



**This Sunday's Gospel**  
**22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**  
**(Matthew 16: 21-27)**

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord;' he said 'this must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'



**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:*

*Our theme this week (Start the Journey) is inspired by the fact that we are starting a new school year, and it links to this week's Gospel reading*

**In this week's Gospel, Jesus is talking about discipleship. In other words, he is talking about what it means to follow him. It's not easy. In fact, although the pros far outweigh the cons in the long run, it can be very difficult to be a Christian.**

**Jesus says: 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it'**

**These are difficult words in some ways, but not to be taken entirely literally. Jesus doesn't want us to hate our lives or to give up everything that we love, and he doesn't want us to take on unnecessary burdens just to prove ourselves. But he does want us to put our faith in him above everything else.**

### **Some thoughts:**

- **What are you looking forward to about the term ahead?**
- **What are you nervous about?**
- **How are you going to put God first?**

# **Final Prayer**

## **LOVING FATHER...**

**A lot is going to happen this year, but we ask you to make our relationship with you the most important thing. May it give meaning to everything we do, may it keep us on the right path, and may it enrich our lives with your love.**

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



# 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:***

***When embarking on a journey, you need to make  
sure you know where you're going, and you need  
to make sure that you're properly prepared...***





**When we start a journey we need to know where we are heading. That way we know which paths are wrong and which are right. There will still be some surprises along the way, but it's good to have a general idea of where we want to head.**

**When we start a journey we also need to know who we are travelling with. We need friends on every journey. Friends help us to find the way when we get a little bit lost. Friends help us when we are weary or in trouble and friends cheer us up.**

**When we start a journey we need to know exactly how to travel. Most journeys have different phases to them: sometimes it's tough, sometimes easy. Sometimes we cover a lot of ground, and sometimes very little.**

# Final Prayer



**God our Father,**

**you are the guide on every journey we make, and you are the destination too. Help us to remember what is important as we travel through this year. Help us to be good friends to those we travel with. Help us to make good choices and help us to travel in a way which is best for us and for those around us**

**In all things, help us to remember your love for us.**

**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*

***In our first week of this academic year lets take  
some time to look at and pray our school prayer  
together...think about each line, what it means to  
you and what it means to pray it together as a  
community...***



## St Wilfrid's School Prayer

Loving Father, when You created me, You  
had a definite plan;  
You didn't make me to be average, but to  
be beautiful, great and talented;  
You want the best, from me and the best for  
me.  
Lord, I ask you with hope and joy to give me  
a strong faith in You;  
to give me a heart transformed with Your  
amazing love;  
to give me a spirit of courage and  
generosity;  
to give me a mind full of brilliant ideas;  
to give me the will to make a difference in  
the world;  
to give me the grace to love You and those  
around me in all that I do,  
through Christ our Lord.

Amen



# Final Thought...

AND SUDDENLY  
YOU KNOW: IT'S  
TIME TO START  
SOMETHING NEW  
AND TRUST THE  
MAGIC OF  
BEGINNINGS

- MEISTER ECKHART

*Next Week: **Community***