

HOW CAN JESUS GIVE ME STRENGTH?

Where do people find courage? What do people mean when they say their faith in Jesus gives them strength?

SUNDAY MASS READINGS 10/11/19 [read them here](#)

1st Reading: 2 Maccabees 7:1-14. **The King of the world will raise us up to live for ever**

Psalm 16. **I shall be filled, when I awake, with the sight of your glory, O Lord**

2nd Reading: 2 Thess 2:16-3:5. **May the Lord strengthen you in everything**

Gospel: Luke 20:27-38. **He is God, not of the dead, but of the living**

Remembrance Book

The cards to fill out the names of loved ones are on the table at the back of the Chapel throughout the whole of November. Please fill them in and I will transfer them into the Remembrance Book. We will remember them all during our Masses this month. Please also know you are very welcome to spend quiet time in the Chapel at any point during the day.

**BUT THE LORD IS
FAITHFUL, AND HE WILL
STRENGTHEN YOU AND
PROTECT YOU**

2 THESSALONIANS 3:3

READ: The readings at Mass this week almost force us to think about the meaning of our own lives. The 1st Reading gives us an account of what happens when faith is challenged. We know that this reading is just as relevant now as it was 2000 years ago, what with the hundreds of thousands of Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, people of all beliefs who are still persecuted today. The 2nd Reading, however, a letter to the Thessalonians, should encourage us. St. Paul writes about the faithfulness of Christ, who is always present, always watching over us with love, constantly seeking us out, willing us to grow closer to Him. The challenge we're presented with here is how do we trust Christ in such a way that we can turn to Him when we're weak, or challenged, or persecuted? In the Gospel, Luke tells us of the Sadducees challenging Jesus about life after death. They couldn't get past the limits of our earthly existences to even begin to understand an eternal relationship with God.

REFLECT: These readings are all about getting us to comprehend that God, His love for us, and His plan for humanity is something so much more amazing, so much more beautiful than anything we could imagine as people here on Earth. Our faith will be challenged, our beliefs will be mocked and we will be laughed at and left behind, perhaps poor, perhaps lonely, perhaps weak. This week's 2nd Reading reminds us of Jesus' faithfulness to us during these times. It's typical, though, that it's during challenging times that He seems furthest away. It can be overwhelming to see others clinging to their faith, making us wonder how it's possible for us to access this strength through Jesus that seems to come to others so easily. That answer lies in the meaning behind Sunday's Gospel. We obsess over earthly, materialistic, limited 'things' or 'successes'. Instead, we should be striving towards values that will last forever. Christ is inviting us to share in something beyond life here on earth, something eternal. This requires faith, crazy faith! Certainly when it comes to stepping out of our comfort zones. How much easier it would be to trust in this eternal life if we could sit down for a face to face conversation where Jesus could physically reaffirm us, but again, that's putting an earthly limitation on God! He is more real and alive than any person, his guidance is there, and trustworthy, and we can hear it. Maybe it comes through the Scriptures, maybe it comes through prayer, or maybe it comes through other people. We have to be open to hearing it, though, and this only happens when we open our hearts to the endless possibilities of God's radical, eternal love for us.

**Friday Mass - 8.15am
Celebrated by Fr. Chris
Offered for Linda Langford**