

The Living Word

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

14 November 2021

First Reading Dn 12:1-3

When that time comes your own people will be spared.

'At that time Michael will stand up, the great prince who mounts guard over your people. There is going to be a time of great distress, unparalleled since nations first came into existence. When that time comes, your own people will be spared, all those whose names are found written in the Book. Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting disgrace. The learned will shine as brightly as the vault of heaven, and those who have instructed many in virtue, as bright as stars for all eternity.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 15:5. 8-11. R.v.1

**(R.) Keep me safe, O God:
you are my hope.**

1. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. (R.)
2. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay. (R.)
3. You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness forever. (R.)

Second Reading Heb 10:11-14, 18

By a single offering he has achieved the eternal perfection of those who are sanctified.

All the priests stand at their duties every day, offering over and over again the same sacrifices which are quite incapable of taking sins away. Christ, on the other hand, has offered one single sacrifice for sins, and then taken his place for ever, at the right hand of God, where he is now waiting until his enemies are made into a footstool for him. By virtue of that one single offering, he has achieved the eternal perfection of

all whom he is sanctifying. When all sins have been forgiven, there can be no more sin offerings.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 21:36

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Be watchful, and pray constantly,
that you may be worthy to stand
before the Son of Man.**

Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 13:24-32

He shall gather his elect from the four winds.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'In those days, after the time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will come falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then too he will send the angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven.'

'Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. So with you, when you see these things happening: know that he is near, at the very gates. I tell you solemnly, before this generation has passed away all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.'

'But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Have you ever seen those pictures of angels? They are like babies with delicate gossamer wings. How sentimental, how pathetically trivial, how untrue. Angels are more like the light-swords wielded by Luke Skywalker in Star Wars. The good angels are lightning flashes of energy serving God's purpose in the battle against evil forces which can seem to dominate our worlds, private and social.

God loved us into existence in order to share in his life, but there are forces at work trying to frustrate that. There is a cosmic-scale battle going on. Who is on our side in that battle? The angels. Who are they?

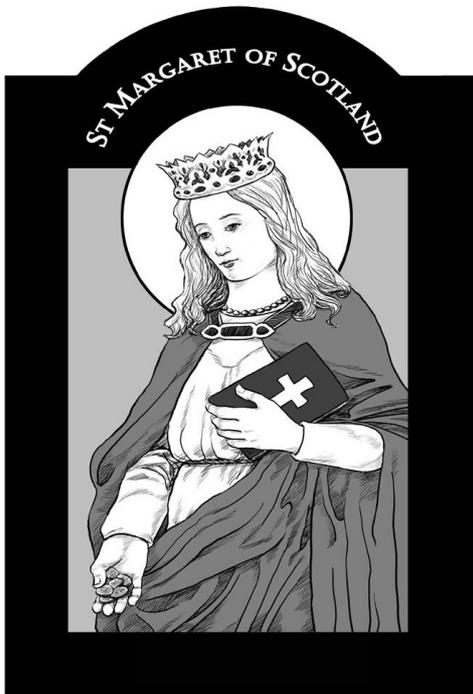
They are non-bodily beings of great intelligence and power. Those are the angels, and those who have chosen to love and serve God are on our side.

Some are archangels with a cosmic-scale brief. We hear of one in the first reading: 'Michael, the great Prince who stands guard over your people'. Others are our individual Guardian Angels so that when powers of darkness seem to engulf us, we can turn to our Guardian Angel and say: 'Fight for me', and that light-sword of God will engage in battle because that is that sort of angel's way of serving God.

We could pause a moment to pray, thanking God for the Archangels who guard our church community and for our personal Guardian Angels, and asking our Lord Jesus Christ to command those angels to gather us as his chosen to share His glory.

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St Margaret of Scotland was in fact thought to be born in Hungary and was brought to England as a young girl in 1057. She fled to Scotland after the Norman conquest of England and in 1070 married King Malcolm III. Margaret was a deeply religious woman and as queen she was able to bring about necessary reforms to the Scottish church and in doing so, brought it into line with the Western church. She also used her influence to help ordinary people by establishing schools, hospitals and orphanages.

FIND THE SECRET ANSWER

Help the angel find the hidden answer to this question "Who will know when the time is right for Jesus to return?"

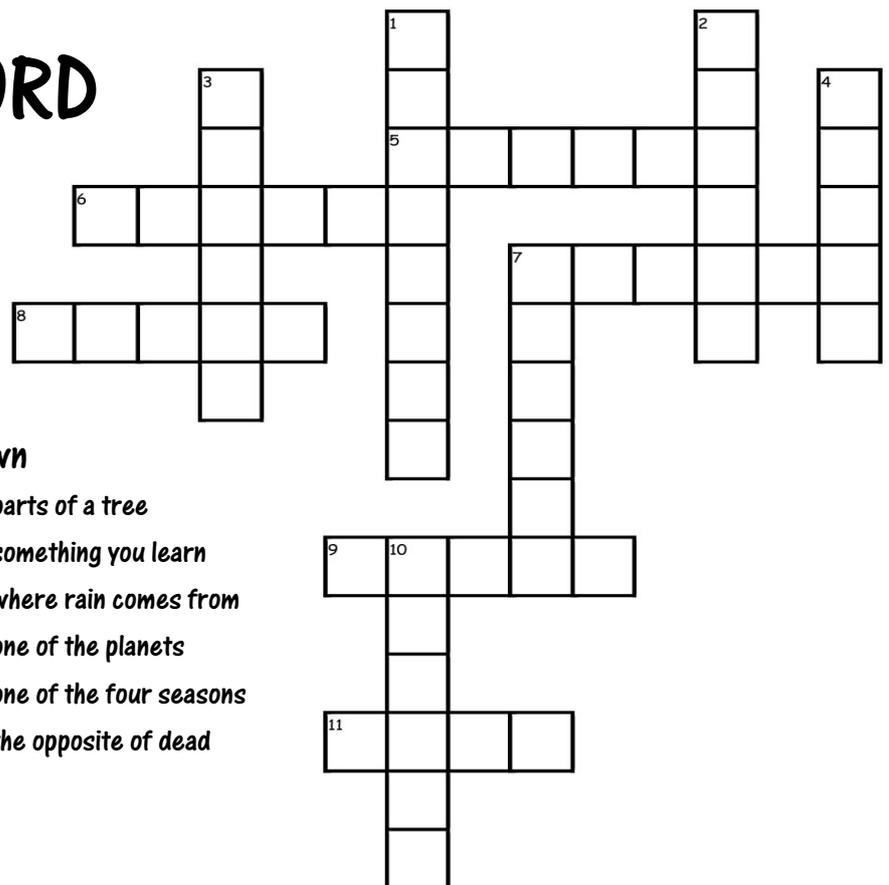
In the puzzle below, cross out any letter that appears four or more times. Then unscramble the remaining letters to complete the verse below.



B M G S N D V K P Y Z
 J W Q I H Z O S W E V
 P C T B V Q G X M P I
 M Q S L N K Y C S U B
 X D J M T X V D J Z V
 L U O K S J B K C D R
 Q E L P G O Z U Q S Y
 G I W U X M F K C N G
 L O C S B I P L J D P
 Z U Y L H N G Q A W K

ONLY _____ KNOWS.

CROSSWORD



Across

- 5: God's special messengers
- 6: to be selected
- 7: to grow
- 8: things we can speak, read and write down
- 9: _____ alleluia
- 11: "you will know that the _____ has almost come"

Down

- 1: parts of a tree
- 2: something you learn
- 3: where rain comes from
- 4: one of the planets
- 7: one of the four seasons
- 10: the opposite of dead