



**(4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER)**

*Luke 14: 25-33*

As Bishop of Milan in the 1500s, and a pillar of the Church of his time, St. Charles Borromeo was a pastor whose love for his flock fuelled his untiring efforts to care for them. Charles Borromeo is best-known for establishing the tradition of Sunday School to teach young children the faith, a practice that continues to this day. Children's Liturgy, let us look to him as our patron

Charles followed Jesus based on the hard conditions stated in the gospel of today. The condition Jesus sets are: Hate your parents, children, siblings and even your own life (*hate not as hate per say*) hate which means that you choose Jesus over them. Another condition of Jesus which Charles embraced is to carry your own cross and renounce all your possessions to be able to follow Him. Charles allotted most of his income to charity, forbade himself all luxury and imposed severe penances upon himself. He sacrificed wealth, high honours, esteem and influence to become poor. During the plague and famine of 1576, he tried to feed 60,000 to 70,000 people daily. Whereas civil authorities fled at the height of the plague, he stayed in the city, where he ministered to the sick and the dying, helping those in want. Jesus lays down to us the true cost of discipleship. Can we measure to these standards of the cost of true discipleship that Jesus lays down? We have to sacrifice our comfort zones. And we have to leave behind us our worldly priorities so that we would be able to faithfully follow and serve Jesus. Are we ready to sacrifice our own comfort zone and leave behind our worldly priorities in favour of Jesus?