

## Reflection for Sunday 33B, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021

### NOBODY KNOWS THE DAY

The best understanding of apocalyptic language, constructed with images and symbolic resources that speak about the end of the world, allow us today to hear the hopeful message of Jesus without falling into the temptation of sowing distress and terror in consciences.

One day, the passionate history of human beings on the earth will reach its end. This is the firm conviction of Jesus. It's also the forecast of today's science. The world is not eternal. This life will end. What's going to become of our struggles and works, our strengths and aspirations?

Jesus speaks in a measured way. He doesn't want to feed any morbid curiosity, He snips off any attempt to speculate with calculations, dates or specifics. 'As for that day or hour, nobody knows it...except the Father'. There is nothing about psychosis before the end. The world is in good hands. We can trust God, our Creator and Father.

From this total confidence, Jesus explains his hope: the present creation will end, but it will do so to give space to a new creation, centred on the risen Christ. Is it possible to believe in something so grand? Can we speak like that as if nothing has happened?

Jesus works his way around images that everyone can understand. One day, the sun and moon that illuminate our world and make life possible will cease. The world will be in darkness. Will human history also be obliterated? Will our hopes be terminated in the same way?

According to Mark's version, during that night it will be possible to see the 'Son of Man', that's to say the risen Christ, who will come with 'great power and glory'. His saving light will illuminate everything. He will be the centre of a new world, the beginning of a humanity renewed forever.

Jesus knows it's not easy to believe in his words. How can you prove things will work out this way? With a surprising simplicity, he invites us to live this life as a springtime. Everyone knows the experience: the life that appeared dead during the winter begins to waken up; in the branches of the fig tree, new small leaves blossom. We all know summer cannot be far behind.

The life that we now know is like spring. As yet, it's not a time to sow. We can't achieve definitive achievements. However, there are small signs that life is in gestation. Our strength to create a better world will not be lost. Nobody knows the day, but Jesus will come. With his coming, the ultimate mystery of what believers call God will be revealed. Our passionate history will have reached its fulfilment.

**Father José Antonio Pagola**  
**Translator: Dermot Healy**