



*Light and  
Love in the  
darkness*

## CELEBRATING AT HOME 13<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### *True discipleship (Mt 10:37-42)*

This resource is presented by the Carmelites of Australia & Timor-Leste at a time when we 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.

# CELEBRATING AT HOME

## 13<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### 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

We have been called by God  
to be the Church,  
**the Body of Christ in this world.**

We are not a building,  
**but a people,**  
gathered and grounded in  
**the Word of God,**  
the love of Christ,  
**and the unity of the Holy Spirit.**

Lord Jesus, you are  
**our Way, our Truth and our Life.**

### Scripture Reading (Matthew 10:37-42)

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows:  
'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.

Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me, welcome the one who sent me.

Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward.

If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then

I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

### Reflection - *True discipleship*

Today's Gospel is the final in this section of Matthew's Gospel about the spread of the Kingdom and the role of the disciples.

Matthew often uses events as a beginning point for Jesus' sermons. The section we have been listening to began with the call of Matthew and was followed by the instructions given to the disciples before setting out on mission. We heard part of that last Sunday.

So far in this sermon we have heard Jesus teach that the truly virtuous are those who exercise mercy; disciples are to proclaim the Kingdom of God with works of compassion and mercy; they are not to let fear compromise the message, but are to trust always in God.

Today's Gospel passage highlights both the cost and rewards of true discipleship. The disciples' relationship with Jesus must be the centre of their lives and the context for all other relationships.

Hospitality and welcome are concrete expressions of discipleship because the disciple is one who witnesses to the compassion and mercy of God with open hearts and concrete good actions.

Even though the first paragraph of today's Gospel sounds like an exclusive choice must be made between Jesus and family, the idea behind the text is more that: in our relationship with Jesus, all other relationships fall into their proper context. Without being in right relationship with Jesus we can't learn how to be in right relationship with others. It is our relationship with Jesus which brings depth and richness to all our other relationships. So, for example, our family relationships become more than just fulfilling a social custom. They become true relationships filled with love, mercy, forgiveness and respect.

The Pharisees and Scribes seldom made good disciples because they thought that religion was about doing religious things. They went to the synagogue, kept the Law, fasted, and so on, but their hearts were never changed by their religious observance. They were self-righteous, despised the poor and the 'sinners', and acted without justice or mercy.

The truth about our conversion to Jesus (our becoming Jesus) is not so much seen in easily identifiably 'religious' things but in concrete good actions and right relationships.

Our religious observance is meant to support and nourish our relationship with Jesus. It is not a substitute for it. That relationship has the power to change and transform us so that we can bear witness to Christ through lives of mercy, compassion, justice and integrity.

### Prayers of Intercession

Eternal God,  
May we always proclaim your word  
**in loving action for those in need.**

Give us discernment and grace  
**to respond well to the prompting of your Spirit.**

Open our hearts in hospitality to all.  
**May all our relationships be transformed in  
Christ and mirror your love for each of us.**

### 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

Blessed are you, O Lord our God,  
for you make a home among us  
and welcome us into your life through Christ.

Continue to bring us to life in you  
through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### Blessing

May the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ,  
**the love of God,**  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
**carry us gently through the week ahead.**