

Sunday November 14, 2021
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Parishioner Reflection

By: Gerald Mackrell

Today's readings offer us a glimpse into the future. Daniel 12, and the gospel of Mark talk about the end times. Neither paint a pretty picture of the occurrences prior to the complete destruction of the Earth, the planets, and the stars, in fact the entire solar system. By this time the last of the tarnished spirit of man will have exhausted their allotted time on earth and their opportunity for redemption. The need of a universe (this earth in particular) becomes redundant. We now return to what Genesis describes as the void.

Hebrews 10 Talks about the animal sacrifices made throughout the Old Testament. These sacrifices had merit but they could not forgive sin. The tarnished spirit of man could not return to the Father until sin was forgiven, forgotten, expunged. The only sacrifice capable of accomplishing this was the sacrifice of God Himself. The Creator, in giving His Son to death in the pit of Hell, was the only sacrifice able to overcome sin and death. Hebrews states. 'Where there is forgiveness of sin and lawless deeds, there is no longer any offering for sin.' Jesus has paved the way to eternity, know that you are forgiven when you confess sorrow for sin, know that you are forgiven when you repent of sin, know that you are forgiven as you feel the release from sin. Know also, that every time you repent, your slate is wiped clean. We have a loving and forgiving God. We have only to believe and follow His Word.

There had been much talk among the followers of Jesus about the end times. Jesus decided it was time to put this subject to rest. He said to them in Mark: 13 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near." He was letting them know that there will be no ambiguity about whether the end of time has arrived. It will be earth shaking, a time of great suffering, then the earth and the heavens will pass away.... When? Not even worth a guess! Science tells us there was a beginning (The Big Bang Theory) And science predicts an end (The Big Implosion Theory.) in other words, all that was created will return to naught. (The Big Void Theory).

Our lifespan in terms of earthly years is miniscule, our life span in terms of eternity is non-existent. All that presently exists will fade away, that, whether we like it or not, includes these physical bodies. However, do not be saddened, this is a time that God has provided, that we might become one with Him again. Remember the prodigal son. God will use every and any means or situations to influence and encourage our return to the fold. Life in the spirit is therefore very real, life in the physical is very temporary.

God's love remains. Constant. Even when we deny Him.
Thank God. For creating a time slot in eternity

Thank God. For creating man to house the fallen or tarnished spirit.

Thank God. For the guiding Spirit within us.

Thank God. For the sacrifice of His Son and a pathway to eternal life.

Thank God. For an apostolic community to guide in perpetuity.

Without the spirit, life has no meaning.