



parish newsletter

13 November 2022 | Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) | Remembrance Sunday

Your endurance will win you your lives

Many make it their life's ambition to determine precisely when the world will end. By reading the signs of the times, consulting scripture, or looking to prophetic predictions that are sometimes centuries old, they claim a certain credibility in being able to do so. Is all that necessary to know? Even when his disciples pointedly ask him this question, Jesus does not directly answer. While the end will inevitably come, Jesus points out that there is a lot we need to do first: remain faithful, face persecution, endure suffering, face wars and insurrections, and give testimony. Human beings tend to focus their energies on the wrong kingdom. Consumed with all of the things we have built and seeking to preserve them, we forget that we belong to a different kingdom, the Kingdom of God.

All of the "stuff" we have constructed will be taken away. All that will remain is God's kingdom. Which kingdom do we prefer? We answer that question by honestly looking at where we invest most of our time and energy. What matters to us as we embrace a new moment or day in our lives? If

our relationship with God, the strength and integrity of our souls, and the steadfastness of our character are of utmost importance, then it matters little when the physical end will come. We will have what we need to persevere, endure, and confront whatever comes our way. Jesus cautions that we do not allow ourselves to be overwhelmed or overly terrified by the agonies and disappointments of the world. Although we may be apprehensive and uncertain when faced with complex challenges, God is with us. We will receive the inspiration we need to forge ahead.

God is a God of salvation and new beginnings. Whether we consider the daily unfolding of our earthly lives or our eternal ones to come, God never leaves us with dead ends. There is always hope, and there is always something new to come. As Julian of Norwich reminds us, "God made us, God loves us and God keeps us." This wisdom holds true whether life is stable and profitable or challenging and uncertain. If we remember this simple truth, we will be ready regardless of the day or the

Everyday Stewardship

Eyes on your own paper

"Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues from place to place."

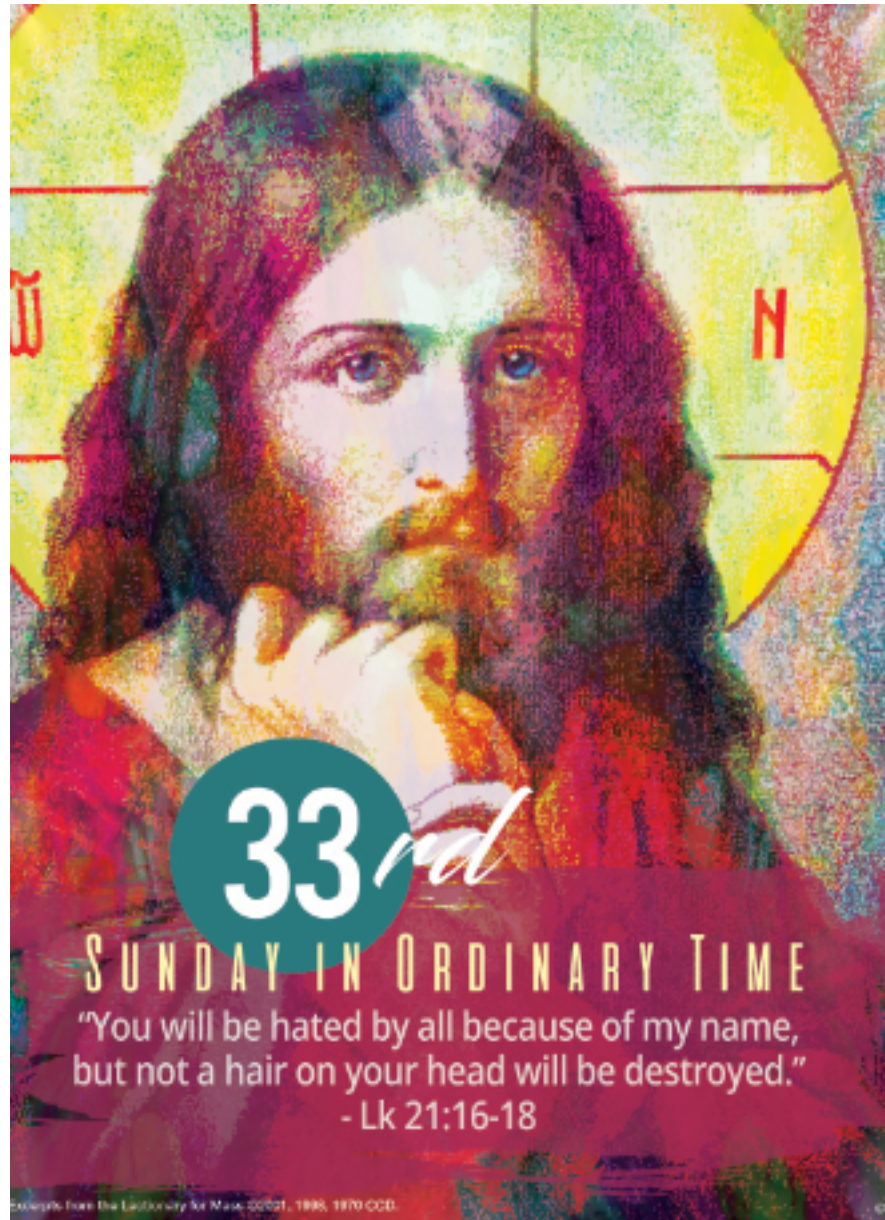
Looking at these words, I have to wonder. Am I reading the Bible or today's newspaper headline?

It's never easier to despair than when you glance up and take a good look at what's going on in the world: disasters, natural and contrived, wars, resentments, rivalries, and divi-

sions. It is almost too much sometimes, isn't it? The twenty-four-hour news cycle doesn't help. Add social media and it's enough to push anyone into a nervous breakdown.

When you find yourself in this place of despair, remember Paul's admonishment in his letter to the Thessalonians. Work quietly and eat your own food.

It's not so different from the old "keep-your-eyes-on-your-own-paper" rule of the classroom. Poking our noses into other people's business, we may think we are getting



hour.

Living the Paschal Mystery

Before time existed, there was no beginning. "The earth was without form or shape, with darkness over the abyss" (Gen 1:2). There was nothing. Except God. God was all. Then there was a beginning. There was creation. And it was "very good" (Gen 1:31). From the beginning of creation God desired an intimate, loving relationship with humanity

and all of creation. God would walk "in the garden at the breezy time of the day" (Gen 3:8). Yet, humankind chose and continues to choose to be unfaithful, thwarting the beauty and dignity of what God intended for creation. "Nation will rise against nation," evil people will "seize and persecute" the faithful, some will be put "to death" and

"hated." We choose infidelity, chaos, violence, evil, hatred. Because of our sinful choices, all creation has been marred. All creation has become something less than God intended at the beginning of creation.

At the end of time, all creation as we know it will cease to be. But instead of returning to a dark void, those who are faithful will rise to eternal Light and will secure their eternal Life. What happens at the end of time will be a reversal of what took place at the beginning of time. Then, all things were created. At the end of time, all things cease to be. Except God. And those who are faithful who will be united with God.

We might ask, then, what will be so different at the end times? In one sense every day is already the beginning of the end time. Every choice we make has to do with how we will be at the end of time. The signs we observe of human calamities bid us to testify to all that Jesus taught us - that there is more to life than we can see. We must live faithfully now. By our perseverance as faithful followers testifying to Jesus' name we secure everlasting Life. Every day is an opportunity to live discipleship fully and confidently. Every day is an opportunity to grow in our relationship with Jesus, the One who promises Life to his faithful ones.

In the beginning, all things came to be. At the end, things as we know them will cease to be. Does anything really last forever?

Certainly not temples, not nations, not even the foundations of the earth. So, what does last forever? God, the wisdom of Jesus, divine Life. And, yes, the lives of those who persevere in fidelity to the name and mission of Jesus and who "will secure" a share in divine Life. At the end... a new beginning.

The signs of the end of time alert us to the fact that our; striving to be faithful disciples has cosmic proportions. Living the paschal mystery doesn't just have consequences for ourselves, but also for all others. When we break out of a chronological understanding of time (that is, time as duration with past, present, and future) and break into God's eternal time (time without duration in which everything just is), we can begin to understand how even the little acts of kindness and self-sacrifice we perform each day affect all that is. Our unity with Jesus is deepened by striving to care for others, help others, shower others with dignity and respect.

Here is a sobering thought: the way we care for the children, are honest at the workplace, take leisure time to care for ourselves affects our whole world and everyone in it. This is the privilege of discipleship: we can make a difference! This is the effect of faithful discipleship: the world is a better place - we have readied it for Christ's Second Coming at the end of time by our faithful and grace-filled living now.

Live the Liturgy

Jesus assures us that the world, as we know it, will one day come to an end. When will this be? In one sense, having an answer to that question really does not matter. Faith is faith and either we have it or we do not. Secure in that faith, we know that when one thing ends, another begins. In the meantime, we are asked to persevere and remain strong through all of life's inevitable challenges and

obstacles. What we see and experience as we journey to the day when all is one in Christ, may cause our faith to be shaken and tested. Trust and endurance are what are needed as world events unfold. Even though life can be uncertain and terrifying at times, faithful people will be protected. It does not matter what day or hour the end will come. We must remain ready and vigilant anyway.



Work quietly and eat your own food.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



First Reading:
But for you who fear my name, there will arise the sun of justice with its healing rays. (Mal 3:20)

Psalms:
The Lord comes to rule the peoples with fairness. (Ps 97)

Second Reading:
We instructed you that if anyone was unwilling to work, neither should that one eat. (2 Thes 3:10)

Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to stand with confidence before the Son of Man. Alleluia!

Gospel:
"You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives." (Lk 12:17-19)

13	THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)	Mal 3:19-20a/Ps 98:5-6, 7-8, 9/2 Thes 3:7-12/Lk 21:5-19 08:00 Morning Prayer Mercy Chapel 09:00 Mass Convent Ints of Sr M Raphael & Family 10:30 Mass St Mary's Dead of both World Wars 17:00 Mass St Mary's People of the Parish
14	Monday	Rv 1:1-4; 2:1-5/Ps 11:2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 18:35-43 08:00 Morning Prayer Mercy Chapel 09:00 Arise Mercy Chapel 12:05 Mass St Mary's In Thanksgiving Celia Mary Sojo 12:45 Chaplet of Divine Mercy St Mary's 17:15 Evening Prayer Mercy Chapel 18:30 Catholicism St Mary's Catholic Centre
15	Tuesday St Albert the Great	Rv 3:1-6, 14-22/Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5/Lk 19:1-10 08:00 Morning Prayer Mercy Chapel 12:05 Mass St Mary's Dominic English (RIP) 13:00 Over 60s St Mary's Catholic Centre 16:30 Chaplaincy Tuesdays Upper Room
16	Wednesday St Edmund of Abingdon St Margaret of Scotland	Rv 4:1-11/Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 19:11-28 08:00 Morning Prayer Mercy Chapel 12:05 Mass St Mary's Betty Martin (RIP) 17:15 Evening Prayer Mercy Chapel 18:30 RCIA Upper Room
17	St Hilda of Whitby	Rv 5:1-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Lk 19:41-44 08:00 Morning Prayer Mercy Chapel 10:00 Open House St Mary's Catholic Centre 10:15 Confessions St Cecilia's 10:30 Mass St Cecilia's Family of Emily Chapman 12:05 Mass St Mary's Unborn Children 18:00 St Arnold Society The Ship Isis
18	Friday Dedications of the Basilicas of Ss Peter and Paul	Rv 10:8-11/Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131/Lk 19:45-48 08:00 Morning Prayer Mercy Chapel 12:05 Mass St Mary's William Cheal (RIP) 12:45 Holy Rosary St Mary's 17:15 Evening Prayer Mercy Chapel
19	Saturday	Rv 11:4-12/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10/Lk 20:27-40 08:00 Morning Prayer Mercy Chapel 10:30 Confessions St Mary's 11:00 Mass St Mary's Holy Souls 11:45 Confessions St Mary's 18:00 Vigil Mass St Cecilia's People of the Parish
20	CHRIST THE KING (C)	2 Sm 5:1-3/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5/Col 1:12-20/Lk 23:35-43 08:00 Morning Prayer Mercy Chapel 09:00 Mass Convent Deceased Members of the Crawley Family 10:30 Mass St Mary's Caroline & Bernard Purdy (RIP) 17:00 Mass St Mary's Fred Gardiner (RIP)

Bernadette, Jean Maur-
een, Christopher, Paula,
Peter, Emilia, Jean, Teresa,
Cath, the sick sisters at
Oaklea, David, Marion, Dave, Neil, Paul, Andrew, Jacob,
Stella, David, Alisa, Susan, Mary, Jack, Richard, Margaret,
Moirra, Gerry, Nick, Maureen, Stella, Rose, Keith, Kelly
and Tracy

Dominic English, Miriam
Rogers, Florence Isabella
Davis, Alan & Maureen

Let us know if you would like a name added to the list.

Questions for the Week

First Reading: The prophet Malachi speaks of God's judgment at the end of time and the importance of fearing the Lord. What do you think it means to "fear" the Lord?

Second Reading: Paul talks about himself as a "model" on how to behave for the believers in Thessalonica. Who are some family members that you think model the faith well?

Gospel: Jesus forewarned his disciples that because of their faith in him, they would be persecuted, even "handed over by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends ... hated by all because of my name." How would you react if your family and friends hated you because of your belief in Jesus?

Why do we do that?



Question: How does a person become a canonised saint?

Answer: It is important to re-

member that all the saints are people, real people who lived just as we do! The first saints of the Church were martyrs or theologians known for a holy life. Over time, the Church has established a set process to investigate the causes of saints.

After a holy person's death, the bishop of their diocese initiates the canonisation process with the Vatican. Typically, they must wait five years to ensure any false enthusiasm has

lessened. With Vatican approval, the process begins and the person receives the title "Servant of God." The first phase involves collecting information about the person's life and scrutinising it carefully. One person has the specific role of raising doubts — this is the origin of the phrase "devil's advocate!" When it is clear the person truly lived a heroically holy life according to Church teaching, they are declared "Venerable." If the person is a martyr

for the faith, they will also be declared "Blessed." If the person is not a martyr, they must be credited with a miracle. This is also closely examined for authenticity. Once the miracle is authenticated as truly a miracle performed by God through the person or through their intercession, they are beatified. An additional authenticated miracle is required before canonisation, and we can call them "Saint."

Saint of the Week

Saint Margaret was born in exile around 1045, in what is now Hungary. She is the daughter of Princess Agatha of Hungary and Edward the Atheling the Anglo-Saxon heir to the throne of England. The family returned to England, but Edward died soon after their arrival, making Margaret's brother Edgar the presumptive heir. However, the Norman Conquest would turn their world upside down. Agatha

and her children fled the country. They likely intended to go back to Hungary, but they were shipwrecked off the coast of Scotland.

King Malcolm Canmore III took the exiles under his wing, and he fell in love with the beautiful and gracious Margaret. Although she initially rebuffed his proposals, the couple were married in 1070 at castle of Dunfermline. Margaret and Malcolm had eight children, six sons and two daughters. Margaret brought culture to the Scottish court and used her influence to soften her

rough husband. The saint led a life of austerity, aiding Church reform, promoting Easter communion, and founding churches and monasteries. She instituted the Queen's Ferry to the shrine of St. Andrew and founded pilgrimage hostels. Saint Margaret, Queen of Scotland, died on November 16, 1093, four days after her husband and eldest son were killed in the battle of Alnwick. She was canonised by Pope Innocent IV in 1250 and named patron of Scotland in 1673.



Announcements

St Arnold Society

We're back this Thursday with live music and our very own Adrian Brooks! Come along for a night of theology, beer and the best pizza in the North East!

Bank Details & Offerings

So few of us carry cash any more, so do you want to make your offering by direct debit? Please use the reference 'Offering' so we know where to account for it. Our bank details are:
Name: DHN Sunderland Our Lady of Mercy
Sort Code: 40-34-18
Acc No: 84456955

November Lists for the Dead

Envelopes are available at the back of the church for offerings and lists for the dead. Please put them in the basket in front of the altar.

Christmas Stars

In addition to the usual lists for the dead, please pick up a star from the back of the church and write the names of your deceased loved ones on it. Put them in the basket in front of the altar and we'll use them to decorate the Christmas Trees we put up on the sanctuary this Christmas.

Catholicism

Bishop Robert Barron's acclaimed series on the Catholic faith is on Monday at 6.30pm in St Mary's Hall. Filmed all over the world, the series looks at beauty of our faith.

Mass for the Deceased of the Parish

This year's Mass for the deceased of the parish where we pray for those who have died this past year will be at 6.30pm on Thursday, 24 November at St Cecilia's Church.



Our Lady of Mercy Parish

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Rev Eddy Barker • Parish Deacon

Rebecca Leighton • Lay University Chaplain • rebecca@sunderlandcatholic.com
Canon Alec Barras • Bishop Séamus Cunningham

Flock Notes

Everything made by humans eventually comes to an end. Try as we might, we cannot reach perfection and eternity by our own efforts. Our world is a world of change and decay and there will come a day when everything we know will have passed away. This is a real problem for us humans because we put so much faith and trust in the things we have and the things we can do, even to the point of idolising them. This truth can make us depressed or it can make us

hopeful. If nothing human can last forever, then what about something divine? Jesus says in the gospel that everything will pass away, but his words will not pass away. If we put our faith there, then we won't ever be disappointed. Who really rules our lives? Is it Jesus Christ or someone else? Do we hope for castles in the sky, or are we putting our hope on Christ and his kingdom?

