



**33RD SUNDAY ORDINARY
TIME YEAR A**

15 November 2020

Liturgy and Bulletin

OPENING PRAYER

*Father of all that is good,
keep us faithful in serving you,
for to serve you is our lasting joy.
Amen.*

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:

Response: 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 and sisters, 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 friends, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all children of light and 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 Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia!

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.”’



Reflection on the Gospel by Richard Leonard

As Catholics we have no problem with the time-bound nature of the Bible. In fact we appreciate it, believing that the scriptures deserve to be read within their context, and also need careful interpretation. And while the Catholic Feminist Association may not choose to have today's first reading as the opening text at their next convention, we would be mistaken to hear it only in terms of our world today.

The Book of Proverbs is a distillation of sayings and teachings which had grown up over hundreds of years, most probably from Rabbis and Scribes. Its world is a vastly different one to ours. This is clearly seen in the tasks of the 'capable wife'. She is praised for her work with wool, flax, in the vineyard and in real estate. It's only in the context of an agrarian society that the power of this text makes sense.

Until quite recently, women in Palestinian society, and in wider society for that matter, were considered the 'possessions' of their husbands. They could be bought, sold, divorced, or killed without any appeal to the law. Wives in this society had no legally recognised human rights. They were expected to serve and shut-up.

By contrast, then, this text from the Book of Proverbs, which can seem so old-fashioned to us, was a liberating text in its day. A woman's right to work is not only defended, but also extolled. She is praised for her creativity, wisdom, goodness, strength, sense of justice, generosity, joy and faith. In any age and for either gender this is not a bad list of virtues toward which we should all aspire. And these days of course, through the ongoing revelation of the Spirit, we believe that what the Book of Proverbs expects and praises in a capable wife, we should equally look for in a capable husband.

It is almost possible that Jesus had women in mind when he shared the parable of the talents in today's Gospel. What can often get lost in the debates about who should be ordained in today's Church, is that women have always and still 'lead' the Church in powerful and long-lasting ways. From the extraordinary abilities of religious and lay women in Catholic welfare, education, healthcare, overseas missions and theological reflections, to wives and mothers whose daily witness to the fidelity and goodness of God, this all reveals in innumerable ways the power of the parable of the talents. The reality is that if it were not for women's leadership, commitment and faith, it would be hard to see how the Church could survive. We would not be able to continue almost all of our ministries.

None of this minimises the pain and hurt some women have experienced at the hands of the Church. Some feel as though their particular contribution to the life of the Church has not been fully realised.

All we can hope and pray for is that we may find ways to use everyone's talents for the building up of the Kingdom of God, and that we may see that everyone's contribution, irrespective of gender, is precious and worthy of praise.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Reader: That nations and companies will use the earth's resources wisely. Lord, hear us.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That men and women will treat each other with dignity and respect. Lord, hear us.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That God will bless those who use their gifts and talents for others. Lord, hear us.
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who are sick will be comforted by those who care for them, including
Felicity McNamara, Rupert Ermert, Dennis Dempsey, Ann McDougall, Val Biggers,
Celia Roach, Cilla Ryan, and Mark Sissian. Lord, hear us
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who have died in Christ will be with the Lord for ever, including Peter Camiller, Hec Kain, Wendy Blandon, Carmel Elliot, Colleen Clarke, all those who have died of the Corona virus, those recorded in our Book of Remembrance and all our deceased relatives and friends. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

*Father,
may we grow in love
in memory of the Lord Jesus,
who is Lord for ever and ever..
Amen.*



Hello St Bede's Parishioners,

Mass last Saturday evening was attended by 49 parishioners. Social distancing, hygiene requirements and recording attendance procedures are still being observed. **Please try to arrive in good time** as all these regulations and requirements will take time.

Weekday Masses: Tuesday only at 10.00am in the Church.

Meditation: Thursdays at 10.30am in the Presbytery.

Adoration: Everyone is welcome to Adoration every Friday 9am-10 am as an opportunity for private prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament. [Please feel free to come at any time during this hour for as long as you desire.](#) Lighting of candles for special intentions is available. Entry is up the side ramp entrance of the church.

Social Justice Group: meets in the Church Sunday 6th December at 10.30am.

Monthly markets: We urgently need to find an energetic (**read younger**) group of people to take on this important work so they can experience at least one market before Christmas with the current team to show them the ropes. If we get enough volunteers the workload could be shared so the commitment need not be every month.

The markets are so popular that, if we cannot find helpers to continue, some other group will snap them up and we will lose our income. **Please**, talk among yourselves, find people to help us keep the markets going. Bring your thoughts to Brother Brian.

Book of Remembrance: if you would like your loved ones remembered this month please send me your names and donations. Any moneys received (along with the names) go to priests in the Northern Territory to assist them in their work.

Marylou Gorham has been appointed as Principal, St Bede's Primary School, Braidwood from the start of the 2021 school year. We will be sad to lose Trish to retirement and Julian to further studies and his art.

Naidoc Week contribution by St Bede's school is the sea of hands in the church grounds near the rose gardens.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse Visitation 18 November is coming to Braidwood for lunch with Fr Praveen and Brian at 12.20pm. We will then hold a Prayer Service at 1.30pm. All parishioners are invited to attend this service which is being organised for us by the Call to Connect ladies. Archbishop will then speak with parishioners before heading back to Canberra.



Reaching Beyond 2020

People of all trades and professions are being requested by communities abroad seeking to build the capacity of their organisations and the skills of their people.

Restrictions this year have made communities' needs acute, but your assistance will help to develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty. [Palms Australia](#) will provide you with thorough preparation to ensure your readiness as travel resumes, and support on assignment

See www.palms.org.au and talk to Roger on 0431 995 058, or email palms@palms.org.au

COVID-19 Links for information: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>

Mass Online Link: <https://catholicvoice.org.au/mass-online>

Masks are not yet mandatory but recommended. Please feel free to wear one to Mass if you wish.

Look after each other,
Helen Hart