

WHY SHOULD WE BOTHER?

Why should we bother thinking about Jesus? Why are people so bothered about having faith? What if I can't be bothered?

SUNDAY MASS READINGS 17/11/19 [read them here](#)

1st Reading: Malachi 3:19-20. **For you the sun of righteousness will shine out**

Psalms 97. **The Lord comes to rule the peoples with fairness**

2nd Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12. **Do not let anyone have food if he refuses to work**

Gospel: Luke 21:5-19. **The destruction of the Temple foretold**

Remembrance Book

The cards to fill out the names of loved ones are on the table at the back of the Chapel throughout the whole of November. Please fill them in and I will transfer them into the Remembrance Book. We will remember them all during our Masses this month. Please also know you are very welcome to spend quiet time in the Chapel at any point during the day.



AND AS FOR YOU,
BROTHERS AND SISTERS,
NEVER TIRE OF DOING
WHAT IS GOOD
2 THESSALONIANS 3:13

READ: Our first thoughts about this week's readings might be to think of those people who stand in town clutching Bibles or placards, shouting loudly about the end of the world. Catholics generally prefer to keep quiet about anything so scary sounding! And yet, the first reading might just invoke this kind of fear, as the prophet Malachi looks at God with those scary concepts of justice; punishment for those who do wrong, reward for those who don't. Thankfully, through Jesus the faith matured, with Him giving us an insight to God's true justice system, that acts only in love and brings us closer to the heart of God. For the Jews that He is talking to in the Gospel, the heart of God currently lies in their Temple. It's the centre of their faith; taking almost 40 years to build, costing so much money, truly awe-inspiring. But Jesus calls it out for what it is; a building. He tells them that soon, all the stones will be crushed and there will be nothing left. Not to try and scare them, but to remind them that their faith is in something greater than what man can make. To remind us that in the end, at the very end, this love of God will triumph over everything we can imagine here on earth.

REFLECT: As the liturgical year comes to a close, the readings are supposed to make us stop and re-evaluate. Just as we use the end of the academic year or the end of the calendar year to make resolutions, we can use this, the end of the liturgical year too. We get hung up, though, thinking these readings are meant to scare us or guilt-trip us into behaving a certain way. We don't have faith like the people of Israel at the time of the prophet Malachi, where we have to live in fear of the wrath of God. We are people living in a world where God came down to us in total, self-sacrificing love and showed us that there is so much more than what we can see in front of us on Earth. These readings tell us that the story of God's relationship with us isn't over, whatever rubble we see crashed down and surrounding us. Yes, the world around us will carry on with what the world around us does. There will be hurt, loss, people looking for peace, people looking for healing and not finding it. There are people who will be arrogant, rude, who will laugh at those who place their hope in an eternal, loving God. So why should we bother hoping? Why should we bother trying? Because we know that the suffering isn't His doing, that illness and earthquakes and famines don't come as a punishment, and that so much pain is actually caused, either directly or indirectly, by us. Jesus constantly gives us chance after chance to turn to him, offering a way living that isn't centred around fear or anger. Endings, even the most painful ones don't have the final word. When things are collapsing around us, when things are coming to an end, the worst and the hardest moments of our lives can also bring moments of closeness to God. Our end of year reassessing should find us trying that little bit harder to turn to Christ, to cling to the hope his victory brought us.

Friday Mass - 8.15am
Commissioning of New Eucharistic Ministers
Celebrated by Fr. Alf
Offered for the intentions of the Maths
Department