

# Thirty-third Sunday of the Year

## Jesus will return

### INTRODUCTION

At the end of time, Jesus will return in power and glory and will welcome all those who have been chosen to join him in the kingdom of Heaven.

### SIGN OF THE CROSS

### LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and say Candle Prayer 3: *The light of God.*

### SORRY

One day Simon Peter asked Jesus, 'Master, how many times must I forgive someone? As many as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not just seven times, Peter, but seventy times seven! You must always forgive someone from your heart.' (cf *Matthew 18:21-22, 35*).

Lord, help us to be ready to welcome you whenever you might come. Teach us to say sorry and to forgive others as soon as a quarrel begins. We ask for your forgiveness as we pray:  
Our Father . . .

### GLORIA

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 4: *Praise the Lord.*

### GOSPEL (cf *Mark 13:24-29, 32*)

Jesus said to his disciples, 'One day I will return, and you will know that the time has come because of these signs: the sun will grow dark, the moon will lose its brightness, stars will fall to earth and even the sky will shake. Then the Son of God will appear in all his glory, and send his angels to gather his people together from all over the world. Only my heavenly Father knows when all this will happen, so stay awake and be ready!'

### DISCUSSION

Jesus said that he will return at the end of time. When will that be? – No-one knows the date or time, except for God the Father, so we must always keep ourselves ready.

Can you think of a parable or story Jesus once told, explaining how we must be prepared for his return at any time? – The parable of the ten bridesmaids. (See the 32nd Sunday Year A).

What must we do to be ready to welcome Jesus? – If we try to live each day in the way Jesus showed us, then our lives will always be pleasing

to God. God will judge us by the goodness and love we have shown to him and our neighbours each day of our lives.

What are the signs that will appear before the second coming of Christ?

- The sun will grow dark, filling the world with darkness.
- The moon will no longer shine.
- The stars will fall from the sky.
- The heavens or sky will be shaken, perhaps by thunder or lightning.

How should we greet Jesus when he comes?

Jesus will come to gather all the good people in the world, and to welcome them into the kingdom of Heaven. There, they will share everlasting life and happiness with God. The good will have nothing to fear, and they will join the angels as they rejoice at God's power and glory.

### ACTIVITY

With the children's help, make a list of the signs which will appear before the second coming of Christ. With these in mind ask each child to draw a picture of what they imagine might happen when Jesus returns in glory. Hand out the photocopied text for the children to colour and take home.

### CREED

### CLOSING PRAYER

Lord,  
may our lives always be rich  
in love and goodness,  
so we are ready to welcome you  
whenever you return.

