renewed strength. With Jesus in our lives, we can take the next faithful step of letting go of what holds us back and beginning again.

Reflective question:

What must I let go in order to welcome Jesus more fully into my life and begin again?

Wednesday, 18th November, The Dedication of the Basilicas of St. Peter and St. Paul.

Revelation 4:1-11, Luke 19:11-28

While the people were listening, Jesus went on to tell a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and they imagined that the kingdom of God was going to show itself then and there. Accordingly he said, 'A man of noble birth went to a distant country to be appointed king and afterwards return. He summoned ten of his servants and gave them ten pounds. "Do business with these" he told them "until I get back." But his compatriots detested him and sent a delegation to follow him with this message, "We do not want this man to be our king". Now on his return, having received his appointment as king, he sent for those servants to whom he had given the money, to find out what profit each had made. The first came in and said, "Sir, your one pound has brought in ten". "Well done, my good servant!" he replied "Since you have proved yourself faithful in a very small thing, you shall have the government of ten cities." Then

came the second and said, "Sir, your one pound has made five". To this one also he said, "And you shall be in charge of five cities". Next came the other and said, "Sir, here is your pound. I put it away safely in a piece of linen because I was afraid of you; for you are an exacting man: you pick up what you have not put down and reap what you have not sown." "You wicked servant!" he said "Out of your own mouth I condemn you. So you knew I was an exacting man, picking up what I have not put down and reaping what I have not sown? Then why did you not put my money in the bank? On my return I could have drawn it out with interest." And he said to those standing by, "Take the pound from him and give it to the man who has ten pounds". And they said to him, "But, sir, he has ten pounds . . ." "I tell you, to everyone who has will be given more; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. "But as for my enemies who did not want me for their king, bring them here and execute them in my presence." When he had said this he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

Faithful While We Wait

In today's Gospel, Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem. Many who follow Him hope that God's Kingdom will appear immediately and free them from Roman rule. Instead of focusing on when the Kingdom will come and becoming anxious, Jesus invites them to reflect on how they are living and whether they are ready to welcome it. He tells the people a parable about the ten servants whose master entrusts them with money and tells them to put it to work until he returns. When he comes back, he asks what each servant has done with what was entrusted to them.

Through the parable, Jesus reminds us that waiting for God's Kingdom is not passive. Instead, while we wait, we are called to be faithful with what God has placed in our care, such as our gifts, relationships and responsibilities. We are called to use what we have for the good of others and ourselves. Let us not be like the servant who hid what he had been given out of fear. Instead, let us trust God and take small steps toward living responsibly and serving others with love.

Reflective question:

How am I using my gifts and talents for the good of God's Kingdom?

Thursday, 19th November, 33rd Week in Ordinary Time.

Revelation 5:1-10, Luke 19:41-44

As Jesus drew near and came in sight of the city he shed tears over it and said, 'If you in your turn had only understood on this day the message of peace! But, alas, it is hidden from your eyes! Yes, a time is coming when your enemies will raise fortifications all round you, when they will encircle you and hem you in on every side; they will dash you and the children inside your walls to the ground; they will leave not one stone standing on another within you-and all because you did not recognize your opportunity when God offered it!'

When Love Weeps

As Jesus draws near Jerusalem, the city He deeply loves, He weeps over it. His tears reveal the sadness born of love. He longs for the people to receive the peace and life God is offering. Yet their pride and indifference have kept them from recognising God's presence in Him. Jerusalem bears a name associated with peace, but its people lack the deeper peace, peace rooted in friendship with God and in the unity that binds one to another.

Today, let us look honestly at our own lives. We may desire peace, but we may overlook how close God already is to us, in a moment of prayer, an intuition to reach out to someone in need, or a quiet nudge to forgive. Like Jerusalem, we can miss God's presence because our hearts are not attentive. Yet Jesus does not turn away when we fail to welcome Him in our lives. He patiently draws near and calls us toward peace. May we respond to Jesus by making room for Him in our lives and allowing His peace to reign in our hearts.

Reflective question:

What must I change to welcome the peace Jesus offers?

Friday, 20th November, 33rd Week in Ordinary Time.

Revelation 10:8-11, Luke 19:45-48

Jesus went into the Temple and began driving out those who were selling. 'According to scripture,' he said 'my house will be a house of prayer. But you have turned it into a robbers' den'. He taught in the Temple every day. The chief priests and the scribes, with the support of the leading

citizens, tried to do away with him, but they couldn't see how, because the people as a whole hung on his words.

Making Room for God

In today's Gospel, Jesus enters the Temple and drives out those selling there, saying it should be a house of prayer, not a den of robbers. As we pray with the passage today, let Jesus' actions invite us to look at our own lives and notice what may be taking the place of God. At times, we may let worry, busyness, selfishness, or distractions take the central place in our lives.

Making room for God does not mean withdrawing from everyday life. It means bringing God into every part of it: our relationships, worries, work, recreation and prayer. When we open our hearts to Him, our lives can become places where we share His love and presence with others.

Reflective question:

How can I make more room for God today?

Saturday, 21st November, The Presentation of the Blessed Mary. Zechariah 2:14-17, Matthew 12:46-50

Jesus was speaking to the crowds when suddenly his mother and his brothers were standing outside and were anxious to have a word with him. Someone said to him: Your mother and brothers are standing outside and want to speak to you. But to the man who told him this Jesus replied, 'Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?' And stretching out his hand towards his disciples he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers. Anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.'

Living As God's Family

In today's Gospel, while Jesus is teaching, His mother and brothers stand outside, hoping to speak with Him. When someone tells Him they are there, Jesus asks, "*Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?*" He points to His disciples and says that anyone who does the will of His Father in heaven is His brother, sister, and mother. Jesus is not rejecting Mary. Rather, His words reveal her deep faith and discipleship. Mary listens to God's Word and responds with constant trust, showing us what it means to do the Father's will.

Through baptism, we belong to God and are members of His family. This belonging is more than just a name. It calls us to live each day as God's children, guided by His love. Like Mary, we are invited to listen to God, trust Him even when the way is difficult, and let His will shape our lives. As we do so, we grow closer to God and become a clear sign of His presence to others around us.

Reflective question:

How can I follow Mary's example of listening to God and trusting His will in my daily life?

Sunday, 22nd November, Christ the King

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17, 1 Corinthians 15: 20-26, 28, Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me". Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one

of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me". And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

You Did It to Me

In today's Gospel, both groups encounter people in need: the hungry who need food, the thirsty who need a drink, the stranger who needs a welcome, the person without clothing who needs dignity, the sick who need companionship, and the prisoner who needs compassion and acceptance. The difference is in how they respond. The righteous notice these people and recognise their needs. They offer what they can, not because they expect praise or reward, but because their hearts are turned toward God and their neighbours. The others are so focused on themselves that they fail to see or respond to the needs around them.

Jesus invites us to welcome Him as King of our hearts and let His love shape the way we live. We may not be able to solve every hardship, but we can offer a meal, listen with patience, visit someone who feels alone, welcome a newcomer, or treat every person with dignity. In these everyday acts of care, we serve Christ.

Reflective question:

What is one concrete way I can show Christ's love to someone in my life today?

Monday, 23rd November, St. Clement I, St. Columban.

Revelation 14:1-3, 4-5, Luke 21:1-4

As Jesus looked up he saw rich people putting their offerings into the treasury; then he happened to notice a poverty-stricken widow putting in two small coins, and he said, 'I tell you truly, this poor widow has put in more than any of them; for these have all contributed money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in all she had to live on.'

Our Two Small Coins

In today's Gospel, Jesus notices a poor widow placing her two small coins into the Temple treasury. To others, her gift may have seemed insignificant. However, Jesus sees the depth of love and trust behind it. Unlike those who give from their surplus, she gives from what she has, trusting and relying on God.

This poor widow shows us that generosity is not measured by the size of the gift. It can be found in the small acts of love we give each day, like the company we give to someone who feels lonely, the patience we offer when life is busy, or sharing our limited resources with those in need. We do not need to wait until we have more time, money, or energy to love and serve. We can begin today with what we already have, offering it freely to God and using it to help those around us.

Reflective question:

What small gift can I offer someone today with love?

Tuesday, 24th November, SS. Andrew Dung-Lac.

Revelation 14:14-19, Luke 21:5-11

When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, Jesus said, 'All these things you are staring at now-the time will come when not a single stone will be left on another: everything will be destroyed'. And they put to him this question: 'Master,' they said 'when will this happen, then, and what sign will there be that this is about to take place?' 'Take care not to be deceived,' he said 'because many will come using my name and saying, "I am he" and, "The time is near at hand". Refuse to join them. And when you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened, for this is something that must happen but the end is not so soon.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes and plagues and famines here and there; there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.'

Staying Steadfast in Uncertain Times

When Jesus speaks about the Temple's bleak future and the troubling events to come, the disciples likely feel scared and unsettled. The Temple seems strong and permanent, yet Jesus reminds them that what seems unshakeable can change.

We face uncertainty in our own lives too. Plans can change, difficulties can arise suddenly, and the future can seem unclear. In such moments, fear can make us imagine the worst. Jesus calls us to remember that uncertainty does not mean that we are alone. Faith in God does not promise a problem-free life, but it gives us firm ground to stand on as we face it. We trust that God remains with us.

Reflective question:

When life seems uncertain, what helps me to stay grounded in God's love?

Wednesday, 25th November, St. Catherine of Alexandria.

Revelation 15:1-4, Luke 21:12-19

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Men will seize you and persecute you; they will hand you over to the synagogues and to imprisonment, and bring you before kings and governors because of my name - and that will be your opportunity to bear witness. Keep this carefully in mind: you are not to prepare your defence, because I myself shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relations and friends; and some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all men on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives.'

Courage in the Face of Opposition

In today's Gospel, Jesus prepares His disciples for the reality that standing firmly for His truth can lead to opposition, misunderstanding or pressure to compromise our values. In daily life, this may mean choosing honesty when others lie, speaking about our faith despite fear of ridicule, or doing what is right when others disagree. In such moments, Jesus calls us to trust Him. He will give us the wisdom and words we need. All we need to do is stay faithful and open to His guidance.

Jesus calls us to persevere and trust that God cares for us. Even when others might reject us, God can work through our small acts of faith and courage to bring goodness to others.

Reflective question:

Where is God calling me to bear witness to His love in my daily life right now, even if it feels uncomfortable or inconvenient?

Thursday, 26th November, 34th Week in Ordinary Time.

Revelation 18:1-2, 21-23, 19:1-3, 9, Luke 21:20-28

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, you must realise that she will soon be laid desolate. Then those in Judaea must escape to the mountains, those inside the city must leave

it, and those in country districts must not take refuge in it. For this is the time of vengeance when all that scripture says must be fulfilled. Alas for those with child, or with babies at the breast, when those days come! For great misery will descend on the land and wrath on this people. They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive to every pagan country; and Jerusalem will be trampled down by the pagans until the age of the pagans is completely over. There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.'

Trust in God

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks of frightening events, suffering, and uncertainty. Indeed, life can bring moments when everything we know is shaken. We may experience this through illness, loss, conflict or fear of what lies ahead. In such moments, we naturally feel overwhelmed and scared.

Jesus says, *"When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand."* Jesus does not want us to remain in our fear. Instead, He tells us to lift our heads, look beyond our troubles, and remember that hardship does not have the final word. God, our Liberator, is with us, and He can sustain us through life's ups and downs. Let us live with trust in God's presence.

Reflective question:

What helps me remember that God is present, even when I cannot see what comes next?

Friday, 27th November, 34th Week in Ordinary Time.

Revelation 20:1-4, 11-21: 2, Luke 21:29-33

Jesus told them a parable, 'Think of the fig tree and indeed every tree. As soon as you see them bud, you know that summer is now near. So with you when you see these things happening: know that the kingdom of God is near. I tell you solemnly, before this generation has passed

away all will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.'

When New Life Begins to Appear

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that when leaves appear on a tree, we know summer is near. By saying this, Jesus invites us to pay attention and see how God is at work. When life is hard, we may feel that nothing is changing. We may wonder if our efforts matter. However, small things can show us that God is at work: hope is rekindled, a broken relationship begins to heal, we find the courage to ask for help, or we have the strength to keep going even when we are tired. These moments remind us that we can trust in God, even when we do not understand everything.

Jesus says, *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."* We hold on to these words when life is uncertain, letting them guide our choices and give us hope.

Reflective question:

How can I stay attentive to God's presence in my life?

Saturday, 28th November, 34th Week in Ordinary Time.

Revelation 22:1-7, Luke 21:34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

Stay Awake

In today's Gospel, Jesus warns His disciples not to let their hearts be weighed down by worry, distractions, or the pressures of life. It is so easy to get caught up in responsibilities and personal worries that we stop noticing how God is speaking to us and guiding us. Today, Jesus invites us to stay spiritually awake by setting time aside for prayer and strengthening our relationship with God.

We cannot control everything that lies ahead, but we can meet each day's challenges with faith and an open heart, trusting that God is with

us in both the good moments and the difficult ones. Today, let us take courage, knowing we can rely on God to guide and strengthen us along the way.

Reflective question:

What worries or distractions take up the most space in my heart?

Sunday, 29th November, 1st Sunday of Advent.

Isaiah 64:2-7, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from his home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own work to do; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow or dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I am saying to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

Held in God's Hands, Awakened to His Love

On the First Sunday of Advent, we listen to the prophet Isaiah as He tells us, "*Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.*" The image reminds us that God lovingly and patiently forms us, even in moments when we feel imperfect and unfinished. Being in God's hands does not mean that life will always be easy. It means God is always close to us and we can bring our hopes and struggles to Him, trusting that we are always held and loved.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells us to stay awake by being present and attentive, noticing God's presence at work in our lives and the lives of those around us. In our daily lives, distractions can make us overlook the needs of others and the quiet ways God is guiding us. Staying awake also means being responsible and faithful to the work God has entrusted to us. We have been given gifts and opportunities to serve. Let us be faithful each day, not by trying to do everything, but by offering what we can with love and care.

Reflective question:

How can I be attentive to God and faithful to what has been entrusted to me?

Monday, 30th November, St.Andrew, the Apostle.

Romans 10:9–18, Matthew 4:18–22

As Jesus was walking by the Lake of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast into the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Come after me and I will make you fishers of people.' And at once they left their nets and followed him. Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. And at once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

Leaving the Familiar Shore

As Advent begins, the Gospel invites us to listen for God's call in the midst of our ordinary life. Jesus meets Andrew and Peter at work, not in a perfect moment, but in the familiar rhythm of their day. He calls them to follow Him, and they courageously take the step into the unknown.

Most of us are not asked to leave our familiar shores of jobs and families, but we are invited to make room for Jesus in our lives. Following Him can mean choosing patience with someone who irritates us, reaching out to someone who feels lonely, or speaking kindly when we are tired. Like Andrew, we may not know where each choice of love will lead, but we trust that Jesus will guide us toward a life of greater love and purpose.

Reflective question:

At the start of Advent, what is Jesus inviting me to leave behind to make room for His presence?

