

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: YEAR A

# The Tidings

15TH 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**— cs.o.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**

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33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**Your talent is  
God's Gift to you.  
What you do  
with it is your gift  
back to God.**

## A MESSAGE FROM FR. MICHAEL

Welcome to the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Times. As we fast approach Advent, I have spent much of this week speaking to families that wish to join our Parish schools and laying the foundations for Christmas, 2021 and the years ahead. In short, it was another big week!

During the week I spent time reflecting on this week's Gospel which is about the gifts God bestows upon us and what we do with them. During the week I stumbled upon the saying which appears in this week's graphic—*"Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God."* On the surface this is a wonderful social media post but on deeper contemplation, it is deliberate call to take stock. We

are all bestowed with gifts and talents and we are called to use them. We need to venture out with them so that they may grow and multiply not just hide them in a hole in the ground or within us. During this lockdown period, I have watched not only my own talents grow through being pushed and molded by 'these unprecedented times' but I have watched those I come in contact with do the same. One of my questions to new Parish school families is "how is the family going?" It opens a discussion to better understand how our families are travelling in the current climate. What I more often hear is more than just a one word response like 'good' or 'bad'. I hear stories of how families have coped with the new environment of home learning, or no after school activities, or job uncertainty or just spending so much time together without distractions. I hear about the families communal gifts and talents that have been molded and grown. The things they want to continue post-pandemic and those they are happy to leave behind. This is what this week's Gospel is calling us to reflect upon—how we give back to God and how we produce a return on the capital he has provided us. Our relationship with God is living and constant and how we use our gifts in the world is part of that vital bond.

For those of you that find it necessary to remind me that Richmond won the Grand Final and rub it in—please don't! It still hurts and I am in mourning. While I love seeing you and talking to you all, reminding me of Geelong's crushing defeat does nothing for my wellbeing! Keep safe, be kind and see you at the Church.—

*Fr Michael Moody*

## ANNIVERSARIES:

14 th—20th November

Pearl Reeves, Kew  
Johnson, Rex DeSilva,  
Aloysius Maryanto, Brian  
Rayner, Francis Zahra,  
Leno Zahra, Evelyn  
Menezes, Donald Graham,  
Barry Reardon, Crewell  
Smith, Remedios Icasiano,  
Orietta Sidari, Charles  
Camilleri, Gordon  
Vanspall, Robert Gant,  
Disma Fenech, Vincenzo  
Marotta, Lily O'Connel,  
Nancy Colovitto Eila  
Harford, Cattina Dimech,  
Virginia Fronda Bonaga,  
Nihal Livera, Pearl Grero,  
Peter Derksen, Rod Gray,  
Stanley Fernando, Felix  
Buraczewski.

## 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 18 November - <https://www.trybooking.com/BMWES>

Friday 20 November - <https://www.trybooking.com/BMWEV>

## 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  
9.00am - 11am**

St Catherine of Siena Church  
Bulmans Rd  
Melton West



**01**  
Holy Communion is available to groups of 20 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.



*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 Proverbs*

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.

## Responsorial Psalm

(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

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

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

## Gospel

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

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. The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 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." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."

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## 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**

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