

# ***FR ALAN'S REFLECTION***

## **NO REGRETS**

A few years ago, the mother of a close friend of mine died. On the night she died she was having dinner with her family. On this night, without knowing what was going to happen a few hours later, she told her family that she felt that she had had a great life. She then proceeded to tell each family member individually what they had meant to her. A couple of hours later she was taken away in an ambulance and died a few hours later. Her funeral took place in the Church where I grew up. This Church can hold 400 people and the church was packed. She had clearly touched a lot of lives. I recall thinking at the time here was someone who had prepared perfectly to meet her God and had died without any regrets.

In these final weeks of Ordinary Time, the Church leads us to reflect on the end of our lives and how we will meet God face to face. The parable is told of the 10 bridesmaids who are called to meet their bridegroom. Five of them were wise and five of them were foolish. The moral of the story is always to be prepared.

A useful exercise for us to do is to Imagine ourselves coming towards the end of our lives and looking back to today. What would we change? Then we would have to be serious about changing whatever it is. Who is it that we need to forgive? What are the resentments that we need to let go of? What is it that we need to accept? Who is it that we need to tell just how much we love them? Sometimes we can just let these things pass us by thinking that we have plenty of time to do all of that. The Gospel reminds us that none of us know either the day or the hour that our God will come to meet us. Will we be ready?

The First Reading calls us to reflect on the gift of wisdom and to pray for that gift. Wisdom will be given to those who desire it and asking for the gift of wisdom will allow us to know how we can prepare to meet Christ face to face, to be with him, and to live with him for eternity.

Let us resolve today that we will live our lives in such a way that there will be nothing we need to change. Then when we come to the end of our lives and it is our turn to go and meet Christ we can do so without any regrets.