



Here's a text if you've only got a minute ...

Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of the realities that at present remain unseen. It was for faith that our ancestors were commended. *Second Reading*

Stay awake and stand ready, because you do not know the hour when the Son of Man is coming. *Gospel Acclamation*

Jesus said to his disciples: there is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the Kingdom.

Luke 12: 32

See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit.

The Gospel

REFLECTIONS

What does the week hold for me and how do I feel God may be calling me?

And ... what do I want to ask of the Lord for myself and others?



AMDG

19TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

YEAR C, 7 AUGUST 2016

Only faith can guarantee the blessings we hope for.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray that through us
others may find their way to life in Christ:

Father, we come, reborn in the Spirit,
to celebrate our being your sons and daughters
in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Touch our hearts, help them to grow towards
the life you have promised.

Touch our lives,
make them signs of your love for all people.

I begin my prayer by turning to God with faith in his loving presence within me. I ask to be open to his love drawing me more closely to him.

I read the prayer slowly, marvelling at truly being God's child and able to call him 'Father'. Perhaps I let Jesus' word: 'Abba', repeat over and over in my heart.

I re-read the prayer asking God to touch my heart deeply and to show me where my life is not a sign to others of his love.

I ask his forgiveness for my failings, and for a heart renewed by his love and mercy.

The readings today speak of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob whose faith in God's promise kept alive the hope of the Chosen People in the coming of the Messiah. The coming of Jesus fulfilled that promise and all of us who have faith in him are now the new Chosen People.

So we sing this Psalm with joy:

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PSALM 32

Happy are the people the Lord has chosen as his own

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.

They are happy whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen as his own.

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

With gratitude I pray the Psalm, singing it in my heart and asking God to deepen my trust in his faithful love.

I recall times in my life when I have experienced the certainty of God's personal love for me; when he has 'rescued' me or been my 'help and shield' in a time of distress or anxiety.

I give thanks to God for my faith and pray for those who do not know God or who reject him or worship false gods.

THE GOSPEL (SHORTER VERSION) LUKE 12: 35–40

Jesus said to his disciples: 'See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks.

Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at table and wait on them. It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he finds them ready.

You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house.

You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

This Gospel reminds us in everyday imagery that faith must manifest itself in action. Faith shows itself in our lifestyle, in the choices we make; and so Jesus warns the disciples they must be ready for the demands of discipleship, not just for the final coming of Christ.

I read the Gospel and ask to see the ways God comes into my daily life: in the demands of family or loved ones; in the needs of neighbours; in the events of life over which I have no control.

I look at my discipleship and talk to Jesus about it – perhaps there are things I feel I should do but somehow allow them to be crowded out by fear or selfishness or just plain laziness. What do I want to say to him?

I think of the disciples and how their fear was dispelled by the Holy Spirit. I ask God's Spirit to give me insight, courage and the generosity to live my faith more fully.