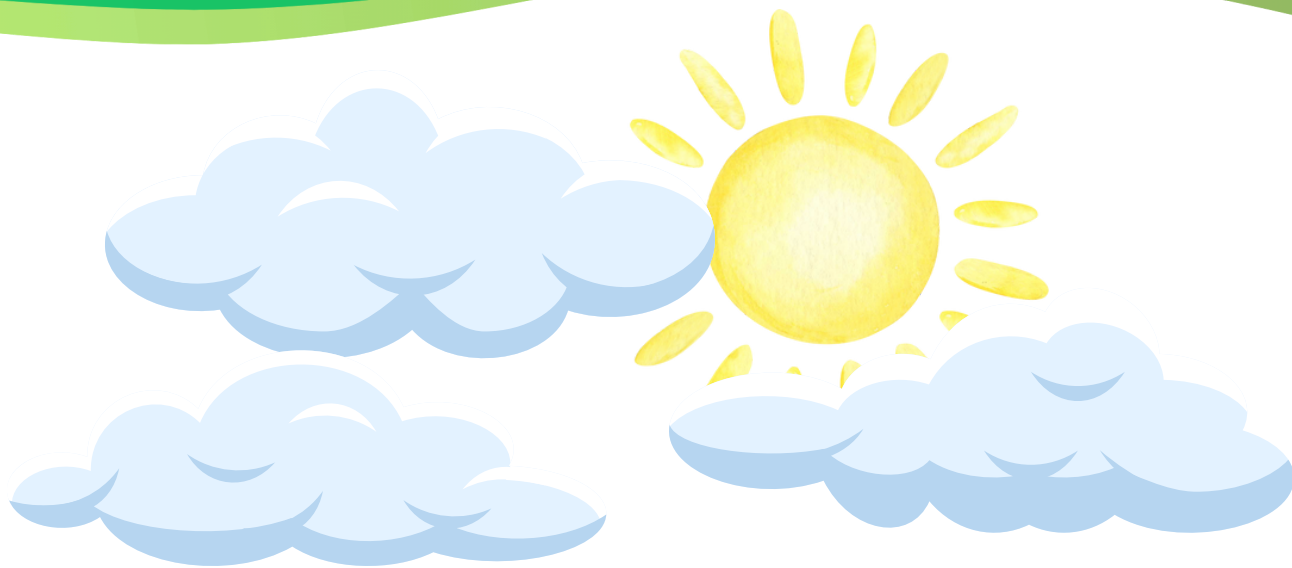


Year C - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 14:25-27

Unless you are ready to give up all that you possess, you cannot be my disciple.



Large crowds were walking along with Jesus, when he turned and said:

"You cannot be my disciple unless you love me more than you love your father and mother, your wife and children, and your brothers and sisters.

You cannot come with me unless you love me more than you love your own life.

"You cannot be my disciple unless you carry your own cross and come with me."



Year C - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 14:25-27

Being a true disciple of Jesus means giving it 'everything you've got'!



Message:



Today's Gospel is a tough one, but it's important to remember that God never asks anything of us without giving us the grace we need to do it!

- Ask the children to think of some of the people they know of who are among the best at what they do. Their answers could include people from sport, art, music etc. (try to avoid responses that are just 'celebrity' alone. Here we are looking for the names of people who have had to work hard at their skill).
- Once you've heard some of their answers, ask the children if they know what these people had to do to get to be the best? Did it just happen or did they have to work hard at it? (Yes, they may have had some natural skill, but they had to work really hard too).
- Here's an example:
 - Ash Barty is one of the best tennis players in the world! She won the US open in 2018 and the French open in 2019. She won Wimbledon in 2021 and the Australian open in 2022! She even won a bronze medal in the 2020 Olympics.
 - Ash is very good at lots of sports, but to be the best she had to work hard too.
 - Each day she would have breakfast then do 45 minutes of stretching to prepare her body for training. Then she do a movement session and then go out onto the tennis court for two hours of practice! After that she'd have lunch and then go to the gym in the afternoon. But she still wouldn't be finished! After that she would do a rehabilitation session with more stretches and sometimes even squeeze in another practice on the tennis court! Phew! She would also make sure to get the right food, drink and sleep! Ash is an example of 'giving it everything you've got'.
- Ash Barty has retired from tennis now because there were other things she wanted to do but thinking about her story can help us to think about being a true disciple of Jesus. Just like Ash had to put her training first, Jesus reminds us that we have to put God first if we want to be a disciple.

Discussion questions:

- What 'training' or 'practise' do we need to do each day to be a disciple of Jesus? (Praying, sacraments, caring for the poor etc).
- How can we 'give it all we've got' to follow Jesus? (By making the choices to do what he asks, even when it is hard).
- When do you think disciples of Jesus win their 'prize'? (Heaven).