

33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - C

(Mal 3:19-20; 2 Thess 3:7-12; Lk 21:5-19)

Excerpts from Pope Francis - Angelus – 13 November 2016

by Father Charles Fillion

16 November 2025

Brothers and sisters, last week we celebrated Saint John Lateran Basilica. Yes, I visited that church when I was in Rome in 2000. As many churches, we always admire the beautiful architecture. Today's Gospel is no different. Many were speaking about the Temple of Jerusalem, with words of admiration for the beauty of the sanctuary and its decorations. However, the people are shocked by what Jesus said: "the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down". We can imagine the effect these words had on Jesus' disciples. However, he did not want to insult the temple, but rather make it understood — to them as well as to us today — those human structures, even the most sacred, are short-lived, and we should not place our security in them. We just have to see what happened in Ukraine & Gaza. So much devastation.

But Jesus adds, "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be afraid". God never abandons us! We must have this certainty in our heart. Walking in hope, working to build a better world, despite the difficulties and sad circumstances which mark our personal and collective existence, is what really counts. It is how the Christian community is called to encounter the "day of the Lord". It is precisely within this context that we want to live with faith the few weeks left of the Jubilee of Hope. This Holy Year impelled us to fix our eyes toward the fulfillment of the Kingdom of God and to build a future on this earth, working to evangelize the present, so we can make it a time of salvation for everyone.

In the Gospel, Jesus encourages us to keep firmly in mind and in heart the certainty that God guides our history, and that he knows the final end of things and events. Under the Lord's merciful eye, history unravels in flowing uncertainty, and weaves between good and evil. However, all that happens is contained within him. Let us pray to the Virgin Mary that she may help us, through the happy and sad events of this world, to firmly maintain hope in eternity and in the Kingdom of God. Let us pray to the Virgin Mary, that she may help us deeply understand this truth: that God never abandons his children!

Last week, I spoke briefly about the Good Shepherd Campaign. Envelopes for donations are on the table at the entrance. We will now have a video where you will meet three of our present seminarians. Your support for the formation of seminarians, our future priests, is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

VIDEO: <https://www.archsaintboniface.ca/main.php?p=1270#gsc.tab=0>