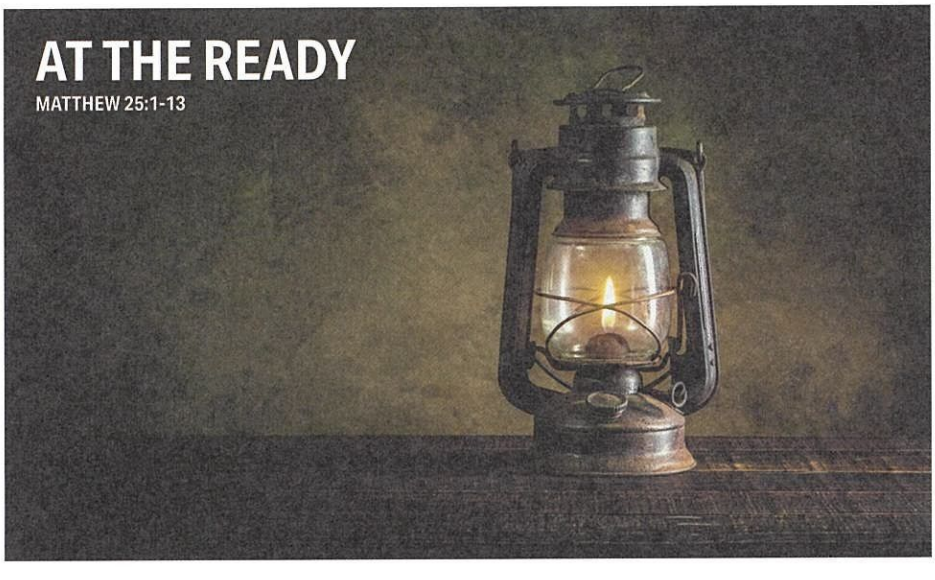
Sunday Message
THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



AT THE READY

MATTHEW 25:1-13

I sometimes wonder about the difference between the five wise bridesmaids and the five foolish ones in today's Gospel. Why did the wise ones bring the extra oil? How come they were so prepared?

Amid the many preparations for the wedding, the getting ready, the mounting excitement and anticipation as the ceremony drew near, what possessed them to bring flasks of oil along with their lamps? It seems like an unusually careful thing to do.

Perhaps the difference between them and the other bridesmaids was that they had personal knowledge of the bridegroom. Maybe they knew that the bridegroom had a reputation for being late, that he was never on time for anything, that he was the type who would be late even for his own wedding. And so they thought it prudent to take precautions.

Maybe the other bridesmaids didn't know the groom all that well and so wouldn't have factored in the possibility that he might be late. Believing that everything would go according to plan, it wouldn't have entered their heads to go to the trouble of bringing extra oil. Why should they? By the time they realised their mistake, it was too late. When the ceremony eventually got under way, they weren't allowed to participate in the celebration. They were left outside the door. It seemed an extraordinarily harsh punishment.

Of course, a parable is a story told to make a point, and Jesus wanted to make his point absolutely clear.

The ten bridesmaids represent us – the Christian community – waiting for the Messiah's return. Some are wise and some are foolish; some are prepared for his coming and some are not, some have their lamps lit, others have not. Like the wise bridesmaids, we must be always prepared, alert, ready for when the bridegroom will come. We must always have our lamps lit, for we do not know the day or the hour. ■

PRAY

Today's first reading speaks of the importance of wisdom. Pray for the gift of wisdom, so that you will know what is truly important and what is not.

DO

Make an examination of conscience. Are you living in such a way that you are ready to meet the Lord whenever he calls you?

LEARN

The Christian must be ready for the Messiah when he comes in judgement at the end of time. If he does not find us ready, all he can say to us is "I do not know you." Like the wise bridesmaids, we must be faithful to our baptismal calling, people who trust in God at all times and live by the Christian values of justice, peace and love.

REFLECT

In today's second reading, St Paul offers wonderful words of assurance and consolation to the Christian community in Thessalonica. He tells them they need not grieve for those who have died because God will bring with him all who have died in Jesus. That is the hope and the promise of their faith.

It is the hope and the promise of our faith.

The gift of faith changes everything. In early 2022 Richard Gaillardetz was discussing with his wife what to do when he retired in a few years from his position as professor of systematic theology at Boston University. He had been dean of theology there as well as a former president of the Theological Association of America. He was a leading expert on Vatican II and had written and lectured widely on the Council and its impact.

Richard was planning for his retirement and then all changed utterly. On 22 February 2022, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and given a maximum of 18 months to live. On that easy to remember date – 22/2/22 – all his plans, he said – for retirement, the books he was going to write, the places his wife Diana and he were going to visit – went out the window. He had to manage instead for his treatment and his death. Richard began to blog about his illness. This blog was published as a book following his death on 7 November 2023.

In *While I Breathe, I Hope,* he writes beautifully about the consolation his faith gave him as he approached his end, the precious gift that faith is. Richard believed wholeheartedly in the Gospel, and that belief sustained him to his dying breath.

As St Paul writes, our faith is a precious gift we should always treasure, always appreciate, always nurture, never take for granted.

The gift of faith changes everything. ■

SAY

"Lord, help me to be ever prepared for your coming. Deepen my faith in you. Amen."

TAUNTON VALE CATHOLICS

NEWSLETTER

THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

WE REMEMBER ALL THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY
Patrick Collins, Clinton Earley-Rogers.

WE REMEMBER ALL THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME: Charles Morland, Hilda Hodges, Keith Hester, Margaret Buckle, Mary O'Grady, John Povey, Terry Murphy, Peter Walker, Mary (Jo) Stafford, James Francis, Rosie Bicknell, Daniel Gonta, Joan Robinson, Joan Crane, Malachi Carin, Margaret Berner, William Cooke, Alfred Passmore, Barbara Stembridge, Bernard Tomala, Guy Walter, Winifred Wheeler, Iris Robinson, Olwen Forgham, Bridget Hutchings, Andrew Whelan, Anne Ryan, Victoria Batko, Ellen Jones, John Hughes, Patricia Ellen Jeffries, Hildegard Grzegorski, Raymond Boyce, Baby RB, Thirza Mann, Anthony Holland, Clemencia Baker, Mabel Dykes, Gary Gall, Roy Nicholas, Basil Devitt, Peggy Coleman, Josephine Ferguson.

AND THOSE WHO ARE SICK & HOUSEBOUND:

Eileen Strickland, Elizabeth Smart, Brian Smart, Julia Tucker, Catherine Twomey, Sister Theresa Smythe, Madeleine Page, Alma Hamilton, Jill Tansley, Anna Hradil, Penny Watson, Michael O'Connell, Paul Thorpe, Maureen Hughes, Anna Bingham, Mary Hutchings, Margarita Gibson, Anne King, Graham King, Mavis Parsons, Marie Mackay, Richard Fairfax, Roger Dore, Sandra Jones, Christopher Browne, Eveleen O'Farrell, Jane Tolfree, Sean Carroll, Martin Connolly, Joseph Hughes, Imogen Jenkins, Paul Jones, Riza Carol Khan, Marguerite Walker, Larry Kirton, John MacNeice, Vlad, Paul White, Elizabeth Surridge, John Irwin, Elisabeth Collingridge, Jacqueline Park, Maria Margarita Gregorio, Cynthia Rafter.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Sat	7th	9.30am	St George	Weekday in Ordinary Time	David Jones, RIP
Sat	7th	5.30pm	St John Fisher	Thirty Second Sunday of the Year	Deceased Relations & Friends of the Knott Family
Sun	8th	8.00am	St George	Thirty Second Sunday of the Year	Deceased members of the Coleman and Warren Families
Sun	8th	9.15am	St George	Thirty Second Sunday of the Year	Mary Bradley, RIP
Sun	8th	11.00am	St Teresa	Thirty Second Sunday of the Year	Celine Stutt
Mon	9th	9.30am	St George	Feast of the Dedication of the laterna Basilica	Deceased members of the Coleman & Warren Families
Wed	11th	9.30am	St George	Memorial of Saint Martin of Tours, Bishop	Teresa Hewitt, RIP
Thurs	12th	9.30am	St John Fisher	Memorial of Saint Josaphat, Bishop, Martyr	Anne Ryan, RIP
Thurs	12th	12.30pm	St George	Memorial of Saint Josaphat, Bishop, Martyr	Deceased members of the Scorgie Family
Fri	13th	10.00am	St Teresa	Weekday in Ordinary Time	Gary Gall, RIP
Sat	14th	9.30am	St George	Memorial of the Beatified Martyrs of the Diocese	Norman Surridge, RIP
Sat	14th	5.30pm	St John Fisher	Thirty Third Sunday of the Year	Souls of our Legionaries
Sun	15th	8.00am	St George	Thirty Third Sunday of the Year	O'Connell & Mulqueen Families
Sun	15th	9.15am	St George	Thirty Third Sunday of the Year	Titus & Jean Oates, RIP
Sun	15th	11.00am	St Teresa	Thirty Third Sunday of the Year	Chris Gewer

PRAYER GROUPS:
Charismatic Prayer Group: Every Wednesday 10am-11.30am St. George's Centre
Led Holy Hour: St George's on the last Wednesday of the month 7:30-8:30pm
Mother's Prayer: Every other Thurs 8-10pm Parish Centre.
Prepare for Sunday praying the Mass readings together: 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 1pm in the Parish Centre.
Pray the Rosary: (For World Peace): St George – Tuesdays 6pm, St Teresa - Fridays after 10am Mass, St John Fisher - 1st Tuesday of the month at 10:30am.
Healing Prayer Ministry: 1st weekend each month after all Masses except 8am & after Mass on 3rd Sat at St. George. At other times by appointment: healing@tauntonvalecatholics.com
Legion of Mary: Meet Thursdays 6:00pm in the Catholic Centre.
Men's Fellowship & Ladies Fellowship Groups: Meet at 8pm on alternate Tuesdays to each other in the Catholic Centre.

CONFESSION TIMES: At St George's: Sat 10am-10:30am; Thurs 12 noon -12:30pm
At St Teresa's: Fri 9:30am -10am at St John Fisher: Sat 5pm-5:25pm
ADORATION TIMES:
St George: Tue-Sun 6:30am - 7:30am;
Wed 6:30am - 9.25am; Thurs 12 -12:25pm; Fri 6:00am – 5pm and 1.00pm – 6.00pm; Sat10am - 11am.
St John Fisher: Wed 4pm - 7pm; Thurs10 -12pm
BENEDICTION: 6:30pm on Wednesdays at St George's Church
PARISH YOUTH MASS: 6.30pm First Wednesday of the Month at St George's Church
IMPACT GROUP: Temporarily suspended.
AFRICAN CATHOLIC FELLOWSHIP: Meet the first Sunday of every month from 10:30am in the Parish Centre.

NOTICES

Diocesan Prayer Link: St Nicholas of Tolentino, Easton, St Josephs, Fishponds, St Patrick, Redfield.

Standing Orders: 08/11/2026
St George: £3,820, St Teresa: £933,
St John Fisher: £176.08
Offertory Collection: 01/11/2026
St George: £463.76, St Teresa: £328.09
St John Fisher: £249.97.

Fairtrade at:
St George's Sunday 8th November
St John Fisher's Saturday 14th November
St Teresa's Sunday 15th November.
As always thank you for your support to the De La Salle projects.

Foodbank: With the cold weather setting in, the foodbank needs your help more than ever. Tins of soup, meat or curry, pasta and pasta sauces cost little and will go a long way to helping those in need. Please consider the Foodbank's needs each time you shop. With grateful thanks.

Parking at St Teresa: Work will commence on **Monday 23rd November** at St Teresa's to tarmac the grass area. As a result, there will be limited parking spaces so please seek alternative places to park if possible and be mindful not to block roads or neighbourhood driveways. With thanks.

Confirmation Course 2027: For those who were unable to attend the Pre-course meeting on 9th October, there will be another meeting on **Friday 27th November 7.00pm – 8.00pm**, in the Parish Hall. If you have registered your child for this course, it is important you attend. Please confirm your attendance with the Parish Administrator.

Safeguarding: The safeguarding team will be offering online safeguarding training for volunteers in 2027 as the trial in 2026 was quite successful. As such, training will be available on the following dates:

Thursday 4th February 2027 at 1pm until 2.30pm
Thursday 18th March at 6pm until 7.30pm
Thursday 20th May at 2pm until 3.30pm
Thursday 1st July at 6pm until 7.30pm
Thursday 21st October at 6pm until 7.30pm
Thursday 25th November at 2pm until 3.30pm

If anyone wishes to book, please contact safeguarding@Cliftondiocese.com.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parish Ramblers: The next outing for the Parish Ramblers will be quite an easy local walk, on Saturday 28th November. And it will be led by Rod O'Farrell. More details to follow.

An Advent Service of Readings, Reflections & Music: St George's **Sunday 29th November** at 3.00pm, followed by refreshments in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

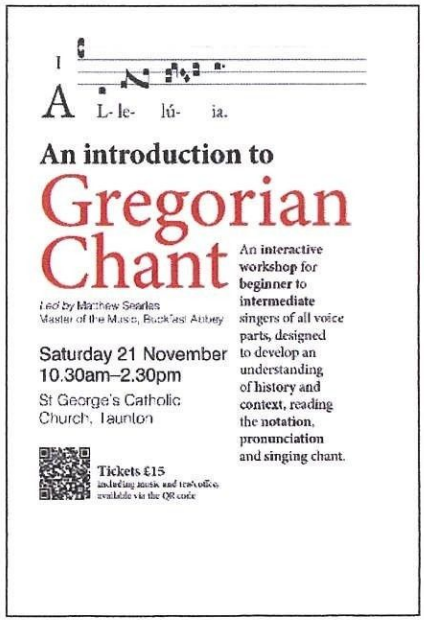
Further Christmas Service Dates and Times to follow.

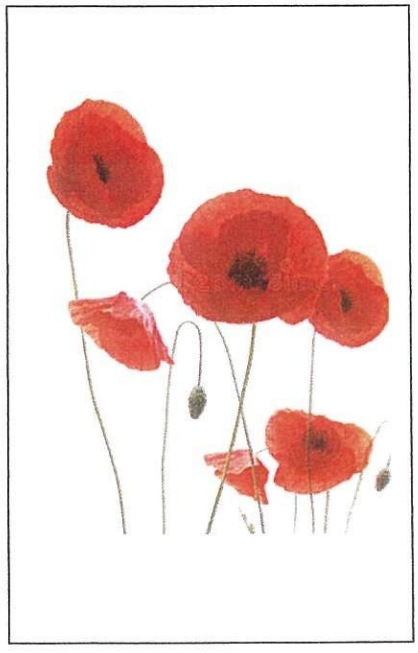
Mass at the Cathedral: Bishop Bosco is celebrating Mass in the Cathedral on **Sat 6 February** (12 noon) and is inviting all families to join him to acknowledge the joys & challenges of family life. In addition, we will celebrate those couples with significant anniversaries in 2027. If you are, or know of a couple, celebrating a special anniversary during 2027 please do let us know. You just need to send names to: ***hope@cliftondiocese.com*** with an address so that a personal invitation can be sent out from the bishop. Please include the number of years celebrating. It is always a wonderful Mass at the Cathedral, we look forward to seeing you there.

Flame 2027: Saturday 6th March 2027: There is an exciting opportunity for the youth of our parish to attend FLAME2027 at the OVO Wembly Arena. A Catholic youth conference that takes place annually in London which brings together young people from across the country for an inspiring day of worship and joyful encouragement in their faith. There will be enlightening talks, lively worship and the chance to meet other young Catholics and be emboldened by testimonies. The Parish will organise travel by coach to and from London and volunteers to oversee. Contact the parish office to book. The cost is £30 per person but do speak to the parish office if this is difficult as we would like to encourage as many young people as can attend. **https://cymfed.org.uk/flame/**

Getting married abroad: If you are hoping to get married abroad, please remember to make an appointment with your Parish Priest at least 6 months prior to the date of the wedding to enable time for religious preparation.







Thank you to all who donated to the Annual Mission Appeal for the Missionary Society of St Paul (MSP)

CONTACT US
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Permanent Deacon: Rev Trevor Jones trevor.jones@cliftondiocese.com (01823) 270935
PARISH WEBSITE: https://tauntonvalecatholics.com
Parish Administrator: Dale Sutcliffe taunton.stgeorge@cliftondiocese.com
Parish Office: 01823 272700 Mon, Wed, Thurs and Fri 9-1:30, Tues 9-3
SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE:
John Twomey psr.taunton.stgeorge@cliftondiocese.com
DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING: safeguarding@cliftondiocese.com (0117) 954 0993

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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

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 radiant and unfading,
and she is easily discerned by those who love her
and is found by those who seek her.
She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.
He who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty,
for he will find her sitting at his gates.
To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding,
and he who is vigilant on her account
will soon be free from care,
because she goes about seeking those worthy of her,
and she graciously appears to them in their paths
and meets them in every thought.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 63(62):2. 3-4. 5-6. 7-8. R. 2b

R: ***For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.***

1. O God, you are my God; at dawn I seek you;
for you my soul is thirsting.
For you my flesh is pining,
like a dry, weary land without water. **R.**

2. I have come before you in the sanctuary,
to behold your strength and your glory.
Your loving mercy is better than life;
my lips will speak your praise. **R.**

3. 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;
with joyful lips, my mouth shall praise you. **R.**

4. When I remember you upon my bed,
on you I muse through the watches of the night.
For you have been my strength;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians.
(for shorter from read between > <)

> We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. <
For this we declare to you by the word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL Matthew 24:42a, 44

R: ***Alleluia, alleluia.***
Stay awake and be ready,
for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.
R: ***Alleluia.***

GOSPEL Matthew 25:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, 'The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, "Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise answered, saying, "Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves." And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterwards the other virgins came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he answered, "Truly, I say to you, I do not know you." Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

Or

The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus in the breaking of bread.

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.

redemptorist publications

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