

HOLY CROSS AND ALL SAINTS MONDAY MISSION

THIS WEEK'S WORD:

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.'



REFLECT

As we come to the end of the Church's year, we are being invited to reflect on the final end of things. Jesus is in the temple in Jerusalem, towards the end of his public life. The temple was one of the most impressive buildings in the world at that time and was made to last forever. The temple was not just the centre of the Jews' civilisation: it was the place where God lived among them. It was completely unthinkable, even blasphemous, to suggest the temple could be destroyed.

However, Jesus tells the people that there will be a day when the whole thing will be destroyed. A time will come when there will be frightening things like wars, earthquakes, famine and disease. Jesus' followers may have to face real suffering, even having to go to prison. But there is no need to worry. Even if all these bad things happen, Jesus will be with us. In the end, everything will work out and Jesus' friends will be safe.

Jesus asks us to remain steadfast, to endure. Even if everything seems to be going wrong, nothing will take God's love away from us. We can grow more aware of God with us, as we try to put love at the centre of our lives and try to live like Jesus. It might seem that we have to put up with a lot, that our endurance is being tested, but it will all be outweighed by the joy that life with Jesus brings us. Nothing can give our lives more meaning than knowing we are loved and sharing that love with others.

LET US PRAY

Heavenly Father, you created every part of the world we live in.

Help us to love others as you love us.

We ask that you look after those families whose lives are sad because of where they live or what they believe.

We ask you to protect those children whose lives are so much harder than ours.

Keep them safe from harm and help them grow in your love.

Amen.

MISSION

Jesus reminds us that even when things feel difficult or uncertain, God's love never leaves us. Our mission this week is to practice steadfast love—showing kindness and sticking with good choices, even when it's hard.

Daily Kindness Challenge

- Each day, choose one person to show extra kindness to—especially if it feels difficult (e.g., helping someone you don't usually play with, sharing with a sibling, or being patient when you'd rather not).

Prayer of Trust

- Begin each morning with a short prayer: "Jesus, help me to stay strong in your love today. Even when things are hard, remind me you are with me."