



33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time—16th November 2025

The Gospel which we will hear this Sunday seems a bleak one at first. Jesus and the disciples are gathered at the temple in Jerusalem. As they stood in one of the courtyards of the temple, Jesus hears one of the disciples marvel at the beauty of the magnificent structure. Upon hearing his words, Jesus turned and said “As for these things that you see, the day will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.” [Luke 21:6]

We can imagine the disciple’s shock on hearing Jesus make such a sobering prediction. The temple was enormous and looked like it would last forever. Jesus had a clear sense of where history was going. Fewer than forty years after this, the Romans destroyed the temple and levelled Jerusalem. When the Romans left, Jerusalem was literally thrown down.

This Gospel is a reminder that many of us live in the midst of beautiful structures. We worship in exquisite sanctuaries. A lot of our homes are lovely. However, the lovely human-made structures that surround us must never be the ultimate focus for our lives. It is not the buildings but the people who gather in them that are precious for us.

When we are asked: Where is Jesus Christ today? Our answer should simply be: The body of Christ is present wherever two or more are gathered in his name! We are the Church and the fun part of being the church is not sitting around admiring the glory of an edifice, but rather our true joy is found in building up the body of Christ and gently drawing people into a life-changing relationship with the Lord.



Catholic Social Teaching reminds us of this as it covers what we, as a group of people, can do to help out our fellows. Two more key themes which encompass Jesus’ teachings for how we should live our lives are represented by these symbols: the symbol on the left represents **Participation**—where we are reminded that we should work together using our God-given talents and the stairs signify **Solidarity**—that working together shows we care.



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.



In addition, this week let us pray for:

- ◆ our leaders, that the Lord will illuminate them in the peace and wellbeing of the world;
- ◆ all those connected to our community who are unwell, upset or mourning;
- ◆ all those affected by the ongoing war;
- ◆ all the souls and saints who have gone before us.

The Lord comes to rule the peoples with fairness.
Psalm 97

