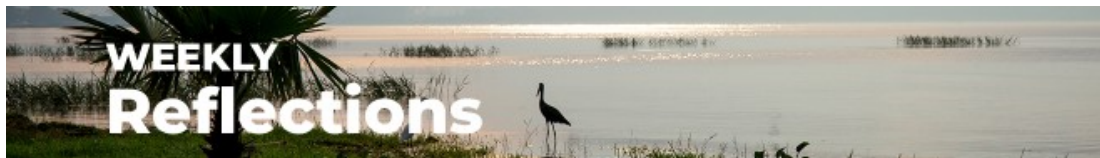


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Based on the gospel for Sunday 11 November, Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time: Luke 21:5-19

"I myself shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict."

Jesus warns the disciples that they face difficult times ahead. They may be persecuted, imprisoned, brought before kings and governors because of their faith in him.

And yet, they are not to prepare their defence. They are to trust in God to give them the words to bear witness and convince others of the truth.

As someone with a deep-seated fear of public speaking, this is really challenging to me. The idea of what others may think of me fills me with dread and leads me to keep silent too often.

But really, what is the worst that can happen to me on the occasions when I find myself called to speak out? People may laugh. They may disagree with me. I might face criticism or lose friends.

CAFOD supports many people throughout the world who still face imprisonment, persecution and death for taking a courageous stand in their own countries and communities. They speak out for peace, the protection of the earth and for the rights of people who are poor and marginalised.

So today, maybe I need to let go of my concerns about what others may think of me and trust in God to give me the words to speak out for what I believe in.

Will you try to do the same?

God of wisdom, give us the courage to speak out for what is right. Help us to find the words to add our voices to those of our sisters and brothers calling out for peace and justice in our world. Amen.



COP27 Global Day of Action

Join us on 12 November to show your support for our brothers and sisters around the world and call on the government to take action.

[Join with us](#)



World Gifts

World Gifts are the gifts that keep on giving.
Spread joy and hope around the world.

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Remembrance prayers

Throughout November we remember and
pray for all those who have died and all
those who mourn them.

[Pray with us](#)

This reflection and prayer were written by Catherine Gorman from our Theology team.



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Catholic Agency for Overseas Development
Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road,
London,
SE1 7JB,