

# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

15 NOVEMBER 2020

WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT! We all have our unique gifts and talents. When we use them well, we enrich our community. We bring joy to ourselves and to others. Let us encourage each other to develop our gifts. Then, together, we will hear our Master say: 'Well done, good and faithful servants. Come and join in my happiness forever.'

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** Jer 29: 11, 12, 14

**The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. / You will call upon me, and I will answer you, / and I will lead back your captives from every place.**

## GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**R. And with your spirit.**

## PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. Lord Jesus, you are the image of the unseen God: Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. You are the first born of all creation: Christ, have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

P. You are the head of the body, the Church: Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**R. Amen.**

## GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

## COLLECT

P. Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God, the constant gladness of being devoted to you, for it is full and lasting happiness to serve with constancy the author of all that is good. 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.

**R. Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

**FIRST READING** Prov 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

*Give her a share in what she has worked for.*

A perfect wife – who can find her?

She is far beyond the price of pearls.

Her husband's heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit.

Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life.

She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands.

She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle.

She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy.

Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise.

Give her a share in what her hands have worked for,

and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 127: 1-5. R. v. 1

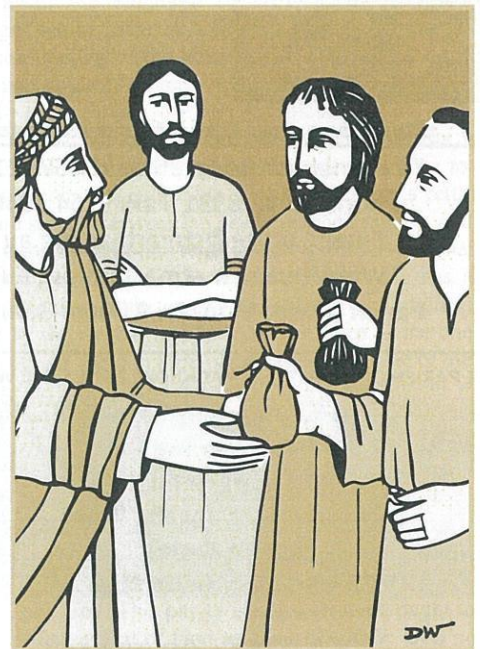
**R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.**

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper. **R.**

2. Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. **R.**

3. Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion in a happy Jerusalem all the days of your life. **R.**



## SECOND READING

1 Thess 5: 1-6

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians.

*The day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night.*

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 15: 4, 5

**Alleluia, alleluia! / Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; / my branches bear much fruit. / Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

Mt 25: 14-15, 19-21

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Because you have been faithful over a few things; enter into the joy of the Lord.*



# ST MARTHA'S PARISH STRATHFIELD



Parish Priest: Fr Jacek (Jack) Cichy

Administration Coordinator: Nicolle Mazzaferro (Mon-Thurs) [admin@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:admin@stmarthas.org.au)

Administration Support: Larissa Argiro (Fridays) [office@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:office@stmarthas.org.au)

Sacramental Coordinator: Patricia Saad (Fridays) [sc@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:sc@stmarthas.org.au)

Safeguarding Officer: Dianne Dawson [safeguarding@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@stmarthas.org.au)

Parish Ministries Coordinator: Helen Williamson

Music Ministry: Marcella Ayoub & Agnes Lee

Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Rachel Suriano

Plenary Council 2020 Ambassador: Helena O'Neill

Youth Ministry: Jessica Gereis [youth@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:youth@stmarthas.org.au)



**'Because you have been faithful over a few things, enter into the joy of the Lord' ... Matthew 25**

70 Homebush Rd Strathfield NSW 2135

Phone: 9746 6131 Fax: 9764 3040

Email: [office@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:office@stmarthas.org.au)

Website: [www.stmarthas.org.au](http://www.stmarthas.org.au)

Parish Office: Mon- Fri 9.00am-3.00pm



St Martha's School: 9764 1184

Email: [info@stmstrathfield.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@stmstrathfield.catholic.edu.au)

Principal: Judy Gastin

Assistant Principal: Leanne Meehan

REC: Attilia Kazacos

THE PARISH OF ST MARTHA'S ACKNOWLEDGES THE WANGUL PEOPLE AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND ON WHICH THE CHURCH IS BUILT

## Vision:

**Welcoming  
Eucharistic  
Transformed by the Word  
Full of Grace  
Proclaiming Good News**



*Please  
continue  
to support the  
St Vincent De Paul Society  
through the Church  
Poor Boxes.*

## Mission:

**Alive with the Spirit  
Inspired by St Martha  
We Celebrate & Witness  
God's love  
Using our Gifts & Talents**

## MASS TIMES

Tuesday: 7.30am

Wednesday: 9.10am

Thursday: 9.10am

Friday: 9.10am

Saturday: 9.10am, 5pm Vigil Mass

Sunday: 8.00am; 10.00am & 6.00pm

### 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month:

8-9am Adoration, 9am Benediction, 9.10am Healing Mass and  
Anointing of the Sick,  
followed by reconciliation

### RECONCILIATION:

Saturday after 9.10am Mass or by appointment.

### BAPTISM:

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month at 11.00am  
by appointment only.  
(One months' notice is required).

### Next Preparation Session:

6<sup>th</sup> December 2020 in the Parish Hall  
Contact the Parish office for more information.

**MARRIAGES:** By appointment only.  
(6 months' notice is required).

**ROSARY:** Tuesday & Saturday after morning Mass, Wednesday, Thursday  
& Friday 8.30am and 7.30pm on Fridays in conjunction with Marian  
Movement of Priests Cenacle and Divine Mercy Chaplet.

### PRAYER GROUP / ADORATION AT

#### ST MARTHA'S CHURCH:

Mondays 10.30am – 11.30am

(School term only)

**Please support our Catholic Press  
Copies of the Catholic Weekly \$2  
& Catholic Leader \$2.50  
are available at the Church Entrances.**



## SAFE GUARDING

A reminder to parents that the Notice-Board located at the side entrance contains various resources for children regarding Safeguarding.

### A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY.

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at 9390 5810 or [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org). You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance.

The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Please be aware that if you "TAG" St Martha's in photos on your Facebook page, the images also appear on an "unofficial" St Martha's Facebook page. This "unofficial" page was created automatically by Facebook and is not controlled by St Martha's. We kindly remind you to take care when uploading photos of any children without parent consent.



Office of the  
Children's Guardian

### IMPORTANT NOTICE:

IF YOU PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING MINISTRIES YOU ARE REQUIRED TO **SIGN IN** - ACOLYTES; READERS; EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS; CHOIR; CHILDREN'S LITURGY (LEADERS & CHILDREN) & SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM (LEADERS & CHILDREN). SIGN IN FOLDERS ARE KEPT IN THE SACRISTY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION.

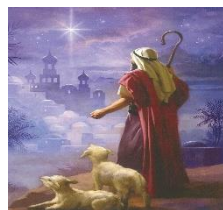
ALTAR SERVERS ARE **NOT** PERMITTED IN THE SACRISTY WITHOUT A PARENT/TEACHER. THE SIGN IN FOLDER IS LOCATED IN THE CORRIDOR OUTSIDE THE SACRISTY.

### Announcement

'Sharing the Word' will resume this Monday, 9 November, 7 pm. at St Martha's Church. Dr Emmanuel Nathan, will kindly lead us through Vatican II documents that have shaped and directed our faith community over the past 50 years. Everyone is Welcome.



GLUTEN FREE HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ANY CELIAC PARISHIONERS. IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION PLEASE TELL THE CHURCH WARDEN OR SEE AN ACOLYTE IN THE SACRISTY PRIOR TO MASS.



**2021 Columban Art  
Calendars  
(\$9 each) &  
Christmas Card Packs  
(\$7 each)  
are now available  
at the back of the  
Church**



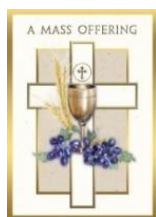
**CWF November  
Parish Appeal**  
The Charitable  
Works Fund (CWF)  
Parish Appeal is still  
running this  
weekend. Your  
donation will help

those most vulnerable in Sydney - including our  
local Aboriginal community, as well as single  
mothers facing homelessness, people struggling  
with mental health issues and many others. Appeal  
envelopes will be provided for your use so please  
keep an eye out for them. You can also make a

donation and find out more at  
[www.ourfaithourworks.org/cwf](http://www.ourfaithourworks.org/cwf)



**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**  
**2019/2020 TAX RECEIPTS AND  
NEW SETS OF WEEKLY  
PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES CAN BE  
COLLECTED FROM THE PARISH OFFICE.**

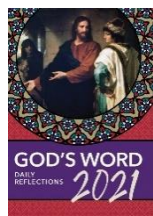


### **NOVEMBER MASS INTENTIONS**

*During the month of November we remember  
those who have returned to the Father!*

WE INVITE ALL FAMILIES TO COME  
FORWARD AND WRITE THE NAMES OF  
DEPARTED LOVED ONES IN THE BOOKS OF  
REMEMBRANCE DURING THE MONTH OF  
NOVEMBER. OFFERING ENVELOPES CAN BE  
PLACED IN THE OFFERING BOX OR GIVEN TO FR  
JACK. (DUE TO THE LARGE VOLUME, NAMES  
CANNOT BE PRINTED IN THE BULLETIN.

**2021  
God's Word Daily  
Reflection Diaries  
are now available in the  
Church Foyer.  
Ideal Christmas Gift.  
\$15.00 each (rrp \$19.95)**



**Seminarian Tai Pham will commence  
his parish placement at  
St Martha's from Saturday  
21<sup>st</sup> November until Christmas. I trust that we  
will all warmly welcome & embrace Tai into our  
parish community.**



**Background on the Gospel Reading** - This week's Gospel  
speaks of how Jesus' disciples are to conduct themselves as  
they await the Kingdom of Heaven. In the preceding  
passages and in last week's Gospel, Jesus taught that there is  
no way to predict the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven. His disciples  
must, therefore, remain vigilant and ready to receive the Son of Man at any  
time. Jesus' parable talks about Christian discipleship using economic  
metaphors. Before he leaves on a journey, the master entrusts to his  
servants a different number of talents, giving to each according to their  
abilities. A talent is a coin of great value. Upon the master's return, he  
finds that the first and second servants have doubled their money, and both  
are rewarded. The third servant, however, has only preserved what was  
given to him because he was afraid to lose the money. He has risked  
nothing; he did not even deposit the money in a bank to earn interest. This  
servant is punished by the master, and his talent is given to the one who  
brought the greatest return. Read in light of last week's parable of the wise  
and foolish bridesmaids, this parable teaches that God's judgment will be  
based on the service we render to God and to one another in accordance  
with the gifts that God has given to us. Our gifts, or talents, are given to us  
for the service of others. If we fail to use these gifts, God's judgment on  
us will be severe. On the other hand, if we make use of these gifts in service  
to the Kingdom of Heaven, we will be rewarded and entrusted with even  
more responsibilities. This Gospel reminds us that Christian spirituality is  
not passive or inactive. Our life of prayer helps us to discern the gifts that  
have been given to us by God. This prayer and discernment ought to lead  
us to use our gifts in the service of God and our neighbor. God's grace  
allows us to share in the work of serving the Kingdom of Heaven.



### **ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL 28<sup>TH</sup> & 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

THIS CHRISTMAS, YOUR GENEROUS FINANCIAL  
DONATION WILL HELP VINNIES PROVIDE MUCH  
NEEDED HELP AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO  
THOSE WITHOUT. MORE THAN ANYTHING WE CAN  
GIVE HOPE TO MANY IN OUR COMMUNITY IN THEIR  
TIME OF NEED. FROM NEXT WEEK THE GIVING  
TREE WILL BE ESTABLISHED AND ENVELOPES  
WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE PEWS. DONATIONS  
CAN BE PLACED IN ANY OF THE COLLECTION  
PLATES. THANK YOU IN ANTICIPATION.

**PHILIP ROGERS, PRESIDENT STRATHFIELD  
CONFERENCE.**



#### **Go Make Disciples- Prayer for Renewal Campaign**

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP will be launching a new  
Archdiocesan Mission Plan Go Make Disciples on 12  
December, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Star of  
the New Evangelisation. The new plan is aimed at renewing our  
parishes as places of encounter with the living Christ and centres of  
evangelisation and outreach to our community in love and mercy. In  
the weeks and months ahead we hope you will join us in an  
Archdiocesan-wide prayer campaign beginning on the Feast of All  
Saints (1 November), calling on the Holy Spirit, to prepare the hearts of  
each of us and of all our parishes and Eucharistic communities to  
receive anew the fire of God's love and the desire to be ever more  
faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ. Please join us by praying the  
attached prayer together at the end of each Mass, in your prayer group,  
and in your homes. More about the campaign in this weekend's  
Catholic Weekly. For more information contact Parish Renewal Team  
at the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation, Archdiocese of Sydney on  
9390 5307 or [elizabeth.arblaster@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:elizabeth.arblaster@sydneycatholic.org)

*In the Spirit of St Martha, let us continue to help  
others and Carry Hope Everywhere.*





We pray for the Candidates who are preparing to receive the sacrament of First Eucharist.

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES

Sunday 15 November 12pm, Saturday 21 November 11am and 22 November 12pm

*"O Jesus, who has loved us with such exceeding great love as to give us the ineffable gift of the Holy Eucharist, inflame us with a burning zeal to promote your glory by preparing worthily the little children who are to approach your Holy Table for the first time. Protect, O Sacred Heart of Jesus, these young souls from the assaults of evil, strengthen their faith, increase their love, and endow them with all the virtues that will make them worthy to receive you. Amen"*

### MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Recently Deceased:</b>	Norma Shore, Sr Pauline Smith rsm, Marie Verschuer, Enid Wynne, Frances Doumit, Jill Jones, Sr Frances Gaynor OP, Enid Wynne, Audrey Clark, Terry Stewart, Joseph Touma, Jill Watson, Frances Spicer.
<b>Repose of The Soul:</b>	Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Br Ray Dowding, Gerald Wilson, John Ferguson, Daniel Lucich, Ken Fraser, Connie Wong, Aldo Amarino, Salvatore (Phillip) Puglisi, William (Bill) & Dorothy Starr, Roger O'Reilly, Stefano, Estelle Thurn, Anne Cecilia Glass, Reginald & Agnes Glass, Gerald & Frances Gleeson, Faado & Alice Herro, John, Doreen & Des McNamara Patrick & Janet Reynolds, Jim Reynolds, Ken Rich, Monica & Patrick Ryan, Stephen Maxwell Stewart & Christopher John Stewart, Dr Stephanie Winfield, Philip Winfield. Francesco & Maria Colagiuri, Caterina & Matteo Genova, Lisa Cooke, Michael & Mary Cassar, Guiseppe & Romilda Reginato, Peter & Terasa Choi, Thomas Cahill, Mary & Patrick Marrins.
<b>Anniversaries:</b>	Frank & Marie Monaghan, Lawrie Soares, Hubert Saldanha, Blanche Saldanha, Maud Soares, Mary G Cahill, Cornelius Ryan, Roger O'Reilly, Noel Jebanasam, Stephaine Kehoe, Caterina & Matteo Genova, Tom & Michelle Christy, Eric Sidoti, Steven Elias, Dorothea Starr, Bernard & Mark Kelly.
<b>Sick Intentions:</b>	Tony Grace, Baby Alice & the Ladd Family, Margaret Davidson, Marc Kayrouz & Peter Starr.
<b>Special Intentions:</b>	Gary & Priscilla, Anne Goodrick, Fr Titmus, Rr O'Rourke, Rineesh & Wander, The McIlwaine Family, The soul of Mario Barone, Tony Chow, Michael Kenny. For Deceased Friends & Benefactors of the Dominican Order.
<p><i>Remembering someone with a Mass Intention honours them in a unique way – surrounding them with the warmth of God's love. A Mass may be offered for the living or deceased, for a Birthday, Anniversary, for somebody who is ill, or for a special intention. Mass Intention envelopes are available at the Church Entrances. If you would like a Mass offered on a particular date, please contact the parish office to arrange this.</i></p>	

### 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> November

	VIGIL	8AM	10AM	6PM
<b>Special Ministers</b>	Czarina Mendoza Cruz	Yvonne Martins	Liz Doumit	Andrew Bova
	Cathy Milgate	Geraldine O'Sullivan	Claudia Elias	Mary L'Estrange
			Therese Issa	
	VIGIL	8AM	10AM	6PM
<b>Readers</b>	Julie Erskine-Henness	Daniel Martins	Steve Doumit	Theresa Kuk
	Camille Kafka	Sandor Toth	Michael Quinlan	Miriam Redolfi
	VIGIL	8AM	10AM	6PM
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Beatrix A.	Julian M.	Kristen E.	Katarina S.
	Natalie C.	Lucas M.	Aidan E.	John Paul B.
	Aidan L.	Jacob M.	Leandra C.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	Lachlan M.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	VIGIL	8AM	10AM	6PM
<b>Wardens</b>	Edith Pun	Georgette Sahyoun	Trudie Rogers	Anne Chow

If you are unable to attend your rostered Mass kindly organise a replacement.

The current Roster is available to collect from the side entrance of the Church or via the parish website.

**B**lessed are you, Father, who, in your infinite love sent us your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, that we may have life, and have it in abundance.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, renew our Eucharistic communities. May they be places of encounter with the living Christ, centres of evangelisation and outreach to our community in love and mercy.

Grant us the gifts of faith, hope and love to be faithful disciples of Jesus and radiant witnesses to the people of Sydney.

Our Lady, Help of Christians. *Pray for us!*  
 Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelisation. *Pray for us!*  
 St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. *Pray for us!*

[www.gomakedisciples.org.au](http://www.gomakedisciples.org.au)

*A Prayer for Renewal*

**GO MAKE DISCIPLES**

PRAYER CARDS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH FOYER

## THE STORM ON THE LAKE by Ron Rolheiser

Several years ago I attended a seminar on religious experience where a woman shared this story: A few years before this incident occurred her life had been rather settled. She had been happily married, her children were grown and on their own, and she and her husband were running a successful business together. Then it all fell apart. Her husband, a recovering alcoholic, began to drink. Within two years, they had lost everything, including each other. Their business went bankrupt, they lost their house, and their marriage fell apart. She moved to a new city and took a new job, but the pain of what she had lost lingered and she found herself constantly depressed and joyless as she sought to sink new roots, meet new people, and begin over again in mid-life. Her frustration culminated one evening when, having worked late, she was driving home and stopped for a red light. While waiting for the light to change she was hit from behind by a drunken driver. (The irony wasn't lost on her.) Her car was badly damaged and she, suffering from whiplash and a series of cuts and bruises, was taken to hospital by ambulance. After several hours of x-rays, examinations, and medical treatment, near midnight, she was released, to be driven home by a policeman. As they drove up to her townhouse she noticed that the front door was wide open. Getting out of the car she realized that her home had been ransacked and vandalized. It was the last straw: All that penned up frustration, anger, loss, and grief finally burst, she lost control, began to scream hysterically, and ran across the lawn shouting curses at God and life in general – the policeman chasing her. As she recalled this, she told us that she remembered exactly what was running through her mind as she ran across that lawn at midnight, hysterical, cursing, a policeman giving chase. Her anger and her questions were about God: "Where is God in all of this? Why is God letting this happen? Why is God asleep?" Then, just as she heard her own curses as an answer, suddenly, in one instant, everything became calm. She ceased running, stopped shouting, because she felt inside of herself a flood of calm and a peace such as she had never experienced in her life

before. No magic lights went on, no divine voices were heard, and she made no claims of "miracle" afterwards, but, for one second she realized that, no matter the storm, no matter the loss, and no matter death itself, God is still in charge of this universe. One second of realization was all it took. Calm returned. She sent the policeman home and began cleaning up her house. She has essentially remained in that calm since. The Synoptic gospels record the story of Jesus calming the waters during a storm on the lake. As Mark has it: With the coming of evening that same day, Jesus said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side". And leaving the crowd behind they took him, just as he was, in the boat; and there were other boats with him. Then it began to blow a gale and the waves were breaking into the boat so that it was almost swamped. But he was in the stern, his head on a cushion, asleep. They woke him and said to him, "Master do you not care? We are going down!" And he woke up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Quiet now! Be calm!" And the wind dropped, and all was calm again. Then he said to them, "Why are you so frightened? How is it that you have no faith?" They were filled with awe and said to one another: "Who can this be? Even the wind and sea obey him." (Mark 4, 35-41). The parallel between these two stories is clear. The deeper lessons contained within them though are perhaps less obvious, at least during the more stormy moments in our lives. In essence, both stories tell us that God is still in charge of this universe, every counter-indication notwithstanding. The first Christian creeds had only one line: Jesus is Lord! Ultimately that says enough, says it all. God still rules, even in death and darkness. But, as these stories also make clear, during the stormy moments of life, when our very souls are in fear of drowning, it will seem like God is asleep, comfortable, his head on cushion. But, and this is the real challenge of these stories, calm is only a second of realization away. What calms the storm in life is not that all of our problems suddenly disappear but that, within them, we realize that, because God is still in charge, all will be well – whiplash, bruises, ransacked houses, alcoholic spouses, lost houses, lost jobs, loneliness, and the shadow of death itself notwithstanding. All will be well because, even asleep with his head on a cushion, God is still lord.



Dear friends in Christ

As we begin to move forward into a somewhat different future than we may have had planned at the beginning of this year, you may be looking for a place to take some time out! As an individual or in a small group you may be looking for some space to discern and plan for what the future might look like for you personally or for your organization/group. MSSC is able to provide a very special reflection space, in a quiet rural setting including twin single room with ensuite accommodation and garden or valley views, this truly is a place to find peace.

As a COVID-Safe registered business and with restrictions being eased we can now provide private room accommodation for up to 18 guests and up to 54 day guests, with social distancing in the dining and conference rooms. Our costs are very reasonable, so if you are considering some time out we would be happy to assist you with any requirements you may have.

We are also taking bookings for 2021 so if you are already making plans don't hesitate to give us a call to book in your conference or retreat, our overnight and day guest number limits will increase again as restrictions return to normal.

Looking forward to hearing from you. Take care in all that we are confronted with and may we rest in God's abundant love for each one of us.

**MOUNT SCHOENSTATT SPIRITUALITY CENTRE**  
230 Fairlight Road Mulgoa NSW 2745

## THE 11TH ANNUAL iWitness CONFERENCE **AWAKE, O SLEEPER**

**DECEMBER 10-13, 2020 | AGES 18-35**

THE TOPS CONFERENCE CENTRE, STANWELL TOPS

iWitness is an annual, summer conference drawing together 100s of young (18-35 year old) Aussie Catholics for a summer weekend of prayer, formation and fun.

The iWitness Conference was established in the spirit of World Youth Day Sydney 2008. It has always sought to help Australia's young people engage with and be inspired by the Catholic faith - and this year is no exception.

iWitness promises to be an unforgettable weekend of formation, fun and faith, just as it always is. There will be daily Mass, 24 hour (perpetual) adoration, loads of games, amazing speakers, plenty of fresh air, and more!

iWitness and the venue have a COVID-Safe plan. Full refunds will be issued if the event is cancelled.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER:**

[HTTPS://WWW.IWITNESSCONFERENCE.COM/](https://www.iwitnessconference.com/)



Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out.

Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Longer form, Mt 25: 14-30.*

## HOMILY

### PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

*Or the Nicene Creed may be said.*

**I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:*

**R. Blessed be God for ever.**

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. Grant, O Lord, we pray, that what we offer in the sight of your majesty may obtain for us the grace of being devoted to you and gain us the prize of everlasting happiness. Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. Lift up your hearts.

**R. We lift them up to the Lord.**

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**R. It is right and just.**

## PREFACE I-VIII OF THE SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME

*After the Preface, we sing or say:*

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

**All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

## COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...**

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray...

**All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said...

**R. Amen.**

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*All exchange a sign of peace*

## LAMB OF GOD

**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON Ps 72: 28

**To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. We have partaken of the gifts of this sacred mystery, humbly imploring, O Lord, that what your Son commanded us to do in memory of him may bring us growth in charity. Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen**

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

## REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL

### RISK TAKING FOR GOD

As we approach the end of the Church's liturgical year, the focus remains upon the second coming of the Lord. Once again, the Gospel provides a parable (the Talents) instructing us how to live in view of that expectation.

The master in the parable is pleased with the enterprising first two servants. Having realised substantial gains on the amounts entrusted to them, they are welcomed 'into the joy of their master'—that is, into the banquet of the Kingdom.

But the third servant, who simply hid his single talent in the ground, displeased his master because he didn't do what was expected, namely, trade with the money so that it would increase. He didn't even put the sum in the bank, where it would have at least accrued some interest. Paralysed by a fearful image that he has of his master (an image of God that the parable does not endorse but actually refutes), he sought security in giving back, in strict justice, the exact sum entrusted to him. This, however, was not what the master wanted. Hence the severe penalty. The parable challenges believers not to rest content simply with not doing anything wrong so that God will not be able to find anything to punish. Such an attitude mistakes the nature of God and neglects what God really wants, which is an enterprising, even risk-taking, practice of the 'weightier matters of the law': 'justice, mercy and faith' (Matthew 23:23). The gifts God has entrusted to us, like our minds and limbs, need active exercise if they are not to atrophy and wither.

BRENDAN BYRNE, SJ

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