

Homily

33rd Sunday, Year B, November 17th, 2024

Jesus tells us about the signs of His coming in glory. (Mark 13:24-32)

The Book of Daniel (12:1-3) **The End Times:** “At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people - everyone whose name is found written in the book - will be delivered. Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.”

Gospel of Mark 13: 24-32: “But in those days, following that distress, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father”.

Sunday Reflection:

My dear friends, our Sunday readings this weekend highlight an ancient Jewish thought of the future, called ‘The Day of the Lord’. This metaphor refers to the day when God will intervene directly in human history, and when the present age, with everything happening around – the good, the bad and the ugly situations, would begin to be transformed into the age to come. However these images and events described in the gospels (wars, rumors of war, terrors, earthquakes, tribulations, strange signs in the sky, and more) must not be taken literally.

Stand firm in your faith. God has not abandoned the world; even with everything happening, the world is still the platform in which God’s purpose is being worked out.

Do not be discouraged. Even with apparent breakdown of moral standards, this might be a prelude to recreation.

There is a God, the issues of life and death are in His hand. Whenever God calls us, at morning time, afternoon or in the evening time, that call must find us ready.

“Life is short. Death is certain. Eternity is long”. (Quote attributed to Henry Cardinal Newman).

Fr Martin Ezeihuaku, MSP. 33rd Sunday, Year B, November 17th, 2024

Do not panic. 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.

God bless you, and Keep you. Amen.

Fr Martin Ezeihuaku, MSP.