

32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: YEAR A

The Tidings

8TH NOVEMBER 2020



PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Michael Moody

PHONE: 9743 6515 **FAX:** 9747 8603

EMAIL: melton@cam.org.au

WEBSITE: pol.org.au/melton

PARISH SECRETARY: Margaret Cassar

PARISH OFFICE — 10 Unitt St Melton

(if using Google Maps—20-22 Unitt St, Melton)

Office Hours — CLOSED

POSTAL ADDRESS — PO BOX 96, Melton, 3337

CHILD SAFETY OFFICER: Liz Coustley

Child Safety Officer Phone— 0490 885 515

Child Safety Officer Email— csd.melton@gmail.com

The Parish Office reopens on Wednesday 4 November.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE:

Please contact the Parish Office.

**PARISH OF MELTON
SERVING THE AREAS OF:**

Melton, Melton West, Aintree, Boonie Brook,
Harkness, Grangefields, Kurunjang, Plumpton,
Rockbank, & Toolern Vale

MASS TIMES

St Catherine of Siena Church

108 Bulmans Road, Melton West

All Masses have been suspended due to
the COVID-19 measures.

St Dominic's Church

Church Street, Melton

All Masses have been suspended due to
the COVID-19 measures.



ANNIVERSARIES:

2nd —13 th November

Mauro Delarosa, Kevin Fahler,
Terry Sim, Maryanne Armeni,
Fredisvinda M Pinto, Dan
Hanrahan, Anton Tettman,
Frank Hallinan, Corey Grima,
Dora Galati, Stanislaw
Rychlewski, Carmen Galea,
Philip Galea, Michael Mercieca,
Fr Bryan Donovan, Nola Hughes,
Paul Cini, Ivan Netto, Vincent
Cutajar, Ray Coughlin, Mary
Orsoun, Ann Cole, John Spiteri,
Paul Spiteri, Jenette Hunter,
Megan Timms, Doreen Mary
Drew, Stan & Gwen Burke, Terry
McShane, Bryan Lane, Phoebe
O'Keeffe, Philip Writght, Mary
Carmel Vincent, Ben Galea,
Robert McLarry, Nell Haslam,
Joe Psaila, Gabriel Rhyhan
Mallari, Leslie McConnell, Glen
Misso, Joe Stevens, Margaret
O'Donnell, Elisabeth Lusiana,
Monica Clemente, the O'Reilly
Family, the Donnelly Family, the
Tracey Family, the Coefey
Family, Mick Aitken, Edward
kordus, Charles Pisani, Jadwiga
(margi) Sakowicz, Liz O'Neill,
Rennae Jane Stevens, Grae
Spiteri, Pat Woods, Manuel
Psaila, Eibhléna Grace Beatty,
Anthony Bughgiar, Emidia
Bughgiar, Delia Coots, Mary
Connor, Joseph Pace, Peter
Demicoli, Aurora P Ramirez,
Mariano Cruz, Maureen Bristow,
Dodwell DeSilva, Marjorie
Noelene Blake, Edith Wilson,
Bruce Rayner Jnr, Paul
Seneviratne, Charlie Alea,
Angelo Haner, Franco
Respondino, Rita DeVellis, Peter
Sinnema, Joe DeBeaufort,
Geraldine Nihill, Sam Sammut,
Filix Perera, Alosios Fernando,
Madushi Fernando, Sebastiana
Perera, Punchi Perera, Mark
Gerada.

A MESSAGE FROM FR. MICHAEL

In November we remember. This coming week, as a community, we will remember those that have served their country. During November as a faith community we also remember those holy souls that have returned to their true home. There are many traditions around remembering. Rosemary, a herb of remembrance, was thrown to soldiers as they left for war. We place flowers at the graves of loved ones. We remember the anniversaries of those that have passed and those that have recently joined them during Mass each week. With the Christmas period quickly advancing we begin to remember those with whom we normally celebrate the season through gift giving and Christmas festivities. During these “unprecedented times” we have also been driven to remember and value those small gifts that we often take for granted. Things like going to the shop, or a coffee with family or friends or going to Mass each week and remembering our personal relationship with God.

‘Mass in the pergola’ has really taken on. The small numbers are quite intimate and there is a real buzz both before and after Mass. Those that book come from different Sunday Mass times, so many are meeting for the first time. Our communion services last Sunday were very much the same. I will be repeating the Communion Service this Sunday from 9.00am—11.00am to give all those that missed out a chance to feel the buzz too!

This week our Mass online production team have been hard at work. I would like to take time to remember and thank them for sharing their time and talents. On the next page you will get to see some of the “behind-the-scenes” images of this week’s recordings. It takes many hours to produce Mass online and we are thankful to those that take time out of their lives each week to be part of this special project. While the team is small, their hearts are BIG! Our production team needs a name and we would love to hear your suggestions!

Remember to like our Facebook page [*Catholicparishmelton*], subscribe to our YouTube channel [*Melton Parish*] and keep on eye on our webpage [pol.org.au/melton].

Lest we forget.—See you at the Church.—*Fr Michael Moody*

MASS IN THE PERGOLA—WEEKDAY MASS BOOKINGS

Due to the restrictions in place for religious gatherings we will be holding weekday Mass in the pergola of the presbytery (adjacent to St Dominic's Church). The current restrictions allow for 20 people outside so booking is essential. We will be using Trybooking for bookings. If you have issues booking, please contact the Parish Office. To book for this week's Masses here are the links for each Mass—

- *Wednesday 11 November*—<https://www.trybooking.com/BMQER>

- *Friday 13 November*—<https://www.trybooking.com/BMQEV>

COLUMBAN CALANDERS FOR 2021 NOW AVAILABLE

Sick of 2020? Look forward to 2021 with next year's Columban Calendar—only \$10. To obtain your copy, please call (and leave a message) or email the Parish Office.

CATHOLIC REGIONAL COLLEGE MELTON 2022 INTERVIEWS

A reminder to all parents with children in Grade 5 that have applied for CRC Melton—you must see Father Michael for your interview before an offer is made. Details of the interview will be emailed to you this week for those that have yet to see him.

**Outdoor
Holy
Communion
Available**

**Sunday
8th November
9.00am - 11am**

St Catherine of Siena
Church
Bulmans Rd
Melton West



01

Holy Communion is available to groups of 10 at a time, on Sunday 9.30am - 11.00am at **St Catherine of Siena Church**

02

We will be at the main entrance of the Church. You will need to provide your name and telephone number as per government requirements.

03

Sanitiser will be available as you will need to wash your hands before receiving Holy Communion.

04

You are asked to receive Communion on the hand. The rite will take approximately 5 minutes and you will then be invited to walk the stations of the cross.





BEHIND THE SCENES

The Parish of Melton is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults



First Aid is located in the Lay-Sacristy. The Defibrillator is located in the foyer of St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

First Reading

A reading from the book of Wisdom

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.

Responsorial Psalm

(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

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

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.

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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 of them 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 Parish of Melton is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults



First Aid is located in the Lay-Sacristy. The Defibrillator is located in the foyer of St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School.

SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

by Brendan Byrne SJ

All three readings this Sunday find some unity around the theme of the right attitude to adopt towards the future. Matthew's Gospel devotes a long section to this theme, culminating in the three parables that make up chapter 25. Today's **Gospel**, Matthew 25:1-13, features the first of these parables, the Wise and Foolish Bridesmaids (literally, 'virgins').

Interpretation of the parable has to deal with the problem that our knowledge of the wedding customs of the time is not secure and some details (e.g., the feasibility of young women going out to buy oil at midnight) seem unrealistic. In any case, as Matthew has Jesus tell the story we seem to be dealing with an allegory providing an extended lesson rather than a parable making a single point.

As it appears in the gospel, the story seems to presuppose a wedding custom whereby unmarried young women, who have been waiting with the bride at her family's house, go out to meet the bridegroom when he arrives to take her to his own house. When his arrival is announced, they go out to meet him with blazing torches ('torches' is a preferable translation of the Greek *lampades* than the traditional 'lamps') and escort the couple back to his house, where the marriage feast has been prepared and the guests are waiting for their entry.

The use of torches presupposes that the procession to the bridegroom's house takes place at night. The parable further presupposes a late-arriving bridegroom, though whether this is due to custom or is a simply an instance of unpunctuality on this particular occasion we do not know. In any case the lateness of the hour leads to sleepiness on the part of the waiting women. But what shame for five of the bridesmaids who, when the bridegroom is said to be well on the way, are not in a position to carry out their welcoming role! Their torches have gone out during the long wait and there is no oil to rekindle them.

Despite the concluding warning, 'Stay awake, because you do not know the day or the hour', it is not falling asleep that is reprehended. All ten bridesmaids, both the wise and the foolish, fall asleep. The difference between them is that the former have made sure to have sufficient oil to rekindle their lamps when they are roused, while the foolish have not taken this precaution. Their absence on the errand to buy it frustrates the whole purpose of their role when at last the bridegroom appears.

As I suggested above, the parable appears as an allegory for life in the Church during the time of waiting for the return of its Lord (the 'Bridegroom'). The five wise and five foolish bridesmaids represent members of the Church, who, as so often in Matthew, are of mixed quality. The oil represents the kind of good deeds that Jesus commends – 'justice, mercy and faith' (23:23) – and which will be so graphically illustrated in the concluding parable of the Great Judgment (25:31-46). The five foolish bridesmaids represent the kind of believers depicted towards the close of the Sermon on the Mount: those who cry out, 'Lord, Lord' but have no good works to accompany this confession of faith (7:21-27). The wise may 'sleep' (in death) before the coming of the Lord but when he does come they will go out to meet him with the 'lamps' of their good works shining (cf. 5:16). Thus the final warning about 'staying awake' because neither 'the day or the hour' is known really means, in the light of the parable, 'Be prepared', rather than 'stay awake'.

The parable – and the Gospel as a whole – remind us that the words of dismissal at the Eucharist, 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord', are no perfunctory conclusion to the rite but a program for living the twin commandment of love of God and love of neighbour (Matt 22:37-40). 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 Lord's sudden arrival.

The kind of attentive waiting upon and pursuit of Wisdom commended in the **First Reading**, Wisdom 6:12-16, coheres well with the Gospel in the light of Matthew's portrayal of both Jesus himself and his teaching as the true Wisdom (see esp. Matthew 5-7; 11:28-30).

STEWARDSHIP: FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2020

Weekly Pledged:

\$7,753.69

Weekly Amount Given:

\$5,343.54

The Parish of Melton is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults



First Aid is located in the Lay-Sacristy. The Defibrillator is located in the foyer of St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School.