

Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

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Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time 16/17 November 2019

“You will be hated by all men on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost.”

Luke 21, 17 - 18

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C – Luke): We are living in anxious times where the immediate future is highly unpredictable. This anxiety is increased here in the UK where the election campaign is in full swing. The Middle East is still a theatre of war, the refugee crisis has reached catastrophic proportions. The failure to seriously address the multiple challenges of climate change too worry us. But even a cursory look through our history books reveal that there were moments in the past when things were a lot worse: the two great wars of the 20th century, the French Revolution and the Napoleonic wars, the Crusades, and the list goes on. The situation was not much better in the days of Jesus. Jesus did speak quite frequently, especially in the months when he must have suspected that his own days were numbered, about the end times and return of the Son of Man, the day of judgement. And yet, even if many later generations predicted day, date and location of the second coming, Jesus refused to be specific. He advised a calm and composure of his disciples rooted in their faith. And that summons to us to keep our nerve and resort to the comforts offered by our faith is as pertinent to our generation as it was to Jesus' own. As the liturgical year closes each year the Church focuses our attention on that distant horizon of the close of the age. We take consolation in our conviction that the values of the kingdom of God, preached and proclaimed by Jesus throughout his ministry, are integral to our Christian culture in the present age and the assurance that God will act, will return in his own good time.

First Reading (OT): Malachi 3, 19 – 20: There are people who have a soft and cuddly image of God, who like to focus on the loving, compassionate and merciful characteristics which there is not doubt he possesses. The image of God presented in this text by the prophet Malachi, and one which returns frequently in the literature of the OT, is harsh and menacing. And yet there is a consoling message that for those who hold his name in awe and respect, salvation will be theirs.

Second Reading (NT): 2 Thessalonians 3, 7 – 12: The phrase “[do not] let anyone have any food if he refused to do any work” is reproduced literally in the 1936 Constitution of the USSR, Article 16. The principle still holds in our own day with the prevailing belief that only those who work and perform have a right to be rewarded [and supported by the State]. The principle also applied in the early Christian community, albeit understood differently. There were senior members of the community who lived at the expense of and on the backs of the work of others: this was not to happen. Paul was proud of the fact that, as a tent-maker, he always earned his own keep. No matter what rank one held or what office one occupies, this was to apply to all members of the community.

Gospel: Luke 21, 5 – 19: Given that it did not survive the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in AD 70, we do not know whether or not the Temple was an architectural wonder, but we do know that Jesus focused on its purpose and vocation rather than on its beauty.

Masses and Intentions

Week 33 in Ordinary Time

Saturday 16th November No Mass
Feria in Ordinary Time

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

Saturday	16 th November	17.30	Eileen Leahy
Sunday	17 th November	10.00	Eddie Moran
		18.30	Derek O'Donnell RIP

Monday 18th November No Mass
Feria in Ordinary Time

Tuesday 19th November No Mass
Feria in Ordinary Time

Wednesday 20th November No Mass
Feria in Ordinary Time

Thursday 21st November No Mass
Memorial: Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Friday 22nd November No Mass
Memorial: St Cecilia

Saturday 23rd November 10.00 People of the parish
Feria in Ordinary Time

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Year C

Saturday	23 rd November	17.30	Catherine O'Brien
Sunday	24 th November	10.00	Mary Esther Kelly RIP
		18.30	Bridie & Jimmy O'Sullivan RIP

Confessions:	Saturday	10.30 - 11.30 16.45 - 17.15
Exposition & Benediction:	Saturday	10.30 - 11.30
Evening prayer, Rosary:	Saturday	16.45