# AUTUMN TERM GOSPELS 2019

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| **DATE** | **SUNDAY Cycle C and A** | Gospel Reading | Title/topic/story | Notes |
| 8th Sept | 23rd Sunday in ordinary time | Luke 14:25-33 | Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple | YOU WILL NEED - A crucifix, a rucksack with things in it to make it heavy to carry  Katie Thompson’s reflection is useful to read as a leader. The language seems a bit difficult so I would adapt it quite a lot.  In terms of looking at what it means to carry your cross – ask the children what they think that means first. Then ask them to reflect on how heavy a cross would have been to carry. Use a heavy rucksack to demonstrate the weight of the cross. It is difficult to walk with it, isn’t it?  Ask the children what the cross represents – Jesus dying on the cross for us. Is Jesus asking us to also die on the cross? No. He is asking us to be like him on the cross. What was Jesus like on the cross? He was forgiving. He didn’t try and hurt anyone back. We should be like him – a good opportunity to ask the children what Jesus was like. When we go through hard times we also need to be forgiving, as Jesus forgives, and not seek revenge. We also need to serve like Jesus served, and love like Jesus loved.  The wonderful thing about the cross is that although Jesus died it wasn’t the end. Jesus rose again! It shows us that we can get through hard times too!  The story of the man who plans to build a house and the army is all about planning. This is because following Jesus involves planning.  We need to really think about the cost of following Jesus. We need to *spend* some time in prayer every day. We need to *spend* time going to Mass every week. But we also need to *spend* time listening to our parents and teachers; being a good friend etc.  Good opportunity to ask God for the courage and strength to follow him in your time of intercession. I like the [intersessions](https://catholicparishguildford.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/ChildrenYouthandFamilies/EfI5_cgu16pGkqBzVgtvcnYBEQvKVv3pneVnUCZN5buRJw?e=AVuIFR) in the Katie Thompson book. |
| 15th Sept | 24th Sunday in ordinary time | Luke 15:1-32 | The lost sheep/ The lost coin/ The prodigal son | Lots of possibilities on this Sunday. Please try to read the whole gospel to the children, but you can focus on just one thing for reflection. What all these parables tell us is that we all make mistakes at some point in our lives and wander away from God’s love and get a bit lost. These parables remind us that God will always search for us and gives us an opportunity to be reunited with him. He always welcomes us back with great rejoicing.  What is a parable? A parable is a story that helps to understand a deeper meaning. When we hear a parable, Jesus invites us to imagine ourselves in it. We are the lost sheep, for example, and he is the good shepherd.  As an introduction to the godly play, you could say:  “There once was someone who did so many amazing things and said so many wonderful things that people started to follow him. And when they followed him, he would talk about a lot of things. One of the things he talked a lot about was the Kingdom of Heaven. But it didn't sound like any kingdom they'd ever heard of. It certainly didn't sound like the kingdom that they actually lived in. So they were curious, and they had to ask him, ‘what is the kingdom of heaven actually like? So one time when they asked him that, he said. The Kingdom of heaven. Is like a ….”  The Lost sheep: Godly Play (The Parable of the Good Shepherd) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4I9GiHqIshU>  The Prodigal Son: Godly Play (The Parable of the Lost Son) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOnDdCCAr8Y> |
| 22nd Sept | 25th Sunday in ordinary time | Luke 16:1-13 | You cannot be the slave of both God and money | This is a tricky gospel to explain. I would focus on worth. What does God value more – money or our goodness?  There is no money in heaven. God values us and our goodness. Remember that God is our loving Father who wants to come back to him.  What does “goodness” look like? Refer back to what we talked about two weeks ago – Jesus’ character of forgiveness, service and love.  You could ask for a volunteer to stand up and come to the front. Also, have £1 ready. Then ask the children, “do you think that God loves this person more than this one pound coin?” Then ask the children is God loves this person more than £5 or £10 or £100 or £1000. Keep increasing the value until you get to all the money in the whole world!  As activity you could ask them to draw a picture of themselves and write “God loves me more than all the money in the world.” |
| 29th Sept | 26th Sunday in ordinary time | Luke 16:19-31 | The rich man and Lazarus | Good opportunity to highlight Cafod’s Family fast day and use the Cafod children’s liturgy resources: <https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/49683/627639/version/1/file/Prayer_childrens-liturgy_26th-Sunday-Ordinary-Time-C.docx>  There is a fantastic grace cube that they could cut out and stick together:  <https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/49684/627648/version/1/file/Prayer_childrens-liturgy_26th-Sunday-Ordinary-Time-C-pic.pdf> |
| 6th Oct | 27th Sunday in ordinary time | Luke 17:5-10 | Say, 'We are merely servants' | Katie Thompson in her reflection, focuses on faith – what it means to have faith and how can we help our faith to grow.  To talk explain faith you could talk about the story of “The Great Blondin” who was a famous tightrope walker. You can find a comic version of this here:  <https://www.cpg.church/uploads/3/0/7/1/30716689/the_great_blondin_comic.pdf>  We can have faith that God loves us by putting our lives in Jesus’ hands. Entering a relationship with God is a gift. This gift is called grace. And like any gift we receive it with gratitude – we say thank you!  I like the [reflection](https://catholicparishguildford.sharepoint.com/sites/ChildrenYouthandFamilies/CYF%20Files/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FChildrenYouthandFamilies%2FCYF%20Files%2FHoly%2FCYF%2FChildren%27s%20Liturgy%2FResources%2FAutumn%20Term%202019%20%2D%20Year%20C%2FKatie%20Thompson%20%2D%2027th%20Sunday%20OT%20%2D%20reflection%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsites%2FChildrenYouthandFamilies%2FCYF%20Files%2FHoly%2FCYF%2FChildren%27s%20Liturgy%2FResources%2FAutumn%20Term%202019%20%2D%20Year%20C&p=true) in the Katie Thompson book. |
| 13th Oct | 28th Sunday in ordinary time | Luke 17:11-19 | The 10 lepers | This gospel can be seen as a continuation from last week. It is also about faith and being thankful. I like the [reflection](https://catholicparishguildford.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/ChildrenYouthandFamilies/EWtpoHJmW6RCtS_8MUAKmkcBZjS3kWmptXMxZfD9tHb7jg?e=rfc90W) and [colouring sheet](https://catholicparishguildford.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/ChildrenYouthandFamilies/EdzxDSK7P-hJu6nu-PJTCf4B0584WZT0r9kuoeEEUCAz0A?e=eaLZ5f) in the Katie Thompson book. |
| 20th Oct  *FHC MASS* | 29th Sunday in ordinary time | Luke 18:1-8 | The parable of the unjust judge | This parable shows us the importance of prayer and to keep persevering with our prayers, even though they might not be answered straight away.  I like the [reflection](https://catholicparishguildford.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/ChildrenYouthandFamilies/Ecss2uEv6CtMpQbbiv7Fy6IBRcjMQ-VqfvLLluh3IPRrPA?e=w7Oc3X) and [colouring sheet](https://catholicparishguildford.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/ChildrenYouthandFamilies/ETElXIjT_rJKned3guY1JY8BbmKT9_2mNEwiz0ArnTV1ZQ?e=MxKjIg) in the Katie Thompson book. |
| 27th Oct (half term) | 30th Sunday in ordinary time | Luke 18:9-14 | The prayers of the tax collector and the Pharisee | This gospel shows us that it is important to do well and try and be a good person. When we do good things we shouldn’t look at other people and judge them and say things like, “I’m so much better than you!” Although we try our best, we all make mistakes. God loves it when we pray to say sorry for the things we have done so that he can help us to be better. What is the point in spending our whole time in prayer, listing all the good things we have done?  Good opportunity to teach the children the TSP or “teaspoon” prayer. TSP, the first letters of Thank you, Sorry, Please, remind us of the recipe book abbreviation for teaspoon. It can be helpful to give the children a plastic teaspoon to take home to remind them of these three basic categories for prayer |
| 3rd Nov  (Half term) | 31st Sunday in ordinary time | Luke 19:1-10 | Jesus eats with Zacchaeus | Godly Play of Jesus and Zacchaeus <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1B8uxq0Oz8M> |
| 10th Nov | 32nd Sunday in ordinary time | Luke 20:27-38 | The Sadducees question about the resurrection | I like the [reflection](https://catholicparishguildford.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/ChildrenYouthandFamilies/EajtElw_7x9Brq3fjiP6rf4Bye9f3igIQNE2WyoDKMvXQg?e=uBpxFi) and [colouring sheet](https://catholicparishguildford.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/ChildrenYouthandFamilies/Ed2kVwvaVURJr303tCXLC9QBNPfVj66mFk90kMrP5AWKrw?e=UDgU8F) in the Katie Thompson book. |
| 17th Nov  *FHC MASS* | 33rd Sunday in ordinary time | Luke 21: 5-19 | The destruction of the Temple foretold |  |
| 24th Nov | Christ the King (Youth Sunday) | Luke 23:34 - 43 | 'Today you will be with me in paradise' | I like the [reflection](https://catholicparishguildford.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/ChildrenYouthandFamilies/EalFBQcJ3AlLlYDYo1sIjgwB8rQuk-3Tt8bieD0ExkBaPA?e=vjCi5R) in the Katie Thompson book.  Other questions to reflect on:   * Why do you think we call Jesus a King? * Why do you think the people wanted Jesus to die? * Can you remember what Jesus taught us about the kingdom this term?   Good opportunity to do a Godly Play (The circle of the Church Year) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPTWq1AsCao> |
| 1st Dec | 1st Sunday of Advent | Matthew 24: 37-44 | The Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect | Over Advent it is a good opportunity to use the Godly Play Advent resource <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zgbJIEkZYvQ>  This can be done all in one go in the first week or split over the four weeks. |
| 8th Dec | 2nd Sunday of Advent | Matthew 3: 1-12 | The one who follows me will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire |  |
| 15th Dec  *FHC MASS* | 3rd Sunday of Advent | Matthew 11:2-11 | Jesus began to talk to the people about John |  |
| 22nd Dec | 4th Sunday of Advent | Matthew 1:18-24 | “Do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife.” |  |

**NOTES**

All the gospels leading up to Advent are from Luke’s gospel. To help us put these gospels into context, it is important to understand who Luke was writing to and with what aim. You can find a great summary of Luke here:

Luke Ch. 1-9 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIb_dCIxzr0>

Luke Ch. 10-24 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26z_KhwNdD8&t=361s>

**Sunday 8th Sept – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary time**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Jn15:15**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord,

because I have made known to you

everything I have learnt from my Father.

Alleluia!

**Gospel**

**Luke 14:25-33**

**Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple**

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. ‘If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

‘And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, “Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish.” Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.’

**Sunday 15th Sept – 24th Sunday in ordinary time**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**cf.Ep1:17,18**

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

enlighten the eyes of our mind,

so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.

Alleluia!

**Gospel**

**Luke 15:1-32**

**There will be rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner**

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. ‘This man’ they said ‘welcomes sinners and eats with them.’ So he spoke this parable to them:

‘What man among you with a hundred sheep, losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one till he found it? And when he found it, would he not joyfully take it on his shoulders and then, when he got home, call together his friends and neighbours? “Rejoice with me,” he would say “I have found my sheep that was lost.” In the same way, I tell you, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine virtuous men who have no need of repentance.

‘Or again, what woman with ten drachmas would not, if she lost one, light a lamp and sweep out the house and search thoroughly till she found it? And then, when she had found it, call together her friends and neighbours? “Rejoice with me,” she would say “I have found the drachma I lost.” In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing among the angels of God over one repentant sinner.’

He also said, ‘A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, “Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me.” So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

‘When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, “How many of my father’s paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants.” So he left the place and went back to his father.

‘While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.” But the father said to his servants, “Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found.” And they began to celebrate.

‘Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. “Your brother has come” replied the servant “and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound.” He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, “Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening.”

‘The father said, “My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.”’

**Sunday 22nd Sept – 25th Sunday in ordinary time**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**2Co8:9**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus Christ was rich,

but he became poor for your sake,

to make you rich out of his poverty.

Alleluia!

**Gospel**

**Luke 16:1-13**

**You cannot be the slave of both God and money**

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘There was a rich man and he had a steward denounced to him for being wasteful with his property. He called for the man and said, “What is this I hear about you? Draw me up an account of your stewardship because you are not to be my steward any longer.” Then the steward said to himself, “Now that my master is taking the stewardship from me, what am I to do? Dig? I am not strong enough. Go begging? I should be too ashamed. Ah, I know what I will do to make sure that when I am dismissed from office there will be some to welcome me into their homes.”

Then he called his master’s debtors one by one. To the first he said, “How much do you owe my master?” “One hundred measures of oil” was the reply. The steward said, “Here, take your bond; sit down straight away and write fifty.” To another he said, “And you, sir, how much do you owe?” “One hundred measures of wheat” was the reply. The steward said, “Here, take your bond and write eighty.”

‘The master praised the dishonest steward for his astuteness. For the children of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind than are the children of light.

‘And so I tell you this: use money, tainted as it is, to win you friends, and thus make sure that when it fails you, they will welcome you into the tents of eternity. The man who can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great; the man who is dishonest in little things will be dishonest in great. If then you cannot be trusted with money, that tainted thing, who will trust you with genuine riches? And if you cannot be trusted with what is not yours, who will give you what is your very own?

‘No servant can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.’

**Sunday 29th September – 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Jn10:27**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice,

says the Lord,

I know them and they follow me.

Alleluia!

**Gospel**

**Luke 16:19-31**

**Dives and Lazarus**

Jesus said to the Pharisees: ‘There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. And at his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man’s table. Dogs even came and licked his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.

‘In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his bosom. So he cried out, “Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.” “My son,” Abraham replied “remember that during your life good things came your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony. But that is not all: between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to stop anyone, if he wanted to, crossing from our side to yours, and to stop any crossing from your side to ours.”

‘The rich man replied, “Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father’s house, since I have five brothers, to give them warning so that they do not come to this place of torment too.” “They have Moses and the prophets,” said Abraham “let them listen to them.” “Ah no, father Abraham,” said the rich man “but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent.” Then Abraham said to him, “If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead.”’

**Sunday 6th October – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**1P1:25**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The word of the Lord remains for ever.

What is this word?

It is the Good News that has been brought to you.

Alleluia!

**Gospel**

**Luke 17:5-10**

**Say, 'We are merely servants'**

The apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith.’ The Lord replied, ‘Were your faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mulberry tree, “Be uprooted and planted in the sea,” and it would obey you.

‘Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, “Come and have your meal immediately”? Would he not be more likely to say, “Get my supper laid; make yourself tidy and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink yourself afterwards”? Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told? So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say, “We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty.”’

**Sunday 13th Oct – 28th Sunday in Ordinary time**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**cf.Jn6:63,68**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life;

you have the message of eternal life.

Alleluia!

**Gospel**

**Luke 17:11-19**

**No-one has come back to praise God, only this foreigner**

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered one of the villages, ten lepers came to meet him. They stood some way off and called to him, ‘Jesus! Master! Take pity on us.’ When he saw them he said, ‘Go and show yourselves to the priests.’ Now as they were going away they were cleansed. Finding himself cured, one of them turned back praising God at the top of his voice and threw himself at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan. This made Jesus say, ‘Were not all ten made clean? The other nine, where are they? It seems that no one has come back to give praise to God, except this foreigner.’ And he said to the man, ‘Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you.’

**Sunday 20th Oct – 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**cf.Ep1:17,18**

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

enlighten the eyes of our mind,

so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.

Alleluia!

**Gospel**

**Luke 18:1-8**

**The parable of the unjust judge**

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. ‘There was a judge in a certain town’ he said ‘who had neither fear of God nor respect for man. In the same town there was a widow who kept on coming to him and saying, “I want justice from you against my enemy!” For a long time he refused, but at last he said to himself, “Maybe I have neither fear of God nor respect for man, but since she keeps pestering me I must give this widow her just rights, or she will persist in coming and worry me to death.”’

And the Lord said ‘You notice what the unjust judge has to say? Now will not God see justice done to his chosen who cry to him day and night even when he delays to help them? I promise you, he will see justice done to them, and done speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth?’

**Sunday 27th Oct – 30th Sunday in Ordinary time**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Mt11:25**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father,

Lord of heaven and earth,

for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom

to mere children.

Alleluia!

**Gospel**

**Luke 18:9-14**

**The tax collector, not the Pharisee, went home justified.**

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else: ‘Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, “I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get.” The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner.” This man, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted.’

**Sunday 3rd Nov – 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**cf.Lk19:38,2:14**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessings on the King who comes,

in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven

and glory in the highest heavens!

Alleluia!

**Gospel**

**Luke 19:1-10**

**Salvation comes to the house of Zacchaeus**

Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the town when a man whose name was Zacchaeus made his appearance: he was one of the senior tax collectors and a wealthy man. He was anxious to see what kind of man Jesus was, but he was too short and could not see him for the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus who was to pass that way. When Jesus reached the spot he looked up and spoke to him: ‘Zacchaeus, come down. Hurry, because I must stay at your house today.’ And he hurried down and welcomed him joyfully. They all complained when they saw what was happening. ‘He has gone to stay at a sinner’s house’ they said. But Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to the Lord, ‘Look, sir, I am going to give half my property to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody I will pay him back four times the amount.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek out and save what was lost.’

**Sunday 10th Nov – 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Lk21:36**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Stay awake, praying at all times

for the strength to stand with confidence

before the Son of Man.

Alleluia!

**Gospel**

**Luke 20:27-38**

**He is God, not of the dead, but of the living**

Some Sadducees – those who say that there is no resurrection – approached Jesus and they put this question to him, ‘Master, we have it from Moses in writing, that if a man’s married brother dies childless, the man must marry the widow to raise up children for his brother. Well then, there were seven brothers. The first, having married a wife, died childless. The second and then the third married the widow. And the same with all seven, they died leaving no children. Finally the woman herself died. Now, at the resurrection, to which of them will she be wife since she had been married to all seven?’

Jesus replied, ‘The children of this world take wives and husbands, but those who are judged worthy of a place in the other world and in the resurrection from the dead do not marry because they can no longer die, for they are the same as the angels, and being children of the resurrection they are sons of God. And Moses himself implies that the dead rise again, in the passage about the bush where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. Now he is God, not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all men are in fact alive.’

**Sunday 17th Nov – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Lk21:36**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Stay awake, praying at all times

for the strength to stand with confidence

before the Son of Man.

Alleluia!

**Gospel**

**Luke 21:5-19**

**The destruction of the Temple foretold**

When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, Jesus said, ‘All these things you are staring at now – the time will come when not a single stone will be left on another: everything will be destroyed.’ And they put to him this question: ‘Master,’ they said ‘when will this happen, then, and what sign will there be that this is about to take place?’

‘Take care not to be deceived,’ he said ‘because many will come using my name and saying, “I am he” and, “The time is near at hand.” Refuse to join them. And when you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened, for this is something that must happen but the end is not so soon.’ Then he said to them, ‘Nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes and plagues and famines here and there; there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

‘But before all this happens, men will seize you and persecute you; they will hand you over to the synagogues and to imprisonment, and bring you before kings and governors because of my name – and that will be your opportunity to bear witness. Keep this carefully in mind: you are not to prepare your defence, because I myself shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relations and friends; and some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all men on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives.’

**Sunday 24th Nov–Christ the King**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Mk11:10**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!

Alleluia!

**Gospel**

**Luke 23:35-43**

**'Today you will be with me in paradise'**

The people stayed there before the cross watching Jesus. As for the leaders, they jeered at him. ‘He saved others,’ they said ‘let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.’ The soldiers mocked him too, and when they approached to offer vinegar they said, ‘If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.’ Above him there was an inscription: ‘This is the King of the Jews.’

One of the criminals hanging there abused him. ‘Are you not the Christ?’ he said. ‘Save yourself and us as well.’ But the other spoke up and rebuked him. ‘Have you no fear of God at all?’ he said. ‘You got the same sentence as he did, but in our case we deserved it: we are paying for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus,’ he said ‘remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ ‘Indeed, I promise you,’ he replied ‘today you will be with me in paradise.’

**Sunday 1st Dec–1st Sunday of Advent**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Ps84:8**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy

and give us your saving help.

Alleluia!

**Gospel**

**Matthew 24:37-44**

**The Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect**

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘As it was in Noah’s day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

‘So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.’

**Sunday 8th Dec–2nd Sunday of Advent**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Lk3:4,6**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare a way for the Lord,

make his paths straight,

and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

**Gospel**

**Matthew 3:1-12**

**The one who follows me will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire**

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.’ This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

*A voice cries in the wilderness:*

*Prepare a way for the Lord,*

*make his paths straight.*

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, ‘Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, “We have Abraham for our father,” because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.’

**Sunday 15th Dec–3rd Sunday of Advent**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Is61:1(Lk4:18)**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.

Alleluia!

**Gospel**

**Matthew 11:2-11**

**'A greater than John the Baptist has never been seen'**

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?’ Jesus answered, ‘Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.’

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says:

‘Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;

he will prepare your way before you.

‘I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.’

**Sunday 22nd Dec–4th Sunday of Advent**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Mt1:23**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son

and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means ‘God-is-with-us’.

Alleluia!

**Gospel**

**Matthew 1:18-24**

**How Jesus Christ came to be born**

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph; being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.’ Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son

and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means ‘God-is-with-us.’ When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.