

Theme of the Week - Trust in the Lord

Within our lives, we come across struggles and conflict. Whether this be ones we witness from afar or our own struggles with relationships with others, doubt or anxiety that may question ourselves, our values and even our faith. In the Gospel reading from Sunday, Jesus explain this to the disciples. There will be times where things will be told or done to you, which will be really scary. But in our struggle to deal with the pressures and difficulties of life, we can draw on the promise of Jesus and experience His peace.

Many times Jesus promises the gift of his peace to his faithful followers. This peace does not avoid challenge or conflict, or seek its own comfort, but responds to the demands of the gospel - endurance in faith and sharing the good news. Faith is a journey, and when we think about some journeys in our lives, simple ones like coming to and from school, or the journey of our own education to date, some days these journeys are simple without any challenges, however other days they can be quite the struggle. Can you reflect on some of the upheavals in your life? What are the things that have supported you through times of struggle and difficulty?

The gospel today calls us to a very specific response. In what ways have you begun to join in the building up of the Kingdom of God? And in doing so, have you faced opposition over your faith? How can you be more **Hopeful** and **Faith-filled** when trusting in the Lord and carrying out his will?



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 21: 5- 19

At that time: While some were speaking of the Temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, Jesus said, 'As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.' And they asked him, 'Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?' And he said, 'See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, "I am he!" and, "The time is at hand!" Do not go after them. And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once.'

Then he said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. This will be your opportunity to bear witness. Settle it, therefore in your minds, not to meditate beforehand how to answer, for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and sisters, and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. You will be hated by all for my name's sake. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives.'

Prayer for the Week

Heavenly Father,

We ask for wisdom and the opportunities to be a witness to you.

Open our eyes, ears and heart. Transform us and make us new and overflowing with love.

Amen.

Day 1

Can you list some examples Jesus gives in the Gospel of the terrors that the disciples will encounter?

Can you list some examples of conflict or struggles people face in the world today?

Day 2

Think about some journeys within your own life. What caused the upheavals and struggles?

What support was given to you so you could deal with these struggles?

Day 3

How can you be more Hopeful and Faith-filled when trusting in the Lord and carrying out his will?