

A Letter from Fr. Patrick Kizza

November 16, 2025

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks words that would have shaken His listeners: *"The days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down."* The temple in Jerusalem was the pride of Israel massive, beautiful, seemingly indestructible. Yet Jesus reminds His followers that even the most magnificent things of this world will one day pass away.

It's easy to imagine the fear and confusion of the disciples: *When will this happen? What signs should we look for?* Their questions are not so different from ours today. In a world filled with wars, natural disasters, division, and uncertainty, we too ask: *Where is God in all this? What will happen next?*

But Jesus shifts their focus. He tells them and us not to be deceived or terrified. The end is not something to fear, but a moment to remain faithful. *"By your perseverance,"* He says, *"you will secure your lives."*

In our day-to-day lives, perseverance often means continuing to trust when life feels uncertain when the job is unstable, when relationships are strained, when illness or loss seem to take everything away. It's easy to lose hope when we see the "temples" of our own making — our security, our health, our plans begin to crumble. Yet Christ invites us to build our lives not on what fades, but on what endures: His word, His love, and His promise.

C.S. Lewis once wrote, *"Heaven is not a state of mind. Heaven is reality itself. All that is fully real is heavenly."* The things of this world, as beautiful as they are — are only shadows of a greater reality. When we cling to God amid chaos, we touch something eternal.

The saints understood this truth well. St. Teresa of Ávila, who faced immense trials in her lifetime, offered these comforting words: *"Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you, all things are passing; God never changes."* Perseverance, then, is not stubborn endurance, but quiet trust, a deep faith that God is still in control even when everything else seems to fall apart.

Each day gives us small chances to practice this perseverance: keeping faith when prayers seem unanswered, showing kindness when others turn cold, or remaining hopeful in times of uncertainty. In those moments, Jesus reminds us, *"Do not prepare your defense beforehand... for I myself shall give you wisdom in speaking."*

God is not asking us to be fearless; He is asking us to be faithful. The storms of life may shake us, but they cannot destroy us when our hearts are rooted in Him. The promise of Jesus still stands: *"Not a hair on your head will be destroyed."*

So, when the world feels unsteady, let us fix our gaze not on what is passing, but on Christ who endures forever. In perseverance, in trust, and in faith, we find true life.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Fr. Patrick Kizza', with a long, flowing horizontal line extending to the right.

Fr. Patrick