

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31 1 Thess 5: 1-6 Matt 25: 14-30

HOMILY

Today's readings give us some fascinating insight into the work required of us as disciples of Jesus Christ. Let us begin with the second reading from 1 Thessalonians for consideration. It speaks about the end times. St. Paul is clear that an end is certain, but we do not know when that will happen. But the implication behind the end is that we shouldn't be so stressed about it that we become paralyzed by so much fear and worry. This is an essential message for us to hear at this time of pandemic and lockdown. The lockdown has brought so much uncertainty in our midst.

I recall the other day on the TV this elderly lady lamenting over the fact that she couldn't see her family and that she felt like she was a prisoner when she was not. There are so many elderly people: whether in care homes or in their own residences who cannot put their heads around to what is going on. We can look at the rise in the coronavirus other conflicts around the world and think, "*well, this is the end, isn't it!*"

If we scan history, we find numerous points in time filled with deadly pandemics. But the world kept moving forward. Will the world end, we may ask? Yes, it will, and we believe that to be true based on scripture. But we should not allow anybody to be totally paralyzed with anxiety. Fear or anxiety does no one any good.

Like the Perfect Wife depicted in that poem of an Ideal wife in the first reading, we are supposed rather to waste no time allowing any member of our family to be victimised by fears and anxiety. Like the Perfect wife we should rise up and be generous and industrious, prudent and wise, stable and faithful.

I therefore call upon the faithful of our community of St Joseph to reach out to any member of their family and to those who are members of our community in any way possible so that those who are broken in any way, those who are losing hope, those who are lonely and those who are becoming victims of boredom may be given maximum support.

Every day as each new day rises, let us look out for someone who needs hear our voice, for someone suffering from boredom, for someone who needs to be counted, someone who needs to be recognised.

Today's gospel makes it very clear that God has equipped us with the necessary talents to lift up someone's life.

- ❖ Let there be no opportunity missed for comforting,
- ❖ Let there be no smiles withheld,
- ❖ Let there be no hands untouched,
- ❖ Let there be no kind words unspoken.