

Formed in Prayer



Let us be still
and ask the Holy Spirit to be with us.

Dear Father, be with us as we pray.
Open our ears to hear your Word in the Gospel.
Unite us in faith, hope and love as we pray together.
Send your Holy Spirit to inspire
and sustain us in our mission.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel

Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

*What words or phrases struck you in Sunday's Gospel reading?
What might God be prompting you to consider or inviting you to do in and through the Gospel?*

Reflection

Every year provides wake-up calls for those of us on the journey of faith. The people and things we previously may have taken for granted and the ways in which we may have "fallen asleep" to the important things in life, all can come to light at different times of the year.

In the Sunday Gospel, the first for the season of Advent, there is a call to "wake up!" Jesus knows that in our human fragility and forgetfulness, and our tendency towards complacency, we are in constant need of remembering. The central words of the consecration we hear every Sunday at Mass are testament to this - "Do this in memory of me". Heading into Advent, we must not be found to be asleep".

As we enter this beautiful season, we can ask ourselves: Are we preparing our hearts to receive Jesus in a deeper way? Will he find us "asleep" caught up in the temporal, material, cultural or will he find us ready, waiting with open hearts to receive yet again the gifts he wishes to lavish upon us, his beloved children?
(Lidia Galea, CSYMI Curriculum Coordinator)

Prayer

God our Father,
May we be blessed as we come to know Christ
in our own and others' hunger and thirst, nakedness, illness or homelessness.
We ask this through the Son of Man, who comes in glory.
Amen.