



# 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Ord. Time, Yr B

## Lectio Divina

**Lectio:** This Sunday's gospel is the last text from Mark's Gospel in Year B. Next Sunday, the feast of Christ the King with a text from John's Gospel, will conclude our Sundays in Ordinary Time Year B. So our text for this Sunday focusses on the end of the world. In Mark's Gospel, this focus on the end began with the start of chapter 13, immediately after Jesus' warnings<sup>1</sup> of last Sunday's text. The last chapters 14 to 16 of Mark's Gospel recount Jesus' last days and his death on the Cross and his resurrection. A central focus of Mark's Gospel is to present an understanding of the Cross. So, if we understand the Cross and live by the way of the Cross then we will be ready for judgement and for the judgement at the end of the world. Mark presents to us that it is through the Cross that we come to new and eternal life.

Leading into our text, Jesus deals with the fact of the end of the world and the question of when the end will come. The end is coming; the great Temple will be torn down (Mk 13:1-2). But in conversations (Mk 13:123) with some of his apostles, Jesus warns them to beware of anyone proclaiming: 'the end is upon us'. There will be world shattering events and persecutions. The one who "*holds out to the end will be saved*" Mk 13:13b. These times of distress will continue "*For the nations must hear the preaching of the Gospel*" Mk 13:10a. Also Jesus says that the end will be short and sharp, coming quickly with no time to prepare<sup>2</sup>, "*You must be on your guard*" Mk 13:23a. ► With these explanations by Jesus about the end, Jesus continues with some detail of what the end, the last judgement, the end of the world, will look like. However, his word<sup>3</sup> will not come to an end

**Read:** Mark 13: 24 - 32

**Meditatio:** Do I think I am in the time of distress? How have I coped in times of natural disaster? Has my life been threatened by fire, flood, quakes or war? Have disasters brought out the best in me? Do I question myself when I see disasters in the world? Am I ready if while I live the end of the world comes? Am I using my time well or am I putting off taking up opportunities that have come my way? Have I taken up my crosses in the hope of resurrection? How will my life be judged? For me what are the things that endure even in the midst of loss and destruction? Can I read the 'sign of the times'? Am I looking after my environment and not adding to the degradation of the world? Do I think the world can survive human misuse of resources? Am I 'in tune' with the natural rhythms of Nature? How seriously do I take those who claim that the end of the world is imminent? What is my security when things are falling apart around me? How have I coped when my plans have been dashed? Will my trust and love of Jesus always be sure, my 'rock'? 'In the crunch' do I trust in the world's best advice or the word of God? Do I trust in God's ever faithful love for me? What do I think the world will be like when the Father brings about the end of the world? Will the Father say to me: "Welcome home, faithful servant"?

**Oratio:** Pray that we will use every moment to the glory of God. Pray for everyone caught up in natural disasters and wars. Pray that the word of God will inspire and shape our lives. Pray for safety, respect and appreciation for people and authorities who respond to disasters. Pray that we will live in harmony with one another and with Nature. Pray for those who are anxious about the end of the world; may they not be misled? Pray for care of our environment and the proper use of resources. Pray for a love and understanding of the word of God. Pray everyone will have hope in the Lord's promise of eternal life.

**Contemplatio** – Dwell in stillness, simply aware of the boundless expanse of mercy that surrounds you.

**After your prayer** – Don't miss opportunities, especially ones to love and to serve!

✍ Fr Joe

## **Mark 13: 24 - 32**

**Jesus said to his disciples: ‘In those days, after the time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will come falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then too he will send the angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven.’**

**‘Take the fig tree<sup>4</sup> as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. So with you, when you see these things happening: know that he is near, at the very gates. I tell you solemnly, before this generation has passed away all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.’**

### Notes:

**1** These warnings were to beware of these teachers of the Law and, in contrast to these teachers, to be generous and authentic. (cf Mk 12:38-44)

**2** After our text, Jesus goes on to exhort that we must stay awake, always prepared for the end. (cf Mk 13:32-37)

**3** ‘His word’ would mean his presence and all that he has promised through his word. Jesus is the Word of God.

**4** Jesus has already pointed out the fig tree. Jesus cursed the barren fig tree and it withered (cf Mk 11:12-14 & 20-21). This incident led into Jesus’ confrontations of the various religious authorities (Mk 11:15-12:37a). This incident could be considered as a parable for the judgement (confrontation) of the world at the end of time.