

**15 NOVEMBER 2020**

**THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**OPENING HYMN**

We are here to praise you, lift our hearts and sing,  
We are here to give you, the best that we can bring,  
And it is our love, rising from our hearts,  
Everything within us cries, "Abba Father."  
Help us now to give you, pleasure and delight,  
Heart and mind and will that say, 'I love You Lord.'

*(or choose an appropriate alternate hymn)*

**OPENING PRAYER**

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God, the constant gladness of being devoted to You, for it is full and lasting happiness to serve with constancy the author of all that is good. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**FIRST READING:** Prv 31:10-13,19-20,30-31

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Ps 127:1-5

**Our Response is:** O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in his ways!  
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper. **R/**

Your wife like a faithful wine  
in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive,  
around your table. **R/**

Indeed thus shall be blessed  
the man who fears the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion  
in happy Jerusalem  
all the days of your life. **R/**

**SECOND READING:** 1 Thes 5:1-6

**GOSPEL:** Mt 25:14-30

## **REFLECTION:**

Today, we celebrate World Communications Day in our Archdiocese. We are called to strengthen relationships with God, the members of our family, neighbourhood and society at large. Since the pandemic has brought about physical social distancing and we are not able to visit our loved ones and friends like before, this is a good opportunity to make use of other constructive forms of communication, especially telecommunication, internet and social media, to connect and share the message of God's love with the people who are lost, lonely, away from their families, those affected or suffering due to the pandemic. Is there someone whom I can re-connect with today? **Pause**

The first reading extols the virtues of an ideal and exemplary woman and a perfect wife, leading to a successful relationship between husband and wife and a happy, stable marriage. The woman, precious and capable, hardworking, strong and wise, enriches the lives of those around her and finds fulfilment in her family while also reaching out to the poor and needy. God does not expect us to be perfect but he gives us the grace to work towards achieving these virtues. In what areas can I try to better myself to make myself worthy of God's grace? **Pause**

Similarly, today's Psalm, also called "A Song of Ascents" focuses on God's design for building the ideal home and family. When we obey God's commands and walk in His ways, we are blessed with a happy and prosperous home and family life. Am I following God's blueprint to build a strong foundation for my home and family? **Pause**

The Gospel passage from Matthew reminds us that God has blessed each of us with numerous gifts and talents expecting us to use them well for the glory of His kingdom and in the service of others. God wants us to invest our skills and abilities, our wealth and resources to make an active and positive contribution in serving the Kingdom of Heaven; only then can we be called His "good and faithful servants." Which of my talents are still lying buried which I can unearth and use for God's kingdom? **Pause**

## **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

**Leader:** Heavenly Father, you have blessed us with an abundance of graces to become good and faithful servants. With confidence, we bring our prayers before You.

**Our response is: Lord, hear our prayer**

We pray for all the members of the Church, that we may use our God-given talents for the glory of God's kingdom and in the service of others; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all those in authority, that they may invest their skills and resources to make a positive contribution to the economy and the people under their care; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for the sick, the aged, the lonely and the homebound, that their loved ones and community members may reach out to them and enrich their lives; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all those baptised, that we may communicate positively with those around us and that those working in Media and Communications will do so with honesty and integrity; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

**Leader:** God our Father, hear the prayers we have place before you and help us to live our lives faithfully, always following your commands and walking in your ways. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us together at the Saviour's command and formed by Divine teaching, dare to say:  
*(All say the Lord's Prayer together)* Our Father...

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

O Lord, we have partaken in the Celebration of Your Word, humbly imploring that what Your Son commanded us to do. May it bring us growth in charity. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF FROM THE CORONAVIRUS**

Almighty and merciful God, who show Your love to all creation everywhere, hear graciously the prayers we make for all those affected by the Coronavirus in various parts of the world.

We come before You asking for a quick control of the outbreak, for a healing of those affected, for the victims and their families.

We pray for the doctors doing research that an effective vaccine to combat the sickness is speedily found.

We pray for the Government and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **CLOSING HYMN**

God's Spirit is in my heart,  
He has called me and set me apart,  
This is what I have to do,  
What I have to do.

He sent me to give the Good News to the poor,  
Tell prisoners that they are prisoners no more,  
Tell blind people that they can see,  
And set the downtrodden free,  
And go tell everyone,  
The news that the Kingdom of God has come  
And go tell everyone,  
The news that God's Kingdom has come.

*Commission For Liturgy  
Archdiocese of Bombay*