



This Sunday's Reading 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C Luke 14: 25-33

At that time: Great crowds accompanied Jesus, and he turned and said to them, 'If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, and wife and children, and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, "This man began to build and was not able to finish." Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.'

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:

***This is our first week of the new
academic year - a great chance to think
about what lies ahead and about what's
going to be important to us this year!***

Here are some things to think about this morning...

[Read slowly, leaving a pause after each one]



How are you feeling at the moment?

What will you need God's help with this year?

What do you want to do differently this year?

Is there anything or anyone you are worried about at the moment?



Final Prayer

Loving Father,

Bless us as we gather together as a community and be with us as we journey through the months ahead.

Bring success to our efforts, bring joy to our relationships and help us to remember each day that you are walking beside us.

Our Father, who art in heaven...

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

Prayer Two

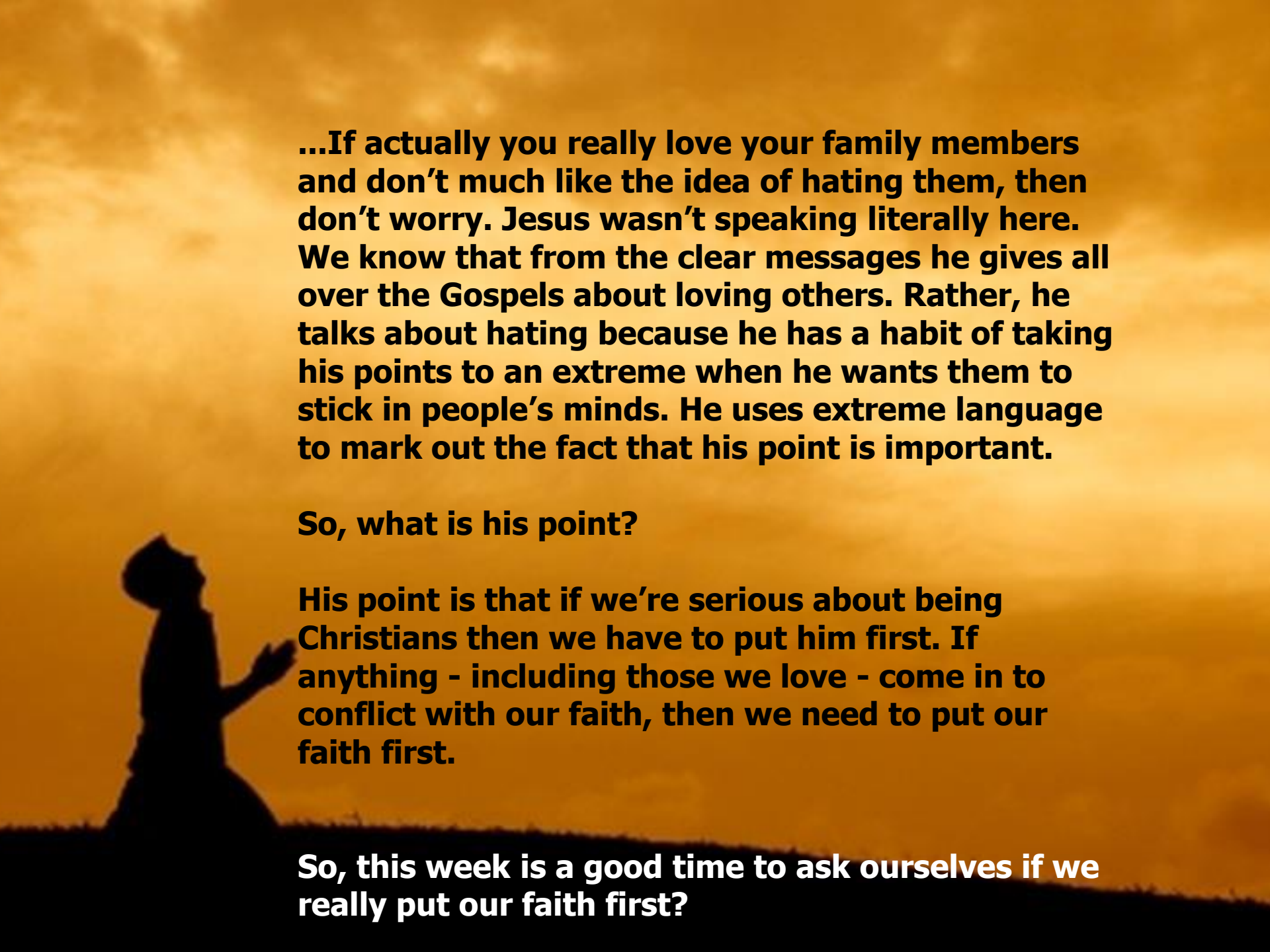
The Sign of the Cross

**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

In this week's Gospel Jesus uses some quite harsh language. He says that anybody who doesn't hate their family members, and even their own lives, isn't really worthy of him!...



A silhouette of a person in prayer, with hands raised, against a warm, golden sunset background. The person is on the left side of the frame, looking upwards.

...If actually you really love your family members and don't much like the idea of hating them, then don't worry. Jesus wasn't speaking literally here. We know that from the clear messages he gives all over the Gospels about loving others. Rather, he talks about hating because he has a habit of taking his points to an extreme when he wants them to stick in people's minds. He uses extreme language to mark out the fact that his point is important.

So, what is his point?

His point is that if we're serious about being Christians then we have to put him first. If anything - including those we love - come in to conflict with our faith, then we need to put our faith first.

So, this week is a good time to ask ourselves if we really put our faith first?

Final Prayer

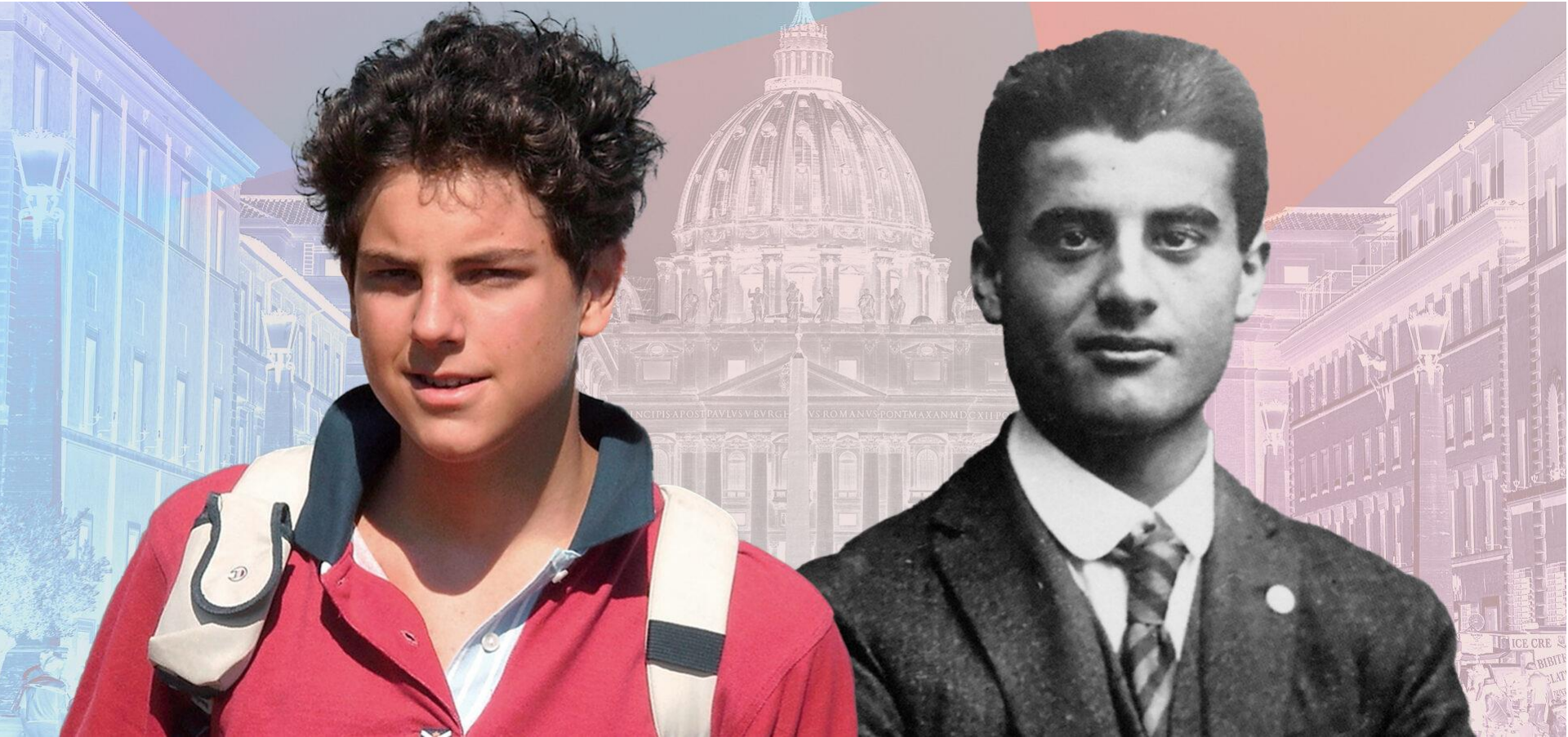
LOVING FATHER...

Help us to love our lives and help us to love the people we share them with. But, in all things, and in all the decisions we make, help us always to put our faith first.

**IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
AMEN**



Prayer Three



Reflection

When we think about what it means to be a disciple it can be very helpful to think about those who have been good role models of Discipleship – The Saints...

Just this Sunday (7th September) Pope Leo Canonised two new Saints: Pier Giorgio Frassati & Carlo Acutis.

There is a real buzz around both, though you may have heard a little more about Acutis as he was a British born Italian. He is the first Millennial Saint, and often referred to as "God's influencer" due to his passion to use the internet to highlight Eucharistic and Marian Miracles.

Frassati, a little less well known in Britain, was born in 1901, dedicated to Social Justice, he was preoccupied with helping the poor and sick in the slums of his hometown, Turin. Despite warning that this could affect his own health he continued to work with the most destitute. He died aged 24, from Polio, most likely due to his work in the slums.

What both Saints have in common (Apart from coming from Italian family's) is that they remind us that holiness is not distant or abstract. Rather it is lived through friendship, service, hard work and a deep love for those around you and the most vulnerable in our society. So as we go about our week let us be reminded that being a disciple is simply about the relationships we have with one another, how we serve our community and how we look out for those amongst us who might be feeling lost, lonely or vulnerable.

**Final Prayer:
Let us call on these Saints to
pray for us:**

Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati

ALL: Pray for Us

Saint Carlo Acutis

ALL: Pray for Us

Saint Wilfrid

ALL: Pray for Us

AMEN

Prayer Four

(if time with extra tutor time this week)

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:

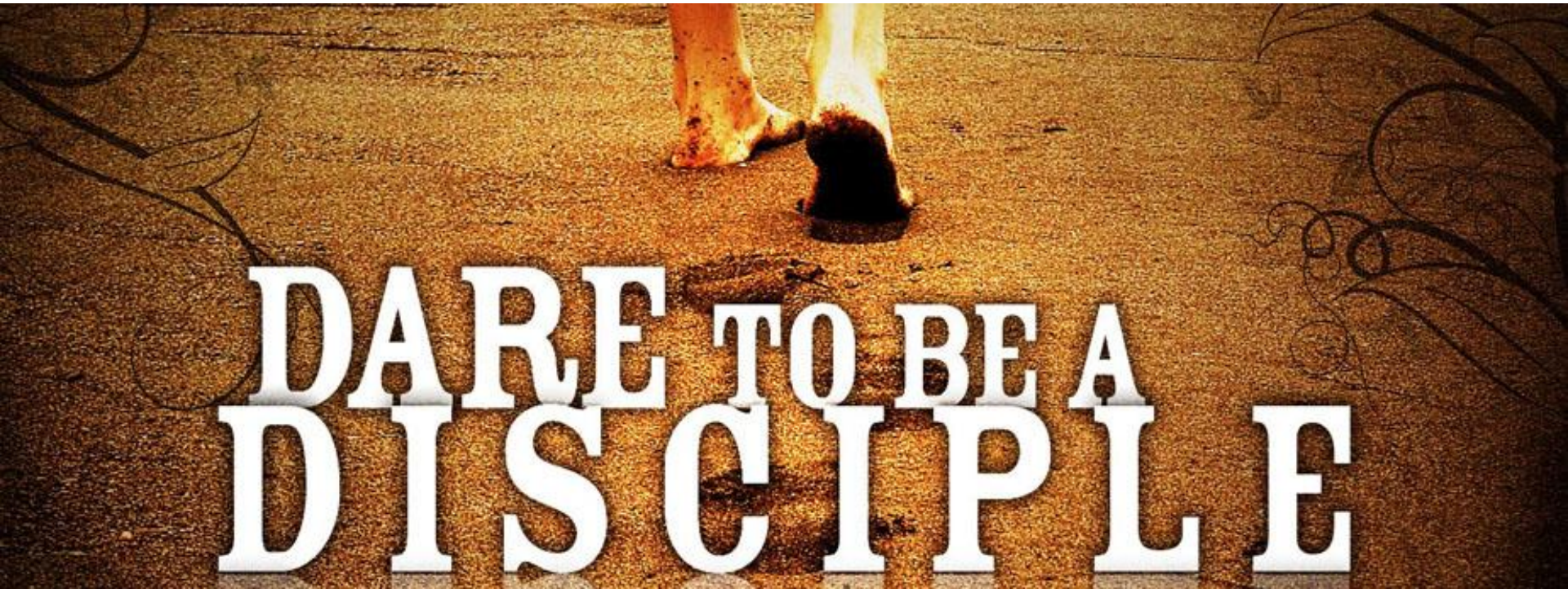
***As this is our first week of our year
together it might be a good idea to
think about how we want our "Prayer
time" to be...***

**Watch this film about what prayer is:
[%I — THE REDEEMED](#)**

And consider these question:

- **What sort of prayer activities do you like?**
- **How do you think this years tutor time prayer should be organised?**

Final Thought...



Next weeks theme: Gratitude