

# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

12 NOVEMBER 2023

**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

Glorify 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, 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.**

*Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.*





# ST MARTHA'S PARISH STRATHFIELD

Parish Priest: Father John Hayes

Assistant Priest: Father Liem Duong

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

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

Sacramental Coordinator: Linda Praum [sc@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:sc@stmarthas.org.au)

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

Parish Ministries Coordinator: Helen Williamson

Music Ministry: Marcella Ayoub

Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Alannah Hickry

Plenary Council Ambassador: Helena O'Neil



**'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](mailto:office@stmarthas.org.au)

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

Parish Office Hours:

Mon, Tues & Thurs 9am-5pm & Fridays 9am-3pm



St Martha's School: 9764 1184

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

Principal: Carolyn Parsell

Assist Principal: Steven Belcastro

Acting REC: Cindy Ronzini

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:**

8.30am Adoration followed by Mass

## RECONCILIATION:

Saturday after 9.10am Mass or by appointment.

## SYDNEY MALAYALEE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Rosary, Mass & Adoration from 6.30pm to 8.00pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month.

## BAPTISM:

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

Baptism Preparation by appointment only.  
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

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 Entrance.**



## 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.

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes 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 (02) 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.

### Commitment Statement

The Archdiocese of Sydney is wholly committed to ensuring the safety, well-being and dignity of all Children and Adults at Risk, and it acknowledges its important legal, moral and spiritual responsibility for Children and Adults.



Office of the  
Children's Guardian

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.

### 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.



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.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE - DUE TO UNI COMMITMENTS, LARISSA WILL BE AWAY FROM THE OFFICE UNTIL FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER. THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE UNATTENDED ON WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS DURING THIS TIME, BUT YOU MAY LEAVE MESSAGES THAT WILL BE RESPONDED TO ASAP.**

### Remembrance Day 2023

The First World War Armistice came into effect at 11am on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> Month in 1918. We remember the courageous men and women who gave their lives in wartime and as a result of war. As we remember the lives that have been lost, let us promise each other to work for the freedom of all who are oppressed in the world today. We ask this prayer in the name of Jesus who taught us how to live.  
Amen.



*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning. We will remember them.*

*Lest we forget!*

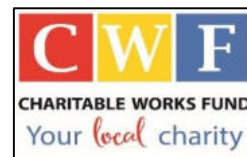
*During the month of November, we remember those who have returned to the Father!*



WE INVITE ALL FAMILIES TO WRITE THE NAMES OF DEPARTED LOVED ONES IN THE BOOKS OF REMEMBRANCE ON THE SPECIAL MEMORIAL ON THE SANCTUARY DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER. MASS OFFERING ENVELOPES WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE. (NAMES CANNOT BE PRINTED IN THE WEEKLY BULLETIN DUE TO THE LARGE VOLUME).

### CWF November Parish Appeal

The last Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Parish Appeal is still running this weekend. Our Parish quota is \$1861.45. You can also make a donation and find out more at [www.ourfaithhourworks.org/cwf](http://www.ourfaithhourworks.org/cwf)  
Your support is greatly appreciated.



### Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press)

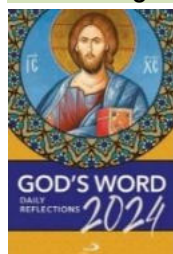
In this week's Gospel, Jesus talks about what it means to be prepared to receive the Kingdom of Heaven. This week's reading follows a series of warnings and predictions by Jesus about the coming of the Son of Man. Jesus wants his disciples to understand that the exact day and time cannot be predicted. 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 the 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 realization 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?



**Family Connection:** In the daily activities of family life, we can easily find excuses for not attending to our spiritual lives. If not given top priority, prayer and reading Scripture risk becoming occasional activities rather than daily practices. In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that if we fail to give our spiritual life priority, we will find ourselves unprepared to receive Jesus. Daily prayer and spiritual practice keeps us ready to receive Jesus. Gather together as a family and talk about some of the things our faith calls us to do every day and every week to keep God first in our lives. Talk about what might happen if we don't do these things regularly. Explain to your family that Jesus taught us that it is important to keep ourselves ready to receive him when he comes again. Tell them to listen as you

read the parable that Jesus tells in today's Gospel. Read aloud Matthew 25:1-13. Talk with your family about why Jesus says that it is so important to remain ready to receive the Kingdom of Heaven. Pray together that your family will always keep God first in your lives so that you will all be prepared to receive Jesus when he comes. Pray together the Act of Hope.

*O my God, relying on your infinite mercy and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of your grace, and life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer. Amen.*



**Final  
Stock**

**2024 Bible Diaries** are now available to purchase in the Church Foyer (limited stock). They are designed to help you to keep the Word of God close to your heart in your daily life. A companion on the journey to pray, to share, to grow in God's love and be nourished by the Word of God make these an ideal gift.

**\$20 each (rrp \$21.95)**

**Cash payments only. Please do not use the tap' n' go machines.**





**Position Vacant** - The Society of St Paul has a temporary vacancy for some part-time domestic help in their house in Strathfield. Duties include some meal preparation, laundry, ironing and kitchen maintenance. Up to three days a week, approximately 5 hours per day. For further information, contact Fr Michael on 0438 159 823.



**St Vincent de Paul 2024 Columban Calendars & Christmas Card packs are now available for \$10 each.**

**Important notice:** The current roster ends on 31<sup>st</sup> December. The 2024 roster is underway so please advise the parish office as soon as possible of any changes or if you wish to join in these Ministries.

### 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> November

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Peter McCluskey	Georgette Sahyoun	Anne Marrins	Ravi Family
	Marian McCluskey	Joseph Samarasinghe	Maria Soares	V
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Helen Blefari	Paulina Roncevic	Mark Soares	Helen Williamson
	Patricia Saad	Robert Smith	Rachel Suriano	
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Saad Family	May Louise I.	Bonett Family	Lawrence X.
	Saad Family	Ryan W.	Bonett Family	Jayden Y.
	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Suriano Family	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Edith Pun	Phil Robinson	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn

### MASS OFFERINGS

#### Recently Deceased:

Margot Starkey, Lillie James, Theresa Elsebelay, Michel Baini, Cecelia Donohue, Kay Doran, Sinead Dillon, John Quinlan, Noreen Hawkins, Jim Bailey.

#### Repose of The Soul:

Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Br Ray Dowding, Francesco Campanale, Francis Doumit, Frederick McDowell, Dorothy Harris, Shani Louk, Daniel Lucich, James Brady, Ken Fraser, Elizabeth Keating, John McManus, Aldo Amarino, Salvatore Puglisi, William & Dorothy Starr, Bruce & Estelle Thurn, Anne Cecilia Glass, Reginald & Agnes Glass, Gerald & Frances Gleeson, Faado & Alice Herro, Patrick & Janet Reynolds, Jim Reynolds, Ken Rich, Monica & Patrick Ryan, Francesco & Mary Sorbello, Betty Warbrick, Gerald Wilson, Dr Stephanie Winfield, Philip Winfield, Mary Trefle', Anne Trefle', Elie Sahyoun, Alan & Peg Bailey, Matteo & Caterina Genova, Francesco & Maria Colagiuri, Lisa Cooke, Michael & Mary Cassar, Giuseppe & Romilda Reginato.

#### Anniversaries:

Thomas Kenny, John Harrington, Mary Dinhvu & John Hao Vu, Elias Georges, Roger O'Reilly, Frank & Marie Monaghan, Anthony Menino D'Costa, Benito Lavapie, Vito Iannella, Kathleen & Frank Moynihan, Joseph Manning, Frances Doumit, Monica Ryan, Betty Warbrick, Maria Giovanna Frino, Ted Burton, Frank Burton, Mary Bentley, Lawrie & Maud Soares, Hubert & Blanche Saldanha, Kevin Fernandes.

#### Sick Intentions:

George Lee, Theo McLean, Joseph Akkary, Baby Oscar McNamara, Tor King Yuen, Sylvia Watson, Sheree Mouawad, Virgilio Lim, George Jabbour, Dr Maher Ishak Morian, Graham Byrnes, Stephanie Harrington, Phil Harriss, Sophie O'Donnell, Ken South, Ajith Antony, Pat Fraser, Siena Fabrie, Giuseppe Faraone, Joanna Jo, Simon Alam, Rosanne Sukkar, Henry D'Souza, Kevin O'Connor.

#### Special Intentions:

Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order. Vigo Family, Antonia, Giuseppe, Raffaele, Teresa, Matteo, Filomena & Maria Pagano, Caterina & Francesco Agostino, Sofie & Jerome Druart.



### GAZA CRISIS APPEAL

Help provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the people affected by the conflict.



**DONATE NOW**  
[www.caritas.org.au/gaza](http://www.caritas.org.au/gaza)  
1800 024 413



You can donate by scanning this QR code.

# Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace



Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain. Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost". Instil in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace. Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarrelling into forgiveness. Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam! Amen.



## APPRECIATIVE CONSCIOUSNESS

By Ron Rolheiser

What God is as great as our God? Scripture frequently uses these words to challenge us and we too rarely reflect upon them: Has anyone ever believed in a God as great as ours? Great, not just in terms of power, but, especially, in terms of goodness. Julian of Norwich, whose theology of God has few equals, used to see God this way: "I see God, sitting at a table, smiling, completely relaxed, his face like a marvellous symphony." That vision, foreign, and even perhaps scandalous to common conception and Christian preaching, is the one that, in the end, best fits the vision of God given us in Scripture. The first image we get of God in the Old Testament, immediately after creation, is that of a God looking down on this earth and saying:

"It is good; indeed, it is very good!" This is paralleled at the beginning of the New Testament, at the baptism of Jesus, when God is seen again as looking down from heaven, on his child, and saying: "This is my beloved child in whom I take delight!" The essential attitude of Jesus can only be understood in this light. He knew God intimately and thus, in the deepest part of himself, could hear God say the deepest thing that God does say: "You are blessed. I am pleased with you. The earth is blessed. I am pleased with it." Because he heard this inside of himself, Jesus could look at the world, and everyone in it, and see it and them as blessed: "Blessed are you." Many implications flow from this, both in regards to how we view God and in how we see life. First of all, regarding how we view God: Do we ever view God as relaxed, content, pleased with us, and pleased, in fact, with the world? Do we ever believe that God takes delight in us and in the world? Most of us, I suspect, are no longer much haunted by images of a punishing, legalistic, vindictive, and arbitrary God, a God who records every sin and who exacts an ounce of suffering for an ounce of sin. Few of us still suffer from this particular fear. Most of us, however, still suffer from an equally unhealthy and debilitating fear of God. Today this just takes a different form. For us, God is no longer the great watchdog in the sky, but is, nonetheless, far from pleased, relaxed, and smiling. Our God, instead, is a workaholic overly-intense, wired, displeased, and semi-neurotic. He no longer threatens us with hellfire, but he isn't smiling, relaxed, and pleased either. This is equally true in liberal and conservative circles – both of which mirror, precisely, the neurotic intensity and constant displeasure that come from believing in of a hyper, workaholic, and unhappy God. We are still a long way from really believing that God is smiling, relaxed, and seeing us and the world as blessed. Consequently, consciously or unconsciously, we believe that God's first mode of interpretation, when seeing us and the world, is that of depreciation rather than appreciation. Not unlike so many generations in the past, of whom we are so critical, we still see God as looking down on this world in judgement, in sadness, and with disappointment, rather than with appreciative consciousness. It is no accident then that, for the most part, that is also the way we look at ourselves and the world, namely, our first mode of interpretation is depreciation rather than appreciation: Before we see what is good, we see what is wrong; before we appreciate, we judge; before we are pleased, we are disappointed; before we bless, we curse; and before we there is joy, there is anger. Before there is appreciative consciousness there is always criticism. Moreover, and this is the point here, too often we do this in the name of God. We see ourselves as defending truth, values, orthodoxy, or some cause and, under that divine mandate, unconsciously and consciously, we make our first task that of displeasure, criticism, and judgement. These have a place, but theirs is the second place, not the first. First, before depreciation, there must be appreciation, before any criticism there must first be appreciative consciousness. Why? Because God works that way. Long before there is any judgement on this planet or on any of us, God is saying: "It is good. You are my beloved child in whom I am well-pleased!" God is smiling, relaxed, and not neurotic. When we, liberal and conservative alike, are in a similar mode we will see the world in a similar fashion.



**SHARE THE Dignity**  
IT'S IN THE BAG MORNING TEA

*Join Strathfield Council to help women in need!*

**10am - 11am, Wednesday 15 November 2023**  
**STRATHFIELD TOWN HALL**

Bring a handbag filled with toiletries and feminine hygiene products for homeless women, women at risk or women experiencing domestic violence.

**RSVP: by Monday 13 November 2023**  
Please scan QR code below to register.




PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:



  
**Beyond Blue**  
Beyond Blue  
P: 1300 22 4636  
W: [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)

  
**CatholicCare** – Archdiocese of Sydney  
P: 13 18 19  
W: [www.catholiccare.org](http://www.catholiccare.org)

  
**kids helpline**  
Anytime | Any Reason  
**Call 1800 55 1800**

  
**Lifeline**  
Saving Lives  
Crisis Support, Suicide Prevention.  
Lifeline  
P: 13 11 14  
W: [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)

**1800RESPECT**  
NATIONAL DOMESTIC FAMILY AND  
SEXUAL VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE  
**1800RESPECT**  
P: 1800 737 732  
W: [www.1800respect.org.au](http://www.1800respect.org.au)



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.**

#### THE UNION 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**

**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.**

#### BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

##### BEING ON THE ALERT

Some thirty years of Christian life and experience separate the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians and the writing of Matthew's Gospel. When Paul wrote in the late Forties and early Fifties there was a keen sense and expectation that the Lord was going to return at any moment. These earliest Christians were so convinced that this was the case that they were unprepared and ill-equipped to deal with the death of other Christians before the Lord's return. It is not as though Paul himself had foreseen this difficulty and, as is often the case in his letters, we see how a concrete problem prompts him to further reflection. It is important not to press Paul's description of the return of the Lord too far. This is theology in the making and Paul himself will continue to develop his thought on these matters (see 1 Corinthians 15).

If Paul's Christians faced the problem caused by assuming the Lord would return soon, Matthew's community had to confront another set of circumstances. The fact that by the early to mid-Eighties the Lord had not returned placed another dilemma before them. For Matthew, the problem was that of a community becoming apathetic and seeing its initial enthusiasm and commitment wane. The parable of Jesus about the bridesmaids who fell asleep and missed their opportunity was the perfect means to stress the need for Christians to be prepared as they waited for the Lord's return.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

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