

Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year A • Psalter Week 1

BURIED TALENTS

(MATTHEW 25:14-30)



Jesus continues his teaching on the coming of the kingdom of God with the parable of the landowner and the servants to whom he gives a portion of his resources and the judgement which ensues when he returns.

This is not a story urging self-improvement, but is another warning about the return of the Son of Man. This is indicated by the change in the way the main character is described. At the beginning, he is referred to simply as “a man”: but the third servant buries “his master’s” money. The term “master” is *Kyrios* in Matthew’s original Greek text and can also be understood as “Lord”, and is used for the rest of the narrative. Thus we can see that there is more to the message than meets the eye. The fate of the third servant is to be cast out of the household without a reference. He may be free of his tyrannical employer, but the chances of his finding another position at all, far less one at the level he previously enjoyed, are practically nil, hence the parable ends with a note about frustration, with “weeping and gnashing of teeth”.

It is worth noting that the master does not dispute the third servant’s description of him. However, once his sharp practices are set out in public, the usual social conventions have been breached and punishment is sure to follow. We should, therefore, be careful about allegorising, that is, seeing corresponding details in every aspect of the parable. ■

LEARN

The word “talent” originally referred to a large sum of money.

It passed into English usage as meaning a special aptitude or gift, due to the influence of this parable.

“Throw him out into the dark” refers to condemnation at the last judgement.

DO

When you hear on the news or in conversation about a whistle-blower, remember the person in your prayers.

SAY

Do not put me to that kind of test.

REFLECT

There are several possible themes running through this parable, most of which do not concern us today. The word “talent” refers, originally, to a considerable sum of money, but passed into English with the sense of innate ability, thanks to this story. The third servant may well be in the same position as someone who discovers that she or he is working for a boss or a firm whose working practices are fundamentally dishonest. We noticed that the central figure in the parable does not disagree with his servant’s assessment of himself as

“a hard man”, reaping and gathering from what was not his own. Did he commend the other two stewards, who doubled their amounts, for pursuing similar policies and exploiting other people? In that case, depositing the money in the bank would be the best way of avoiding such behaviour, but the third individual does not want to co operate in any way at all. If so, then he is perhaps not to be condemned as lazy or irresponsible, but rather commended for acting in an honourable way, according to his conscience.

We know that there are people who are caught in such a dilemma today. To take a stand as a whistle-blower takes a tremendous amount of courage, especially for a person who has family responsibilities. The “sensible” advice would be to remain silent, to keep one’s head down: but sometimes the situation cries out for justice and for the help of the Holy Spirit for the person concerned. ■



St Joseph's Catholic Church, Kilmarnock

THE SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

The Thirty-Third Sunday of the Year
Sunday 15th November 2020

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LITURGIES FROM SUNDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2020

The Masses this week will be streamed as indicated below on the "St Joseph's Church, Kilmarnock" YouTube channel and are offered for the following intentions.

| Date | Time | Gathering | Mass Intention |
|----------------|----------|--|-----------------------|
| Saturday 14th | 6.00 pm | Mass with a congregation (not livestreamed) | The faithful departed |
| Sunday 15th | 11.00 am | Mass with a congregation (also livestreamed) | People of the parish |
| Monday 16th | | Requiem Mass for Owen McGinney, RIP | Owen McGinney (RIP) |
| Tuesday 17th | 10.00 am | Mass with a congregation (also livestreamed) | The faithful departed |
| Wednesday 18th | 10.00 am | Mass with a congregation (also livestreamed) | The faithful departed |
| Thursday 19th | 6.00 pm | Mass with a congregation (also livestreamed) | The faithful departed |
| Friday 20th | | No Mass in St Joseph's today | |
| Saturday 21st | 6.00 pm | Mass with a congregation (not livestreamed) | The faithful departed |
| Sunday 22nd | 11.00 am | Mass with a congregation (also livestreamed) | People of the parish |

TODAY IS THE WORLD DAY OF THE POOR:

"Stretch forth your hand to the poor". This year Pope Francis uses the words from the book of Sirach to shed light on the great story of poverty that envelopes entire nations. The pandemic that the world is experiencing has brought to light a poverty that many had forgotten: *fragility*. By definition the poor are fragile, because they lack what is necessary and their existence depends on the generosity and solidarity of others. Paradoxical as it may seem, Covid has made it possible for us to discover that we are all weak and dependent on others. No one is excluded from this condition. The great of the earth, the powerful of the world and the man on the street are all on the same level. The facemask can be a first line of defence, but the virus creeps in regardless of one's good intentions. We cannot save ourselves alone, but only together.



During this week try to do something practical for those who are poor and in need.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE: The condolences and prayers of the parish extend to the families of the late Owen McGinney and Esther McGowne. May they rest in peace.

Fr Stephen also asks for your prayers for his dear aunt and Godmother, Theresa Loudon, who died on Tuesday. Since her Requiem Mass will be on Friday there will be no parish Mass that day.

NOVEMBER MASSES FOR THE DECEASED: During the month of November the Masses will be offered for the faithful departed of the parishes. November Lists can be submitted by email under these circumstances. Alternatively, please write the names of those you wish to be remembered and place the list in the collection boxes at the entrance and exit, or post them to the parish house. The names of your loved ones who you wish to be remembered this month will be recorded in the album in front of the altar.

RELIGIOUS ADVENT CALENDARS AND CHRISTMAS CARDS: From this Saturday and Sunday, Advent Calendars and Christmas cards are on display in the hall and will be on sale before and after the Vigil and Sunday Masses. Packs of cards are priced £1, £3, £4 and £5. Advent calendars cost £1. A few good practices will keep the environment safer. Please do not handle the packs of cards before buying – the style of card is displayed through the transparent case. Please bring exact money in cash to save multiple handling of change. There should be no more than two customers in the hall at any one time. Social distance is to be observed between households, masks worn, and hands sanitised on entry and exit. Please follow the one-way system, entering through the main door and leaving through the kitchen exit.

HILLHOUSE CARE APPEAL FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR CHILDREN: Hillhouse Care is gathering Christmas gifts for children aged 0-16 at a time when many families are in need. Suitable gifts are: for babies and infants, clothing, pyjamas and cuddly toys; for children, toys; for

Hall bookings: suspended until further notice.

Safeguarding co-ordinator: Margaret McGrath (01563 542130)

Crosshouse and Ayr Hospitals: Ask hospital staff to page on-call priest chaplain.

Collection this week: Standing orders: £706.08. Donations: £378.50. Building Fund: £35.

Thank you for your generous support of the parish at this time and to all who have set up standing orders.

teenagers, “smelly gifts” of toiletries for boys and girls. Please do not wrap the gifts which can be placed in the large box at the back of the church. We ask that gifts be donated before the end of November please, to have them organised, wrapped and distributed in good time, especially due to Covid restrictions. Thank you for your generosity.

VIRTUAL VATICAN WALK: Thank you to those who donated to the Virtual Vatican Walk which parishioner Amélie Davidson took part in. Students and staff at the School of Education at the University of Glasgow walked 3,975 km and an incredible £3,417 was donated. The money will be used to buy Christmas gifts for children living in poverty.

TERESA OF AVILA, A TEACHER AND GUIDE: CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF HER DOCTORATE: The Centre for Applied Carmelite Spirituality, Oxford, will host this International Spirituality Summit on 16th November 2020 from 2 pm – 6:30 pm UK time.

The summit will celebrate the life and legacy of Saint Teresa of Avila, an exceptional woman and the first female doctor of the Church. Participants will be inspired by her remarkable life, empowered to follow in her footsteps, and more.

The keynote lecture will be given by Cardinal Anders Arborelius, OCD. Other participants at the Summit include: Rt Revd David Oakley (Bishop of Northampton), Dr Susan Muto, Sr Jo Robson OCD, Fr Matt Blake OCD, Mark Courtney OCDS and Annette Goulden OCDS. There will be a panel discussion on Saint Teresa’s life and legacy chaired by Professor Peter Tyler of St Mary’s University, Twickenham.

For more information visit www.oxcacs.org or email ruth.preston@carmelite.org.uk.

EDUCATION SUNDAY: Next Sunday is Education Sunday, marking the start of a week when we celebrate the importance of educating children and young people in faith. There will be a special collection for the work of the Scottish Catholic Education Service, and an envelope can be found in your envelope set. Thank you.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD BANK: Some SVdP members and other volunteers will be in the hall on Wednesdays from 11 am to 12 noon to operate a food bank

for those in need. There will be a doorbell system for those to request food parcels which will be given outside.

We appeal to parishioners to donate **ready-assembled food parcels** which can be brought to church at Mass times and left in the porch. The contents of the food parcel are specific and should be delivered in a strong plastic or paper bag:

- 2 cans of soup
- 1 canned meal, e.g. beef bolognese, chilli con carne, chicken supreme, Fray Bentos style pie
- 1 tin of fruit
- 1 tin of vegetables
- 1 tin of beans
- 1 carton of long-life milk (UHT)
- 1 tin of hotdog sausages
- 1 tin of sardines/mackerel fillets/tuna
- 1 packet of biscuits
- 1 toilet roll
- 1 bar of soap.

Please ensure canned foods **have a ring pull** for opening them. Please also note that tea, coffee and sugar are **not required**. Thank you for your support.

ATTENDANCE AT PUBLIC MASS: For weekend Masses, a place for your household **must be booked in advance**. You can request a place for the upcoming weekend through the parish website www.rckilmarnock.org.uk. Online bookings are open from **Sunday at 6 pm until Thursday at 5 pm**. You can also make a telephone booking by phoning the parish house on 01563 521832 on **Friday from 11 am until 12 noon**. Your booking will be confirmed by Friday evening.

If you book a place and then cannot come to Mass, please phone or email the parish so another person eager to attend can be present.

We remain grateful to the stewarding and cleaning teams who make the environment safe for congregational Masses.

PLEASE NOTE ONLINE BOOKING MUST NOW BE MADE BEFORE 5 PM ON THURSDAY FOR THE WEEKEND AHEAD.

| MINISTRY ROTAS FOR THIS WEEK | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|
| | Stewards | Cleaning Team between Masses | Writer of Bidding Prayers |
| Saturday 14th November 6.00 pm | Helena Rameckers, Michael McGrath, Danny and Anne Gorman | Helena Rameckers, Michael McGrath, Danny and Anne Gorman, Julia Rameckers | Margaret McGrath |
| Sunday 15th November 11.00 am | Dennis Graham, Margaret McGrath, Emma Wood, Karen Cassidy | Margaret McGrath, Emma Wood, Karen Cassidy, Daniel and Michael Ogbunabi | Margaret McGrath |
| Monday 16th November 10.00 am | Margaret McGrath, Roberta Murphy Danny and Anne Gorman | Margaret McGrath, Roberta Murphy Danny and Anne Gorman | |
| Tuesday 17th November 10.00 am | Helena Rameckers, Margaret McGrath, Alan and Teresa Kerr | Helena Rameckers, Margaret McGrath, Alan and Teresa Kerr | |
| Wednesday 18th November | Eileen Cunningham, Anne Gorman, Margaret McGrath, Clare Power | Eileen Cunningham, Anne Gorman, Margaret McGrath, Clare Power | |
| Thursday 19th November 6.00 pm | Paul and Elizabeth Nicholson, Anne and Michael Timmons | Will be cleaned on Friday | |
| Saturday 21st November 6.00 pm | Helena Rameckers, Michael McGrath, Danny and Anne Gorman | Helena Rameckers, Michael McGrath, Danny and Anne Gorman, Julia Rameckers | Hugh Matthews |
| Sunday 22nd November 11.00 am | Alan and Teresa Kerr, Paul and Elizabeth Nicholson | Alan and Teresa Kerr, Daniel and Michael Ogbunabi, (Clare Power, Margaret McGrath) | Hugh Matthews |

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction.

You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

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

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God,
the constant gladness of being devoted to you,

for it is full and lasting happiness to serve with constancy the author of all that is good. 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 Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31

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.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 127

Response:

O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

- 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.)
- Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. (R.)

- 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 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

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 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 the darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Even if you have to die, says the Lord,
keep faithful, and I will give you
the crown of life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14-30

(For shorter form, read between > <)

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 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 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 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."

>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

Grant, O Lord, we pray,
that what we offer in the sight of your majesty
may obtain for us the grace of being devoted
to you
and gain us the prize of everlasting happiness.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

To be near God is my happiness,
to place my hope in God the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We have partaken of the gifts of this sacred
mystery,
humbly imploring, O Lord,
that what your Son commanded us to do
in memory of him
may bring us growth in charity.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.