

Over the last two weeks, we have been constantly reminded to prepare and to stand ready for the day of our death and for whatever lies beyond.

It is very appropriate that, as the Church year draws to a close, the theme of today's reading and Gospel tells us of a 'Final end, and a new beginning,' which is everlasting life. St. John recounts that, "Death and Hades were thrown into the burning lake...Then I saw a new Heaven and a new Earth....I saw the holy city, and a new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of Heaven."

In the Reading, John reveals a vision of all that will take place when Jesus comes again. The end of the world as we know it, and the last judgement. How will we be remembered as the books are opened before us? What will be our eternal fate?

In the Gospel, Jesus ventures to remind us to watch for the signs. How will we know them? Through the one constant that will ensure our names are written in the book of life: The Word of God, which will never pass away.

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