Sunday Message
THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
THE WORD
Year A • 8 November 2026 • Psalter Week 4



AT THE READY

MATTHEW 25:1-13

I sometimes wonder about the difference between the five wise bridesmaids and the five foolish ones in today's Gospel. Why did the wise ones bring the extra oil? How come they were so prepared?

Amid the many preparations for the wedding, the getting ready, the mounting excitement and anticipation as the ceremony drew near, what possessed them to bring flasks of oil along with their lamps? It seems like an unusually careful thing to do.

Perhaps the difference between them and the other bridesmaids was that they had personal knowledge of the bridegroom. Maybe they knew that the bridegroom had a reputation for being late, that he was never on time for anything, that he was the type who would be late even for his own wedding. And so they thought it prudent to take precautions.

Maybe the other bridesmaids didn't know the groom all that well and so wouldn't have factored in the possibility that he might be late. Believing that everything would go according to plan, it wouldn't have entered their heads to go to the trouble of bringing extra oil. Why should they? By the time they realised their mistake, it was too late. When the ceremony eventually got under way, they weren't allowed to participate in the celebration. They were left outside the door. It seemed an extraordinarily harsh punishment.

Of course, a parable is a story told to make a point, and Jesus wanted to make his point absolutely clear.

The ten bridesmaids represent us – the Christian community – waiting for the Messiah's return. Some are wise and some are foolish; some are prepared for his coming and some are not, some have their lamps lit, others have not. Like the wise bridesmaids, we must be always prepared, alert, ready for when the bridegroom will come. We must always have our lamps lit, for we do not know the day or the hour. ■

PRAY

Today's first reading speaks of the importance of wisdom. Pray for the gift of wisdom, so that you will know what is truly important and what is not.

DO

Make an examination of conscience. Are you living in such a way that you are ready to meet the Lord whenever he calls you?

LEARN

The Christian must be ready for the Messiah when he comes in judgement at the end of time. If he does not find us ready, all he can say to us is "I do not know you." Like the wise bridesmaids, we must be faithful to our baptismal calling, people who trust in God at all times and live by the Christian values of justice, peace and love.

REFLECT

In today's second reading, St Paul offers wonderful words of assurance and consolation to the Christian community in Thessalonica. He tells them they need not grieve for those who have died because God will bring with him all who have died in Jesus. That is the hope and the promise of their faith.

It is the hope and the promise of our faith.

The gift of faith changes everything. In early 2022 Richard Gaillardetz was discussing with his wife what to do when he retired in a few years from his position as professor of systematic theology at Boston University. He had been dean of theology there as well as a former president of the Theological Association of America. He was a leading expert on Vatican II and had written and lectured widely on the Council and its impact.

Richard was planning for his retirement and then all changed utterly. On 22 February 2022, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and given a maximum of 18 months to live. On that easy to remember date – 22/2/22 – all his plans, he said – for retirement, the books he was going to write, the places his wife Diana and he were going to visit – went out the window. He had to manage instead for his treatment and his death. Richard began to blog about his illness. This blog was published as a book following his death on 7 November 2023.

In *While I Breathe, I Hope,* he writes beautifully about the consolation his faith gave him as he approached his end, the precious gift that faith is. Richard believed wholeheartedly in the Gospel, and that belief sustained him to his dying breath.

As St Paul writes, our faith is a precious gift we should always treasure, always appreciate, always nurture, never take for granted.

The gift of faith changes everything. ■

SAY

"Lord, help me to be ever prepared for your coming. Deepen my faith in you. Amen."

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let my prayer come into your presence.
Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

COLLECT

Almighty and merciful God,
graciously keep from us all adversity,
so that, unhindered in mind and body alike,
we may pursue in freedom of heart
the things that are yours.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING Wisdom 6:12-16

A reading from the Book of Wisdom.

Wisdom is radiant and unfading,
and she is easily discerned by those who love her
and is found by those who seek her.
She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.
He who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty,
for he will find her sitting at his gates.
To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding,
and he who is vigilant on her account
will soon be free from care,
because she goes about seeking those worthy of her,
and she graciously appears to them in their paths
and meets them in every thought.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 63(62):2. 3-4. 5-6. 7-8. R. 2b

R: ***For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.***

1. O God, you are my God; at dawn I seek you;
for you my soul is thirsting.
For you my flesh is pining,
like a dry, weary land without water. **R.**

2. I have come before you in the sanctuary,
to behold your strength and your glory.
Your loving mercy is better than life;
my lips will speak your praise. **R.**

3. I will bless you all my life;
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet;
with joyful lips, my mouth shall praise you. **R.**

4. When I remember you upon my bed,
on you I muse through the watches of the night.
For you have been my strength;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians.
(for shorter from read between > <)

> We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. <
For this we declare to you by the word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL Matthew 24:42a, 44

R: ***Alleluia, alleluia.***
Stay awake and be ready,
for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.
R: ***Alleluia.***

GOSPEL Matthew 25:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, 'The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, "Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise answered, saying, "Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves." And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterwards the other virgins came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he answered, "Truly, I say to you, I do not know you." Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look with favour, we pray, O Lord,
upon the sacrificial gifts offered here,
that, celebrating in mystery the Passion of your Son,
we may honour it with loving devotion.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose,
near restful waters he leads me.

Or

The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus in the breaking of bread.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by this sacred gift, O Lord,
we give you thanks and beseech your mercy,
that, by the pouring forth of your Spirit,
the grace of integrity may endure
in those your heavenly power has entered.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

redemptorist publications

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carbon footprint

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Sat	07	11:00	For all our deceased family members	*Wellington Cemetery*
		17:30	Nimasha, Natasha, Ruwanthy & Christy Pereira Thanksgiving	*St Patrick's*
Sun	08	08:45	Polish Mass	*St Patrick's*
Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time		09:00	For all victims of war	*Our Lady's*
		11:15	Anna & Ajay – Thanksgiving	*St Patrick's*
		13:00	Baptism – Elsie Marie Wainwright	*Our Lady's*
		Remembrance Day & 2nd Collection Clergy Education and training Fund		
Mon	09	***The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica of The Most Holy Redeemer***		
Tues	10	***St Leo the Great***		
		12:00	Alan & Wayne Stanfield	*St Patrick's*
Wed	11	***Remembrance Day***		
		12:00	Alex Beyer RIP	*Our Lady's*
Thurs	12	***St Josaphat***		
		19:00	Remembrance Service	*St Patrick's*
Fri	13	***Ferial***		
		09:30	Deceased members of Doran and Canning families	*St Patrick's*
Sat	14	17:30	Brenda Wong Foo - Health	*St Patrick's*
Sun	15	***Safeguarding Sunday***		
Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time		08:45	Polish Mass	*St Patrick's*
		09:00	Alex Beyer RIP	*Our Lady's*
		11:15	Anna & Ajay - Family intentions	*St Patrick's*
		World Day of Prayer for the Poor		

SACRAMENT OF FORGIVENESS (CONFESSION)
30 minutes before Masses

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
30 minutes before weekday Masses

RIP: Maureen A Hayter (St Patrick's, 20/11, 11am), Alex Beyer (Our Lady's, 21/11, 11a m), Keaple Walters (Telford Crematorium, 27/11, 12.30pm). We pray for everyone whose anniversaries are at this time.

BAPTISMS: Forms are available from the porch. Please hand your form to Fr Ravi. Baptism Preparation class on the last Saturday of the month at 12pm – 31/10.

ROTAS (W, EM, C)

Sat 5:30 Denzil & Joanne, Anne D, Nigel & Bernadette **14/11**: Lynne & Lewis, Ann N, Anne & John
Sun 9:00 Phillip & Bobbie, John, Bruce & Mick **15/11**: Kevin & Joel, Francis, Laura & Edith
Sun 11:00 Evangeline & Shreya, Anna, Diane & Collette **15/11**: Graham & Carmen, Jane, Kate & Geraldine

Weekly Offerings: Total: £1,666.03 - Standing Orders £763.12, Envelopes £323.90, Loose Plate £544.01, Dona £25.00
We can only add Gift Aid if donations are identifiable.

Bank details:
SRCDT 234025
St Patrick Wellington
Sort Code: 30-15-52
Account Number: 54546760

SRCDT -234025
Our Lady & St Luke Telford
Sort Code: 30-15-52
Account Number: 54582160

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DATA PROTECTION PRIVACY NOTICE

Our two parishes sometimes collect personal information about parishioners. All personal information is collected, processed and stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. This is retained only as necessary and used by the Parish/Diocese for the benefit of the Parish and for legitimate reasons such as administrative and religious purposes. You can read our full privacy notice at www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice.

LIVESTEAMED MASSES from St Patrick's are available online at https://churchservices.tv/wellington

November List: November list forms are available in the porch/entrance. Please write the names of your loved ones and place them in the basket by the altar. A weekly mass will be offered for them.

Book of Remembrance: We hope to bring out an updated Book of Remembrance for our two churches. There will be a page for each day of the year with full names of those who have died and the year of their passing. As we celebrate our unity in this parish, we believe that our loved ones - wherever they may have lived or died - are united in God's presence. Forms are available in both churches - please write the full names in BLOCK CAPITALS with the date and year of passing clearly and return the forms by 30th Nov 2026. Names already mentioned in the current Book of Remembrance will be included in the new one.

Sacrament of Confirmation: Our parish is due for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2027. All those aged 13+ are eligible to register to celebrate the Sacrament. Depending on the number of candidates applying, other arrangements (preparation, date and place of celebration etc.) will be announced. Forms are available in both churches and please register before the end of November 2026.

Christmas Card Making Family Event: In St Patrick's Meeting room on 21st of Nov 10am-1pm we would like to make cards and gift bags for a local charity "Yellow Ribbon Community Chaplaincy" who provide support to people on release from prison and people who present with complex needs. All are welcome although children will need to have a responsible adult with them. Please RSVP to Caroline (07974 310183) or Carol (07722708402) by the 18th of Nov.
For more information please visit:
https://yellowribbonuk.org.uk/

Towards a Synodal Church: The entire church is invited to participate in the synodal process with conversations happening at all levels - the Bishops' Conference, Deans' meeting, Deanery Conferences, Council of Priests, Local Missionary Areas, Parish groups and Pastoral Councils and individuals. The fruits of these local discernments will be forwarded to the Diocesan Synodal Team.
The questions for the local parish are:

1. What has been your experience of Synodality?
2. From this experience, what now is your understanding of Synodality?
3. What are your hopes for the Synodal Process?
4. What do you see as the challenges of the Synodal Process?
5. What concrete suggestion would you make regarding the Synodal Process?

The deadlines for the responses need to be made by Wed 28th Nov. You are most welcome to email your reflections to Fr Ravi frravi.bosco@gmail.com or directly to synod@dioceseofshrewsbury.org. To enable parish conversation on these questions, there will be a listening session after each mass on the weekend of 14th-15th Nov. All are welcome.

RED BOX Collection: Anyone who has a red box that needs emptying please bring it to St Patricks before 16th Dec to get banked before the end of the year. To get the box picked up please contact Andrea 07719 288477. Thank you.

Food Bank Donations: The SVP collects for the food bank from the boxes in the porch of St Patrick's side entrance. There is always a need for hygiene products such as toilet roll, shampoo, etc. and for tinned meals, e.g. mild curry, meatballs, and Fry Bentos pies. Please consider donating. Thank you.

The Lord Is Refuge of the Poor: Pope Leo XIV, in his message for the World Day of the Poor, invites the Church to an examination of conscience: "Are we a sign of a God who is a refuge for the poor?" How much more are we called to do – in our communities, in our nations – "on behalf of the poor and for their liberation." Echoing the words of his predecessor, Pope Francis, he reminds us that "we are the Lord's Church, a Church of the poor?" When we look at the Church in England and Wales, is this the Church we see, a Church of the poor. He quotes from his first exhortation, Dilexi te, with an even more direct challenge:
"God shows a preference for the poor: the Lord's words of hope and liberation are addressed first to them. Therefore, even in their poverty or weakness, no one should feel abandoned. And the Church, if she wants to be Christ's Church, must be a Church of the Beatitudes, one that makes room for the little ones and walks poor with the poor, a place where the poor have a privileged place".

Prayer for the Poor

O God,
Who hast commanded us to love one another,
open our hearts to the poor and needy.
Grant that we may see Christ in them
and serve them with generosity and joy.
Bless those who suffer want and provide for them
through our hands and the charity of Thy Church.

Amen.