

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful, and pray constantly, that you may be worthy to stand before the Son of Man.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-32

He shall gather his elect from the four winds.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'In those days, after the time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will come falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then too he will send the angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven.

'Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. So with you when you see these things happening: know that he is near, at the very gates. I tell you solemnly, before this generation has passed away all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 'But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord

BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

Loyola Press

Jesus teaches about the signs of the coming of the Son of Man.

This Sunday is the second to last Sunday of our liturgical year. As we approach the end of the Church year, our Gospel invites us to consider Jesus' predictions and teaching about the end of the world. In the context of Mark's Gospel, Jesus' words about this are spoken to his disciples as he prepares them for his passion and death.

Before we consider Jesus' words, it is important to note the political backdrop against which many think Mark's Gospel was written. Most scholars concur that Mark wrote his Gospel for Christians living in or near Rome about 30 to 40 years after the death of Jesus. This was a time of political turmoil in Rome. Some Christians experienced persecution by the Romans during the reign of the emperor Nero (about 64 A.D.). Jewish revolutionaries rebelled against the Romans, which led the Romans to destroy the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 A.D. In this time of political turmoil and persecution, many in Mark's community might have wondered if the end times predicted by Jesus were in fact quite near.

Last Sunday we heard Jesus' observation about the contributions being made to the temple treasury and the example of sacrificial giving that he saw in the poor widow's offering. If we had been reading Mark's Gospel continuously, we would have heard Jesus predict the destruction of the Temple, his teaching about the costs of discipleship, and the woes that will accompany the end times. Finally, we would have heard Jesus instruct his disciples about the need for watchfulness so that they will not be caught unprepared for this final day of judgment.

In today's Gospel, Jesus continues this teaching by offering his disciples signs to look for that will indicate that the coming of the Son of Man is near. His words and images draw upon Old Testament imagery, especially images found in the Book of Daniel. Next, Jesus offers the lesson of the fig tree, a parable that teaches that if one knows how to read the signs, one can be prepared for the end times. Jesus also teaches, however, that no one knows when the end time will come, except the Father. In the verses that follow this reading in Mark's Gospel, Jesus continues to warn his disciples to be on watch for this end time.

Jesus' words are not spoken to frighten his disciples, nor should they frighten us. Rather, they are offered to prepare us for the changes we will experience during our lifetimes and at the end times. Our consolation and hope is found in the lasting nature of Jesus' words and God's never-ending love for us.



Parish Bulletin

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B **16/17 Nov 2024**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Daniel 12:1-13

When that time comes your own people will be spared.

'At that time Michael will stand up, the great prince who mounts guard over your people. There is going to be a time of great distress, unparalleled since nations first came into existence. When that time comes, your own people will be spared, all those whose names are found written in the Book. Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting disgrace. The learned will shine as brightly as the vault of heaven, and those who have instructed many in virtue, as bright as stars for all eternity.'

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 15:5, 8-11

Response:

Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.

- O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize. I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. **R**
- And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety. For you will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay. **R**
- You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right hand happiness for ever. **R**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:11-14,18

By a single offering he has achieved the eternal perfection of those who are sanctified.

All the priests stand at their duties every day, offering over and over again the same sacrifices which are quite incapable of taking sins away. He, on the other hand, has offered one single sacrifice for sins, and then taken his place forever, at the right hand of God, where he is now waiting until his enemies are made into a footstool for him. By virtue of that one single offering, he has achieved the eternal perfection of all whom he is sanctifying. When all sins have been forgiven, there can be no more sin offerings.

The word of the Lord

He shall gather his elect from the four winds.

MY WORDS WILL NOT PASS AWAY.

We live in a world of rapid change. Many of the places of our childhood have gone or been altered significantly. Customs, attitudes and pastimes are different now. All of this reminds us of the transitory nature of life. The heavens and the earth as we know them are passing away. Only the word of God stands forever. May we place our trust in the kingdom of God and not in the passing kingdoms we create.

PRAYER BEFORE HOLY MASS

Heavenly father, we are about to offer this wonderful memorial of the passion and death of your Son. Bless our Priest as he stands in the person of Christ and makes present for us the great sacrifice of Calvary.

Bless our Ministers here present today-our ministers of the Eucharist, our readers, our Altar Servers, our musicians and ushers. When we reflect on the magnificence of these Sacred Ministries, we are somewhat overawed at our calling. But also we are overjoyed that You have asked us to stand at Your altar and serve You.

Help us to be reverent and to be faithful to our responsibilities. May this Eucharist that we are about to offer be a bond of unity and a sacrament of love for our people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SPECIAL THANKS FROM VINNIES

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal

A very sincere THANK YOU to parishioners who contributed to the Special Collection on 9th Nov. A total of \$1,623.50 was raised. By helping the appeal you have helped in two ways. At a local level, our members and volunteers will be able to offer assistance directly to families and individuals. At a broader level, you have contributed to the large and varied network of short and long term support services for people in South Australia who need special care. If you were unable, or missed contributing to that collection, you may still donate.

How to Donate

In the Bulletin boxes there are envelopes. Please fill out and return to the **Poor Box** or send in by post. You can donate by phone 131812 or on line at www.vinnies.org.au. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Vinnies Christmas Hampers

Last year we were able to help 56 local families with hampers. The requests for assistance throughout this year has increased by 50% so we are anticipating many will request help this Christmas. We invite parishioners to donate items for hampers during the coming weeks. To alleviate cost of living for those in dire need, we need your help. *Please leave your items in shopping bags at the main entrance.* Details of suitable items are on posters at the side doors. The last date for contributions is **Sunday 15th Dec**

Columban Calendars and Vinnies Christmas Cards

These are available at the main entrance. Please place money in envelopes provided and then deposit in Poor Box.



ROSTERS FOR VOLUNTEERS 2025

Thanks to all the volunteers who have regularly served our parish in 2024. We are preparing the Roster for 2025. Please contact the parish office if you need to make any changes, or if you will not be able to stay on the roster.

Please contact the office before Sunday 24th Nov 2024.

Phone: 8431 6931, or email: info@stjosephsparishtranmere.org.au

