



We are approaching the end of the Church's liturgical year and the Sunday readings begin to think about the second coming of Christ. The parable in today's Gospel extract is one which is traditionally understood in this way.

The theme is that of the coming of the kingdom, which is presented as the arrival of the bridal couple from the house of the bride's father, and the beginning of the wedding feast. The wedding banquet is a frequent symbol for the kingdom of God. The moral is that of being prepared: one group of female attendants have intelligently planned for the possible need for more oil for their lamps; the others, described as "foolish", have clearly thought only in the short term; even when the bridegroom's arrival is delayed, they do not take the opportunity to remedy their situation, but simply doze off. On appealing to the better nature of their companions to share their resources, the others point out that if they do, there will be no lighted lamps at all. As a result, they are locked out of the celebrations.

The groom's reply may well indicate that the bridesmaids may be part of the bride's household, but unknown to him. So the reader is being warned to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man, and presented with models for people who are prepared and who are not. We are being urged not to take anything for granted, that it is our responsibility to be awake when the Lord arrives. ■

REFLECT

There are texts in the Bible which look to the second coming and the end of the world. The early writings of St Paul suggest that he and the earliest Christians thought that this was imminent. However, it became clear that this was not going to happen anytime soon, and that the disciples of Jesus had to get on with living their lives just like everybody else. There are certain Christian groups who see in natural disasters indications of the end of the world, but this is to misunderstand the nature of apocalyptic writing, such as the book of Revelation, and to interpret it literally.

The warnings in our Gospel extracts on these Sundays at the end of this cycle of readings is to shake us out of any possible state of complacency into which we may have fallen. This is due not to any ill will on our part, but rather because the rhythm of daily life, our worries and concerns about our family, work and so on, can lure us into thinking about what is going on at the present time and our awareness of God in our lives can become somewhat dulled. The scriptures may not be telling us that the end of the world is near: but perhaps they are reminding us that the Lord comes to us in all sorts of ways which we might not realise, because, as far as our spiritual awareness is concerned, we have dozed off. ■

SAY

Stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.
(Matthew 25:13)

DO

When your alarm goes off in the morning, think of the shout, "The bridegroom is coming!"



LEARN

The custom of the time was that the bridegroom would go to the bride's father's house to bring her to his own home.

Apocalyptic literature, such as the books of Daniel and Revelation, was written to encourage communities under persecution to stand firm, that the Lord would come to vindicate them.

In the Hebrew Bible, God was sometimes identified as the bridegroom of Israel: in Matthew's writing, the figure of the bridegroom applied to the Son of Man, who is Jesus.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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

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

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.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Wisdom 6:12-16

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.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 62

Response:

For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

- 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.)
- 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.)

- 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.)
- On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadows of your wings I rejoice. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

(For shorter form, read between > <)

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.

>The word of the Lord.<
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Stay awake and stand ready,
because you do not know the hour
when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:1-13

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 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.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
(all bow during the next three lines)
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

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.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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

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.
Amen.

Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon ***1 Radley Rd, Abingdon on Thames, Oxon, OX14 3PL***

We are a **LiveSimply** parish aiming to live Simply, Sustainably and in Solidarity with the Poor

Parish Priest: Fr. Jamie McGrath Tel: 01235 520375
Parish Secretary: Lisa Paterson Tel: 01235 520375
Office Hours: 10.30am-12.30pm Tuesday to Friday
Office Email: abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

We live stream all services

Safeguarding Team: Tel. 07572 935 230
Visits at JR Hospital: Fr Pius 01865 221732
Visits and Help: Society of Vincent de Paul Group, contact via Parish Office
Parish Website: www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk
Primary School: St. Edmund's School, Radley Road, Abingdon, OX14 3PP Tel 521558



Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No 246871

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS:

Please note that during this second period of lockdown, and until further notice, the Parish Office opening hours will be from **Tuesdays to Fridays from 10.30am to 12.30pm**. Outside of these times, Fr Jamie will respond to urgent phone messages as soon as he can.

MASSES:

Sadly, until further notice, physical attendance at Mass is not possible. You can follow all Masses on our live stream. See our website for the link.

PRIVATE PRAYER

We are blessed that the church can be open, but for **private prayer only**, on the following days and times:

- ✠ **Tuesdays: 12pm to 1pm**
- ✠ **Thursdays: 7.30am to 8.30am**
- ✠ **Fridays: 12pm to 1pm.**

BLESSING OF GRAVES:

Please be aware that with the latest restrictions, it will unfortunately now **NOT** be possible for the blessing of graves which was scheduled for Sunday 8th November, to take place.

DAY OF PRAYER TO END THE COVID CRISIS

Bishop Philip invites us to keep with him a special Day of Prayer and Fasting for an End to the Coronavirus Pandemic. The Day is called "*Twenty-Four Hours with the Lord*" and will take place on **Friday 27th November** This is the last Friday of the Church's Liturgical Year before we enter the new Year with the First Sunday of Advent on 29th November – please save the date. There will be a twenty-four hour long programme of Mass, prayer, Rosary and Eucharistic Adoration at Portsmouth Cathedral, including an all-night vigil, of which you we are invited to join in as much as you can by live stream. You can see the proposed programme on our website news page. ***In our parish, you are invited to join in praying the Rosary at 8pm on Zoom. Email, well in advance, contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk to get the joining in details.***

32nd week of Ordinary Time

Live streamed ONLY

Sunday 8 November

10.15am Mass

Remembrance Sunday

(Julie & Martin Alder Intentions - 40th Wedding Anniversary)

2.00pm Polish Mass

Monday 9 November

9am Mass

Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

(Johanna Hendre, RIP)

Tuesday 10 November St Leo the Great

NO Mass See: www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse for other masses

Wednesday 11 November St Martin of Tours

7pm Mass

(Mary Kelly, intentions)

Thursday 12 November St Josaphat

9.30am Mass

(Gertrude [Trudi] Walker, 100th birthday)

Friday 13 November

7pm Mass

(Deceased members of Kelly & Moffatt Family RIP)

Saturday 14 November

12pm Mass

(John Smith, RIP)



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot today receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to

CHURCH DONATIONS

The parish still **really** needs your donations. You can make these on our website. This will enable those who normally use the weekly gift aid white envelope system or loose plate donations to continue to support the Parish. *You can also place donations in the basket as you leave church.* **Your continued support for the Parish is greatly appreciated.**

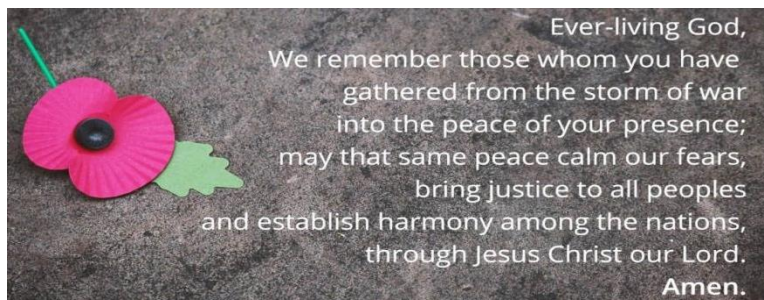
Please do not use the online 'Donate' button for clergy stipends (Mass intentions, weddings, Baptisms). These can be put in an envelope marked FAO the parish priest and indicating what the offering is for and who is giving it. The envelope can then be left at the parish office or in the donations basket in the Church.

MARY'S MEALS - DOUBLE THE LOVE!

As a parish we had to cancel our **Mary's Meals** "Rags to Riches" fundraiser in May due to Covid 19. However, Sue Richards is now trying to run 250 miles, in small chunks, in a challenge called "Run for their Lives". She has nearly made it! Now she needs your help to continue the sponsorship to feed children, one meal a day, in their place of education, in some of the poorest places on earth. Just think, **£15.90 feeds one child for 1 year!** **DOUBLE THE LOVE** will enable every donation you make between now and the end of November to be doubled! Sue hopes to finish the challenge by the middle of November.

Please consider contributing to this worthy cause. You can donate via the link on our website news page, or by a cheque made out to *Mary's Meals*, (or by cash), in an envelope through Sue's door at 25 Picklers Hill; Abingdon; Oxfordshire OX14 2BB. Sue is also happy to come and collect a donation if you are housebound. Just call her on 07598 315375 or 01235 530623. **Together we can make a difference!** Thank you all in advance and God Bless.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY PRAYER



MONTH OF NOVEMBER - PRAY FOR THE DECEASED

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS,
THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF THIS PARISH**

November 2019 to October 2020

Hilde Martin	Laurence Turner	Mary Whittington
Francis 'Frank' Tracey	Mary Haughton	Mary Leen
Angela O'Hanlon	Michael Haughton	Vittorio Caruso
John Smith	Reginald Cox	Antony Churchman
Patrick Hickey	Constance 'Ann' Goodwill	Elizabeth Millikin
Maria 'Stella' Worrallo	Joan Payne	Matilda Christi
Morris Armstrong	James Ryce	Alice Devlin
Mary Hobday	Annette Mott	Peter McGowan
Sheila Delany	John McCaffrey	Graham Clipperton
John Cronin	Kathleen Boyle	James Carey



Parishioner
Gertrude (Trudi) Walker
will be 100 years old on
12th November.

Happy Birthday, Trudi



Historically, the economic impact of COVID 19 to Christians in the Holy Land has been catastrophic. The FHL office in Bethlehem is being inundated by people seeking help. Unfortunately our presentations and sales of Olive Wood Products and Christmas card sales have had to be cancelled in parishes. However we are going to proceed to sell the Christmas Cards (£3.25 packet of 10). Contact any of the following:

Mary Mulqueen: 01235 534873 or 07857386398
Ann Green: 01235 520171 or ann.green@zen.co.uk
Clare Calnan: 01235 524861 or 07810192267

Thank you most sincerely for supporting our brothers and sisters in The Holy Land, it really does make a difference to their lives.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FROM ABINGDON

Abingdon Church Twinning - which enables Christians in Abingdon to develop friendship with churches in our 5 twin towns - have packs of mixed Christmas cards with 2 local Abingdon scenes for sale. The packs of 10 are £4.50 and contain a brief Christmas greeting in English, French, Flemish, German and Italian. If you would like to buy a pack (or more than one!) please ring Anne Dodd - 01235 525997.

DIOCESAN READERS' WORKSHOPS

There is a workshop on Saturday 14th November (workshop 1) and 21st November (workshop 2) at 10 am. These are being done using Zoom and you can access the link to register on the News page of our website.