



This Sunday's Gospel
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B
(Mark 13:24-32)

"But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven"

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away before all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But of that day or that hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."



This is the Gospel of the Lord

Prayer One

The Sign of the Cross

Let us remember that everything we do is
In the name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Reflection:

Around this time in 1940 the city of Coventry was subject to some of the very worst bombing of the Second World War. For Winston Churchill this was a particularly agonising experience.

Coventry was bombed because it was a centre of industry. Hitler knew that by bombing Coventry he would damage the British war effort. The bombing inflicted a great deal of damage and many people died.

Winston Churchill and the British commanders knew that the bombing was going to happen, but were reluctant to stop it. They had recently broken the German's secret codes and if they moved to defend Coventry they would reveal that they had broken the codes. If that happened, the Germans might well have changed them before they planned something even worse.

This must have been an agonising and difficult decision for Churchill. This week we are thinking about the theme 'Sign of the Times.' The times Churchill lived in were very difficult. There was a lot of suffering and a great deal rested on his shoulders.

Part of taking responsibility and making decisions is that sometimes it's really tough. Maybe today we can pray that when we have big decisions to make we can always show wisdom and good judgment.

Final Prayer

Loving Father,

You alone know what will work out for the best and most of the time you alone know which path we should choose.

Our decisions will never be perfect and they will not always work out for the best, but help us to remember that no good ever came from making quick judgments or from sitting on the sidelines. Help us to be wise, compassionate people, and guide us in all things with your love.

In the name of the Father and of the Son...

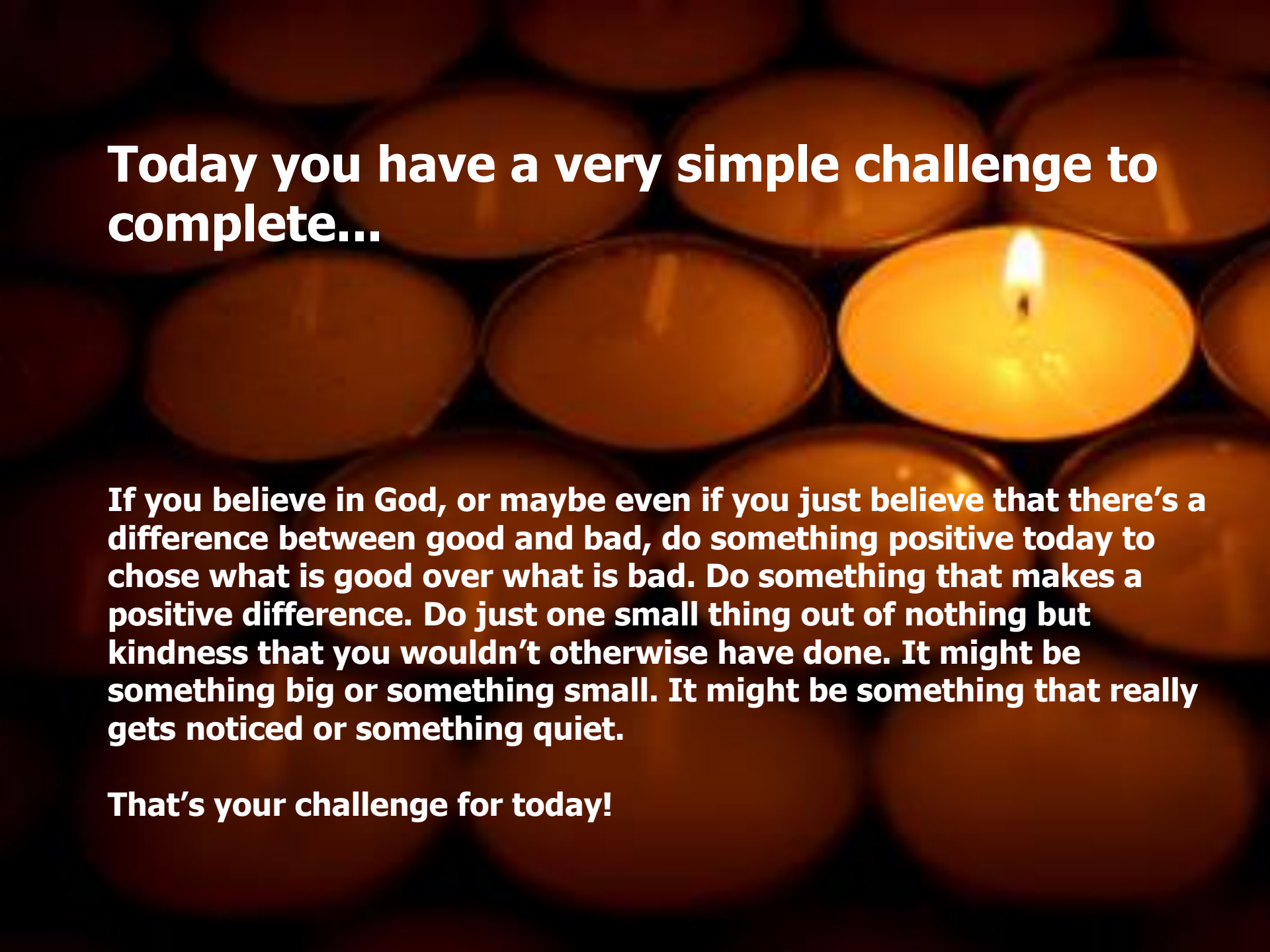
Prayer Two

The Sign of the Cross

**Let us remember that everything we do is
In the name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

Reflection

***This week's Gospel reading reminds us that
Christian life isn't just about what we believe,
but about what we do as well. Our beliefs
have to actually turn into action.***



Today you have a very simple challenge to complete...

If you believe in God, or maybe even if you just believe that there's a difference between good and bad, do something positive today to chose what is good over what is bad. Do something that makes a positive difference. Do just one small thing out of nothing but kindness that you wouldn't otherwise have done. It might be something big or something small. It might be something that really gets noticed or something quiet.

That's your challenge for today!



Final Prayer:

Loving Father,

**You alone give meaning to our actions and
you alone work in our hearts and in our
lives.**

**Help us not to be empty vessels, but rather
people who act on the things we believe and
put them into practice through our good
works.**

In the name of the Father and of the Son...


Prayer Three

The Sign of the Cross

**Let us remember that everything we do is
In the name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

Reflection

***This week's theme is 'sign of the times.'
What are the particular signs of the
time that we live in? And how much
attention do we pay to them?***



Every age is different. The places we live are different and things are not the way that they were a generation ago. The culture is different, the needs are different and the problems that communities have to deal with are different too.

Every time and place is a little bit different, but we can be sure that every time and place has its own set of needs and its own set of people who really matter.

One of the most important things we can do in life is to be attentive to the signs of our times. In other words, we need to make sure that we are paying careful attention to what's going on around us.

As Christians, this is an important thing to do. We need to listen, and we need to learn and remember. We need to know the people around us and we need to know about the world that we live in.

That way we can be of more use.

That way, we can respond and make a difference.



Thoughts:

If you thought the world was going to end tomorrow...

Who would you want to speak to?

Who would you want to forgive?

Who would you want to ask forgiveness from?

What are you waiting for?

“No one knows the hour” so live your life well, full of good actions and intentions...

Final Prayer

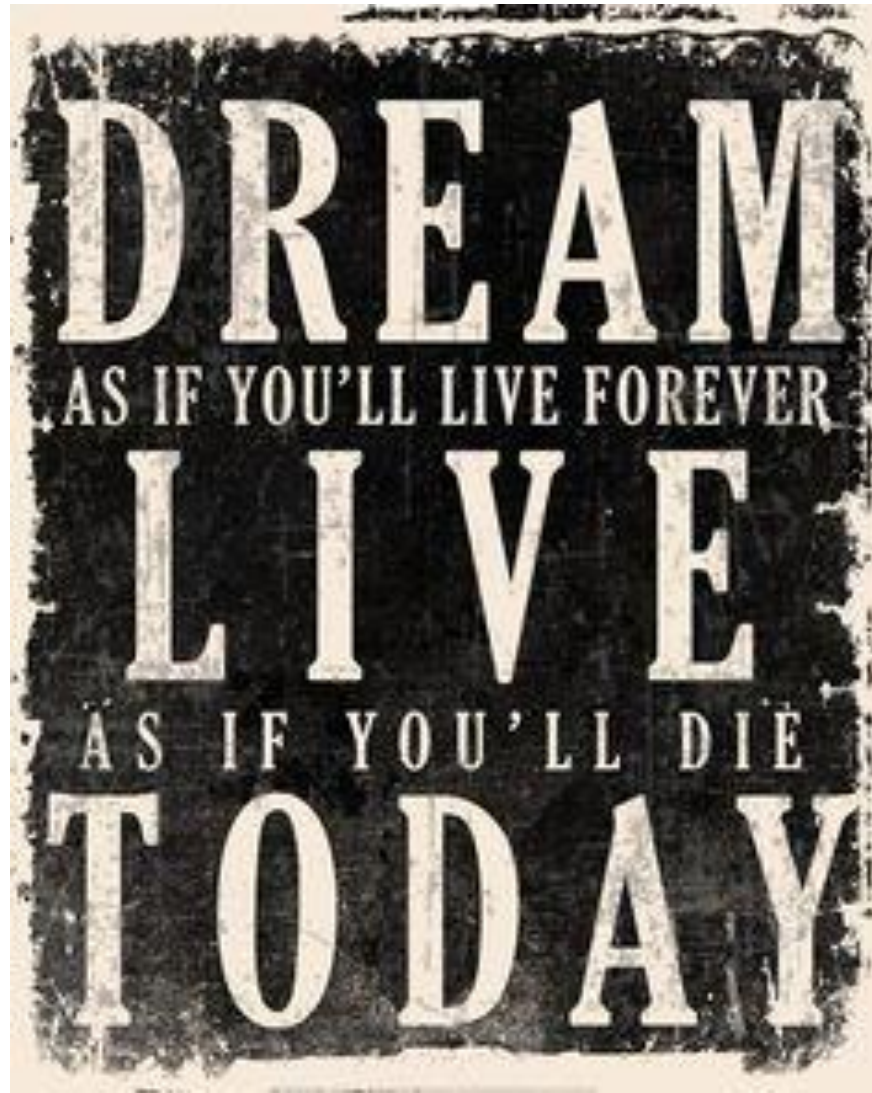
Loving Father,

you made the world with love and care and you made each person, each time and each place special and treasured.

Help us to be people whose eyes, ears and hearts are always open. Help us to know the problems of our fellow human beings and help us to respond warmly and lovingly.

In the name of the Father and of the Son...

Final Thought...



Next weeks theme: Youth