

33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time  
17th November 2024



He will gather his chosen from  
the four winds. Mark 13

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus talks of a fig tree. The tree was an important image for Jesus – he spoke truths of his message pointing at trees, like mustard seeds which grew big, vines that withered, and the fig tree which was common to his hearers. When asked about the signs of things to come, he gave no long homily, but just looked at the fig tree and said you know from this when summer and winter are coming. In the same way we can sense his presence in our lives in different ways.

This may not help us to know about the end of time and the questions people had then, but it can get us to become aware of how God is present in our lives.

The Word of God is spoken in the human words of many people. In kindly words, in forgiving and tolerant words, and also in the Word of God spoken in the Mass, Jesus speaks to us today. Like the people looking at a fig tree, we can find his presence in the kindness and the helpful words of another. This is the Word of God in human form. It will not pass away.

The care of God will not pass away. Each of us is in the book of life – with a job to do. Something written for all of us to make this world a better place. We are called to be friends of the earth...friends of all people...friends of the poor.

That's redemption, Jesus and us working in unison.

O God, merciful and strong,  
who crushes wars and casts down the proud,  
be pleased to banish violence swiftly from  
our midst  
and to wipe away all tears,  
so that we may all truly deserve to be called  
your children.



Almighty and eternal God,  
from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted,  
either by death or life:  
hear our prayers and thanksgivings  
for all whom we remember this day;  
fulfil in them the purpose of your love;  
and bring us all, with them, to your  
eternal joy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

This week let us pray for:

- ♦ the commitment of all involved to the decisions made to make our world a greener place;
- ♦ our country and world as we continue to strive for peace;
- ♦ all those connected to our community who are unwell, upset or mourning.



"If we do not radiate the light of Christ around us, the sense of the darkness that prevails in the world will increase."

Saint Teresa of Calcutta