

INTRODUCTION

Are you anxious about the end – the end of your life or the end of the world? Rather than being gripped with fear, trying to find out ‘how’ and ‘when’ it all ends, from visionaries that claim to have access to God’s secret calendar, the Gospel suggests that we prepare wisely here and now. The readings today help us understand that it is the wise who choose to do all it takes to prepare for the worst while hoping for the best; fools only hope for the best and do not prepare for the worst possibility.

READINGS	First Reading:	Wis 6:12-16
	Responsorial Psalm:	Ps 63: 2, 3- 4, 5-6, 7-8
	Second Reading:	1Thes 4:13-18
	Gospel:	Mt 25:1-13

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

CELEBRANT:

God our loving Creator, in whom we live and move and have our being, we come before You with our petitions, humbly asking, that You hear and answer our prayer. Our response is: ***Hear our prayer O Lord***

For Pope Francis, our Bishops, Priests and Religious: that through their teaching of God’s Word, they may nurture the flame of faith among the people of God ... *(brief silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord

For those in governance: that they may recognise the preciousness of every human life; and free from all prejudices, may work earnestly to bring peace and ensure a better quality of life for all ...*(brief silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord

For all Christians: that we may seek the Wisdom of God that dispels the darkness of ignorance and enlightens us to recognise what truly matters as we journey through this life, always ready and prepared for a life of eternity with God ...*(brief silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord

For each of us: that at every Eucharist, as we are fed by God’s Word, we may come to know Him more clearly; and as we are nourished by His Body, we may be challenged to follow Him more closely ...*(brief silent pause)*... we pray to the Lord

In silence we bring to the Lord, our personal petitions and the needs of all who have asked us to pray for them ... *(longer silent pause)*... We pray to the Lord

CELEBRANT: Ever-loving Father, as we praise and thank You for the very gift of our lives, we pray for the wisdom to live fully in the present, with our faith burning bright, always ready and prepared to meet You. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.