



CELEBRATING AT HOME

13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The journey begins (Luke 9:51-62)



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Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

The Lord is here, present among us.

**We are gathered with the whole Church in
this moment of prayer.**

Preparing to hear the Word

Lord Jesus, you are our only Way.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are our only Truth.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are Life itself.

Lord, have mercy.

Scripture Reading (Luke 9:51-62)

As the time drew near for him to be taken up to
heaven, Jesus resolutely took the road for Jerusalem
and sent messengers ahead of him.

These set out and they went into a Samaritan village
to make preparations for him, but the people would
not receive him because he was making for Jerusalem.
Seeing this, the disciples James and John said, 'Lord,
do you want us to call down fire from heaven to burn
them up? But he turned and rebuked them, and they
went off to another village.

As they travelled along they met a man on the road
who said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.'
Jesus answered, 'Foxes have holes and the birds of the
air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay
his head.'

Another to whom he said, 'Follow me,' replied, 'Let me
go and bury my father first'. But he answered, 'Leave
the dead to bury their dead; your duty is to go and
spread the news of the Kingdom of God'.

Another said, 'I will follow you, sir, but first let me go
and say goodbye to my people at home'. Jesus said to
him, 'Once the hand is laid on the plough, no one who
looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'

Reflection - *The journey begins*

Very often in life we know what the right thing to do is,
yet we can find it very difficult to do. There is a sense
of that in the Gospel reading for today. The very first
lines of today's Gospel set the tone of what we will
read over the next eleven Sundays about the qualities
needed by and the costs involved for those who want
to follow Jesus.

As the Gospel opens, we are told that Jesus 'resolutely
took the road for Jerusalem'. This long journey from
Galilee to Jerusalem will be Jesus' final journey. There
is a sense of determination. Jesus knows what he
must do. I think there is also a sense of reluctance.
Just knowing it is the right thing to do does not make
it easy to do, as we see in Jesus' encounter with the
three would-be disciples in this passage.

And, what happens when we feel we are doing the
right thing and get treated badly because of it? Will we
act like James and John, wanting to call down fire from
heaven to punish the offenders? Or will we follow the
way of Jesus and just go 'to another village'? We can
be filled with such a sense of righteousness that we
turn ourselves into God's avengers, but we are really
avenging ourselves.

Jesus speaks so often about non-violence and non-
resistance. Most of us find that very challenging. Why
shouldn't I strike back against the person who strikes
me? Don't I have a right to defend myself? Yet we
know that retaliation simply locks us into a continuing
cycle of violence and only forgiveness can break that
cycle.

It is also worth contemplating the three would-be
disciples in this Gospel passage. All seem to have been
touched in some way by Jesus and drawn to him. All
seem genuine in their desire to follow him. Jesus reply
to the first begs the question: are enthusiasm and
desire enough? Jesus' reminder that he has 'nowhere
to lay his head' seems to say that there has to be
a sense of healthy realism in our decision to follow
Jesus. Can we really do it? What does it ask of us? Are
we prepared to live with the uncertainties?

The other two would-be disciples are also genuine
in their desire and intention, 'but first' want to go off

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and fulfil their family obligations. Again, Jesus' reply begs the question about what comes first – family obligations or our relationship with him. This is not an either/or question. When our relationship with Jesus comes first, then all our other relationships find their proper place in our lives. We can't really put our relationship with Jesus 'on hold' while we sort out the rest of our lives.

The key to keeping everything in right relationship is our relationship with Jesus as the centre of our lives and who we are.

Prayers of Intercession

Continue to strengthen us by your Holy Spirit,
**so that in the midst of difficulty, pain and suffering
we can still be strong witnesses of your love.**

Give us the ability to recognise what you ask of us
in the situations we face each day.

Broaden our vision and our hope,
preserve us from selfishness;
**help us to serve one another in the freedom
of love.**

Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus,
we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Closing Prayer

Lord, our God,
may the clear light of your love
fill our lives and be seen and felt
in our words and actions,
now and always,
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing

May your blessing be with us, O Lord,
keeping us safe,
and bringing us to life.
Amen.





Journey into the Light

This resource is presented by the Carmelites of Australia & Timor-Leste at a time when many cannot gather together as we usually do to celebrate the Eucharist. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

As you use this prayer know that the Carmelites will be remembering in our prayer all the members of our family at this time.



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