

# "Stay Awake"

Weekly Reflections 12th  
November 2023



## A reading from the Gospel of St Matthew (23:1-12)

At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

"Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

"No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

"But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. The others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.'

"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."

## Prayer for the Week

Lord, As we remember all those souls who went before us, help us make our lives worthy in thought and action of your final judgement and eternal Kingdom at the end of time. We ask this through Christ our Lord,

Amen

## Saint of the week

### St Didacus of Alcala



12<sup>th</sup> November 2023

St Didacus was a hospital porter who lived as a hermit priest for years. In the Jubilee Year of 1450 thousands of people flocked to Rome but an epidemic broke out and everyone had to lock down in the city. He came to Rome and remained in the city for 3 months caring for all the sick - gaining a reputation for miraculous healings of those who visited him. He was compassionate and loving.

## Day 1

November is the month when we turn to remember those who have passed away before us. It's a time when we turn to the chapel and write their names in the book of remembrance so that we not only evoke their time spent with us but we pray for their soul in heaven and that they might be able to intercede for our concerns. This week, starting today - let's take time, silence, to pray for all those in our families and loved ones who have passed from this world and ask them to look over us, guiding us to be worthy of the judgement of Christ at the end of time.

## Day 2

Almighty and Eternal God, in whose marvellous orderings of things the weak of this world are singled out to shame the strong, grant, we pray, that by imitating the humility of St Didacus we may be raised to the eternal glory with him in heaven. *St Didacus, Pray for us.*

## Day 3 Humility

Dear Lord, Help me to be humble enough to put others first in everything I do. Help me find patience in service, love in helping others and understanding by listening. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

## Day 4 Facing Judgement.

Dear Lord, Prepare me for the honesty I need in facing my actions before God. May I be worthy of your favourable judgement. Amen