

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

08 NOVEMBER 2020

KEEP YOUR LAMPS BURNING. We human beings need fuel to keep going. Without food and drink we become weak and eventually die. Our spiritual life also needs fuel, namely the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist. We are nourished also by prayer, the Scriptures, the community and by loving others. If we seek this nourishment regularly our light will be shining brightly when Christ comes in glory.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ps 87: 3

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

GREETING

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

R. Amen.

P. Grace to you and peace from God our
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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 have revealed yourself as
the way to the Father: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You have poured out on your people the
Spirit of truth: Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

P. You are the Good Shepherd, leading us to
eternal life: 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. 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.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Wis 6: 12-16

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

Wisdom is found by those who look for it.

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.
By those who love her she is readily seen,
and found by those who look for her.

Quick to anticipate those who desire her,
she makes herself known to them.

Watch for her early and you will have no
trouble;

you will find her sitting at your gates.

Even to think about her is understanding
fully grown;

be on the alert for her and anxiety will
quickly leave you.

She herself walks about looking for those
who are worthy of her
and graciously shows herself to them as they
go.

in every thought of theirs coming to meet
them.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 62: 2-8. R. v. 2

**R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord
my God.**

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. **R.**

2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. **R.**

3. So 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,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. **R.**



4. On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Thess 4: 13-18

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

*Those who died as Christians, God will bring to
life with Jesus.*

We want you to be quite certain, brothers,
about those who have died, to make sure that
you do not grieve about them, like the other
people who have no hope. We believe that
Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be
the same for those who have died in Jesus:
God will bring them with him.

We can tell you this from the Lord's own
teaching, that any of us who are left alive until
the Lord's coming will not have any advantage
over those who have died. At the trumpet of
God, the voice of the archangel will call out
the command and the Lord himself will come
down from heaven; those who have died in
Christ will be the first to rise, and then those
of us who are still alive will be taken up in the
clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord
in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for
ever. With such thoughts as these you should
comfort one another.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Shorter form, 1 Thess 4: 13-14

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 24: 42, 44. R. v. 2

**Alleluia, alleluia! / Be watchful and
ready: / you know not when the Son of
Man is coming. / Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Mt 25: 1-13

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.

ST MARTHA'S PARISH STRATHFIELD



Parish Priest: Fr Jacek (Jack) Cichy

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

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

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

Safeguarding Officer: Dianne Dawson 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



'Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him' ... Matthew 25

70 Homebush Rd Strathfield NSW 2135

Phone: 9746 6131 Fax: 9764 3040

Email: office@stmarthas.org.au

Website: www.stmarthas.org.au

Parish Office: Mon- Fri 9.00am-3.00pm



St Martha's School: 9764 1184

Email: 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



1st 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:

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



Next Preparation Session:

6th 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. 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:

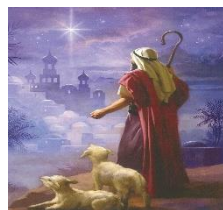
IF YOU PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING MINISTRIES YOU ARE
REQUIRED TO **SIGN IN** - ACOLYTES; READERS; EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS;
CHOIR; CHILDREN'S LITURGY (LEADERS & CHILDREN) & SACRAMENTAL
PROGRAM (LEADERS & CHILDREN). SIGN IN FOLDERS ARE KEPT IN THE
SACRISTY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION.

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**



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



IMPORTANT NOTICE:

**COULD THE PARISHIONER
CURRENTLY USING**

**PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPE NUMBER
25**

**KINDLY CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE.
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.



Background on the Gospel Reading -

In this week's Gospel, Jesus talks about what it means to be prepared to receive the Kingdom of Heaven. This week's reading follows a series of warnings and predictions by Jesus about the coming of the Son of Man. Jesus wants his disciples to understand that the exact day and time cannot be predicted. He teaches the disciples that they must remain vigilant so that they will not be caught unprepared. When thinking about the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, it is important to consider the first century wedding traditions of Palestine. Scholars tell us that it was the custom of the day for young maidens – friends and family members of the bride – to meet the bridegroom when he came to bring his bride to her new home. As with many of Jesus' parables, several levels of interpretation are possible. In last week's Gospel, we heard Jesus warn against following the example of the Pharisees and scribes. If read in the context of early Christianity's struggle to define itself against Pharisaic Judaism, this parable is a continuing critique of Judaism. It suggests that the Jewish leaders were like foolish virgins, unprepared to meet Jesus, the bridegroom of Israel. In the chapter preceding this parable, however, Jesus warns about the destruction of Jerusalem, the tribulation of the end times, and the coming of the Son of Man. When read in this context, today's parable is a warning to the Christian community to remain vigilant and prepared to receive Jesus, the Son of Man who will return at the end of time. This interpretation is supported by the reference to the delay of the bridegroom. The Christian community for whom Matthew wrote this Gospel was coming to terms with the realisation that the promise of Jesus' return would not be fulfilled within their lifetimes. The question remains for us to ask ourselves, are we ready to receive Jesus? Will we be prepared to receive him?



NEW CHURCH HISTORY BOOK ST PATRICK'S MORTLAKE

St Martha's Parish Historian, Damian Gleeson, has just published "An Enduring Flame", a history of St Patrick's Parish, Mortlake from 1885. 2020 marks 125 years since construction of St Patrick's Church, which was built to serve the workers and families of the (now former) Gas Works. This scholarly 164-page-book carefully examines the parish's history in a sensitive but transparent manner. The story includes the highs and lows, opportunities and challenges, joys and sorrows of a local Irish-Australian community. It is solidly footnoted to assist family and local historians. From 1894-1929 Mortlake was part of St Mary's Burwood (Concord), then came under St Ambrose Concord West until 1934, before returning to Concord, and finally, gaining independence in 1943. Dozens of rare photos assist in bringing to life the people and clergy. The faith, energy and commitment of the early Irish settlers has flourished, and successive generations of people from many different cultures and nationalities have contributed to the wonderfully diverse and vibrant parish community we share today. Order for the book, which will be officially launched by Monsignor John Usher in mid- November, may be made through the Mortlake Parish Office, 9743 1017 or email: parish@stpatismortlake.org.au. Just \$25 plus postage. A wonderful Christmas present! An Enduring Flame: St Patrick's Mortlake 1885-2020. An Irish-Australian working-class community by Dr Damian John Gleeson

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

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

The 10am Mass last Sunday was not livestreamed due to technical issues as the Parish Office was without phones and internet until Wednesday. We apologise for any inconvenience that this may have caused.



First Holy Communion

We pray for the Candidates during this period of preparation to receive the sacrament of First Eucharist.

Retreat November 14 from 2.00pm-4.30pm

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

Recently Deceased: Enid Wynne, Frances Doumit, Jill Jones, Sr Frances Gaynor OP, Enid Wynne, Audrey Clark, Carmello Ponzio, Terry Stewart, Joseph Touma, Jill Watson, Frances Spicer, Shirley White, Clare Kenny.

Repose of The Soul: 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.

Anniversaries: 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, Eric Leahy & Marie Leahy, Joy Quinlan & Kevin Quinlan, Giuseppe & Raffaele Pagano, Mary Campion, John Liu & Mary Liu.

Sick Intentions: Tony Grace, Baby Alice & the Ladd Family, Margaret Davidson, Marc Kayrouz & Peter Starr.

Special Intentions: 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.

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.

14th & 15th November

VIGIL

8AM

10AM

6PM

Special Ministers

Vince Blefari

Gian Surjadinata

Raymond K / Maria F

Ravi Family

Beatrice Bonnet

Artha Surjadinata

Georgia E.

Ravi Family

Meaghan Williamson

VIGIL

8AM

10AM

6PM

Readers

Donald Bonnet

Greg Glass

Helen Williamson

Miriam Redolfi

Helen Blefari

Paulina Roncevic

Rachel Suriano

Joanne Govorcin

VIGIL

8AM

10AM

6PM

Altar Servers

Frederick S.

Thomas C.

Kristian K.

Marina B.

Christian S.

James T.

Luca K.

Oliver B.

Samuel P.

Volunteer Needed

Beatrice L.

Volunteer Needed

Luke P.

Volunteer Needed

Volunteer Needed

Volunteer Needed

Wardens

VIGIL

8AM

10AM

6PM

Anne Chow

Phil Robinson

Trudie Rogers

Theresa Kuk

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.



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/)

Blessed 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.

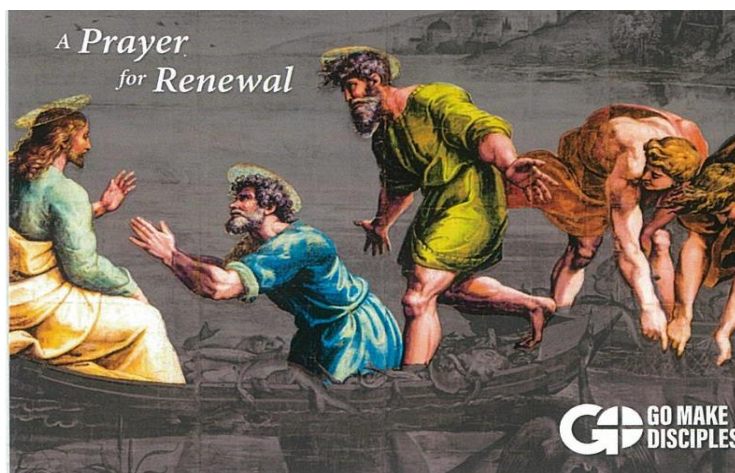
Grant us the gifts of faith, hope and love to be faithful disciples of Jesus and radiant witnesses to the people of Sydney.

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



GO MAKE DISCIPLES

PRAYER CARDS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH FOYER

THE Catholic Weekly
DIGITAL EDITION

\$1
/WEEK

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Disabilities. Addictions. Mental Health.



CCareline 131819

A free and confidential helpline.

✉ connect@catholiccare.org

🌐 CCareline.org

🕒 8am – 6pm Monday – Friday

Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him. Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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. 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.

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: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, 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 cf. Ps 22: 1-2

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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. 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.

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 in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

R. Thanks be to God.

REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL

BE PREPARED!

The parable of the Wise and Foolish Bridesmaids addresses the situation of the Church as it awaits the return of its Lord (the 'Bridegroom'). The time of waiting has become very long indeed but the Church still proclaims: 'Christ will come again', and lives in that hope and in the sense of accountability that accompanies it. The key thing is to use the time of waiting profitably, so as not to be caught out when the Bridegroom arrives, whether that be at the moment of death or end of time.

The five wise and five foolish bridesmaids depict two possibilities for believers. The oil needed for their lamps represents the good deeds that Jesus commends in this gospel, especially the works of mercy that feature so prominently in the parable of the Great Judgement (Matthew 25:41-56). The five wise bridesmaids will meet the Bridegroom with their lamps blazing with this 'oil'. The five foolish ones, on the other hand, represent the kind of believers who cry out, 'Lord, Lord' but have no good works to accompany their confession of faith (see Matthew 7:21).

The parable—and the Gospel as a whole—remind us that the words of dismissal at the Eucharist, 'Go in peace, glorifying the Lord with your life', are no perfunctory conclusion to the rite but a programme for living the twin commandments of love of God and love of neighbour. Those who take them to heart have always with them the 'oil' required for salvation; they can 'sleep' without anxiety about being caught short by the sudden arrival of the Lord.

BRENDAN BYRNE, SJ

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