



St Christopher's Cathedral Parish, Canberra

(including St Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla)

32nd Sunday in Ord.
Time, Year A
12 November 2023

Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn
Archbishop: Most Rev Christopher Prowse DD STD
Administrator: Fr Trenton van Reesch
Assistant Priest: Fr Alexander Osborne



YEAR OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT
August 2023– 2024

PARISH OFFICE

55 Franklin Street, Forrest ACT 2603 (02) 6239 9846 (ph)
cathedral@cg.org.au www.cg.org.au/cathedral

Online Payments Link: www.bpoint.com.au/payments/sccp

Parish Secretary: Anita Piper — 8:30am-4:30pm Monday to Thursday. Office Closed Friday-Sunday

Accounts Officer: Karina Widjaja—8am-4pm Friday

Sunday Mass

St Christopher's

Cnr Canberra Ave & Furneaux
Street, Forrest (Manuka) ACT

Sat. Vigil: 5.00pm

Sunday: 8.00am,
11.00am
5.00pm

St Peter Chanel's

Cnr Weston & Loch Streets,
Yarralumla ACT

Saturday: 6.00pm Vigil

Sunday: 9.30am

Weekday Mass

St Christopher's

Monday to Friday: 7.30am &
12.15pm

Saturday (& Public Holidays):
9.00am & 12.15pm

St Peter Chanel's

Tuesday: 5.30pm

Reconciliation

St Christopher's

Wednesday: 11.30am-12.00noon

Thursday: 6.00 - 6.30pm

Saturday: 11.00am - 12noon

St Peter Chanel's

Tuesday: 6.00 - 6.30pm

Saturday: 5.15 - 5.45pm

Adoration

St Christopher's

Monday to Friday: 5.00-6.00pm

Rosary at the Cathedral

Mon–Fri 8am, Sat 11:40am, Sun
4:45pm

Baptisms

2nd & 4th Sundays: 12.30pm

Weddings

St Christopher's: Saturday
1.30pm & 3.00pm

St Peter Chanel's: By arrangement

THE WISE AND THE FOOLISH

In the last chapter of his Gospel, before the retelling of the Passion, Matthew recounts Jesus' three powerful parables of final judgement. Each of these parables are read over the final three Sundays of the liturgical year, concluding with the parable of the sheep and the goats on the feast of *Christ the King*.

On this 32nd Sunday, we hear the familiar parable of the Ten Bridesmaids who await the return of the Bridegroom. Five are called 'wise' and five 'foolish'. But why?

More often than not, this parable traps those who psychologise and over-analysing the parables. Many simplify the message and when they do, in this case, they soon take offence at what appears to be the smug and self-righteous attitude of the five 'wise' bridesmaids. "How could they not share the oil they brought with them?" they say. "After all – it's all about sharing, right?!"

We get that the Bridegroom is Jesus returning at the end of time. But what's the deal with the virgins? Who are they and who do they represent? And further, why don't the so-called wise ones, share their oil with those who have none? Seems pretty harsh.

Yet how wrong (and sad) such an interpretation proves to be; missing the point of Jesus' parable entirely.

You see, the heart of the parable is far more confronting. And it's confronting because it challenges each individually. It challenges each of us with the fact that we can never cast off the responsibility we have for our own salvation and care of our own soul. We can not just blame someone else as – in our brokenness – we are so wanton to do! Christ never lets the ones He loves, get away with that!

In first century Palestine, Olive oil was the means by which lamps were fueled. And we notice in the story that the five foolish virgins do no 'run out' of oil, they never really have it! They never even plan ahead to bring it along.

A helpful analogy today, is the runner of a marathon. No one wakes up in the morning and decides that day to run a 42 km marathon. If you do, guaranteed, it will not go well. This is because you are not even remotely prepared for it. You cannot go from the couch to the track and expect things to go smoothly!

To be ready for the marathon – some distance in the future – preparation begins well before. The first movements begin small so as to build up an ability and natural inclination to meet the demand of what is coming. A habit and discipline is developed over time, and through practice of thereof.

The oil in the lamps is like this. Indeed, the Oil is a symbol of the Spirit. We are given the Holy Spirit, but we are required to obey the Spirit and thus expand our capacity for receiving Him more. Saint Paul even warns us, that we are able to "quench" the Spirit (1 Thess 5:19).

When we see through this lens, it becomes clear why the wise virgins could not share their oil. They are literally unable to. One cannot borrow another's relationship with God, or the receptiveness to the Grace of the Holy Spirit given to them. Rather, each must cultivate their own relationship with God. ... no one can do it for you!

In the Acts of the Apostles we hear that a man named Simon, observing the apostles laying hands upon the sick and calling down the Holy Spirit, was arrogantly 'unwise' enough to think he could buy this "power" (Acts 8:9-24). Yet this power only came through the disciples' relationship with Jesus and the office he had conferred on them in *their* personal response to this relationship; a gift of the Holy Spirit, from their bond with God in the Church.

So the foolish bridesmaids, at the last minute, lacking the oil of the Spirit go off to get some. Notice however, the text does not say that they return with oil. They simply show up at the wedding and want in. But they cannot come in, because they still do not have the oil of the Spirit. They have not in any way prepared themselves for a relationship with the Bridegroom any more than the bloke on the couch has prepared himself for the Marathon.

Perhaps this parable is so difficult and challenging for many, simply because it holds us to account. Nobody can do it for you. You have to do it yourself. And the Good God gives us every chance and grace to do so.

You are responsible for your own soul... the Lord never deprives us of the Holy Spirit, in preparing us for the kingdom. You and I alone, are responsible to the faith offered to us by Christ.

Fr Trenton.

NOTICES

PARISH MINISTRIES

Director of Music
Ms Jaki Kane

RCIA
Miss Becky Langworthy
Contact Office

School of Religion
Miss Chiara Catanzariti

Youth Ministers
Mr Andre Le
youth.cathedral@cg.org.au

Weekly Liturgical Calendar

Mon Nov 13 32nd Week in Ord. Time
Tues Nov 14 32nd Week in Ord. Time
Wed Nov 15 32nd Week in Ord. Time
Thu. Nov 16 32nd Week in Ord. Time
Fri. Nov 17 32nd Week in Ord. Time
St Elizabeth of Hungary
Sat. Nov 18 32nd Week in Ord. Time
Sun Nov 19 33rd SUNDAY ORD.TIME

PARISH GROUPS

St Vincent de Paul

Good Shepherd Prayer Group
Wednesday at 7pm SPC
Parish Room (Feb-Dec)

Christian Meditation
Saturday at 4:30pm SPC

Other Communities

Spanish Community
First Sunday of the month at
11.30am SPC

African Community
Second Sunday of the month at
11.45am SPC begins Feb.

Filipino Community
First Sunday bi-monthly at
5.00pm SPC

For details of any of the above, contact the Parish Office.

NOVEMBER PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Blessed are you, Lord our God, lover of souls, you uphold us in life and sustain us in death: to you be glory and praise for ever! For the darkness of this age is passing away as Christ the bright and morning star brings to his saints the light of life. As you give light to those in darkness who walk in the shadow of death so remember in your kingdom your faithful servants, that death may be for them the gate to life and to unending fellowship with you; where with your saints, you live and reign, one in the perfect union of love now and for ever. Amen.

NOVEMBER MASS OFFERING ENVELOPES available at Church exits. Completed envelopes can be returned on collection plates or to the parish office. Please print clearly.

CLERGY ASSEMBLY 2023—MONDAY 13-17 NOVEMBER. Please be aware there will be No 5:30pm Mass held at St Peter Chanel's on the 14 Nov, 6pm Confession at St Christopher's on 16 Nov and No Adoration from 13-17 Nov. The Cathedral Mass times will remain the same.

RED WEDNESDAY—MASS FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS— Will be held at the 12:15pm Mass on Wednesday 22nd November at the Cathedral.

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S BOOK OF LIFE INSCRIPTIONS — Parishioners seeking to have names of deceased loved ones inscribed in the *Cathedral's perpetual Book of Life*, located in the Cathedral *All Souls Chapel*, are asked to make an offering of \$30 per name to the Parish Office by **November 12**. Each name is beautifully inscribed in calligraphy. The *Chapel* is open daily, for quiet prayer.

Catechesis with Fr. Alex — The last session will be held Monday 20th Nov 6:30-8pm at Haydon Hall, food and wine provided. The topic will be on **The End of the World**

TWILIGHT MASS FOR DECEASED CHILDREN – Twilight Mass for all those who have lost babies (including the unborn) & children, will be held **Friday the 24th of November, 6:30pm**, Saint Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla. If you have lost a child of any age, you are invited to record their name on cards available on the night. On the evening you are invited to light a candle to place before the altar.

Vigil Mass – Saint Peter Chanel's Yarralumla, 6pm Mass— Friends, in recent years the number of parishioners and visitors attending the 6pm Vigil Mass at SPC has slowly declined, while numbers at the five other Masses in the parish have increased. For this reason we have decided that the 6pm Vigil Mass will cease to be offered at the end of December 2023. The Saturday 5pm Vigil Mass will continue to be offered at the Cathedral.

I understand that this inevitable decision will come as a disappointment to many who have attended Mass at this time for some years. Of course, the 930am Mass on Sundays will remain.

I thank you most graciously for your understanding.

ST BENEDICT'S CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER — All are invited to come and enjoy live music, singing Christmas carols from our St Benedict's music ministry. Food, fun and prizes to be won! Sunday **December 3rd 11am - 3pm**, held in St Benedict's School Hall (opposite church) \$15 a ticket (family passes available) Tickets can be purchased online <https://www.trybooking.com/CMZZP> All proceeds to be given to St Benedict's Church. Donations welcome.

NOTICES

Giving and Receiving— Direct debit and QKR options are available, as well as TapnGo machines Thank you sincerely for your generosity. If you are able, perhaps consider donating to 1st and 2nd collection via direct debit .
The First collection: contributes to clergy of the Archdiocese. If you make an offering through direct debit, please include that you are a parishioner of the Cathedral Parish.

BSB: 062-786 Account Name: CATHEDRAL
Bank Account: 000029248 Reference: FORREST & SURNAME

The Second collection: contributes to parish mission and maintenance. If you would like to give and are not currently registered for Planned Giving, please deposit into the following bank account:

BSB: 062786 Account Name: St Christopher's Cathedral
Bank Account: 000015080 Reference: Planned Giving # and Surname (only current Planned Givers);
or Donation (parishioners not registered Planned Givers).

For more information or to set up monthly payments via direct debit, please contact the Parish Office. For step by step Qkr! instructions, visit cgcatholic.org.au/2016/10/something-beautiful-god/

Thank you for your generosity

Synod of Bishops: English Translation of the Synthesis Report— The Synthesis Report from the recent Synod has been released. For those interested, the report can be found on the Cathedral website.

CARETAXI: SAFE CHURCH TRANSPORT— Mass, Medical/GP appointments, shopping trips, recreational trips, and more; qualified and caring drivers. Visit caretaxi.com.au, or 0451 734 334.

Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal— An estimated 1 million people have been displaced in Gaza with immediate food, shelter & health needs. With your support, we will be able to help our partners on the ground to assist people displaced and affected by the current conflict. You can donate online www.caritas.org.au/gaza or phone 1800 024 413

VINNIES VOLUNTEERS NEEDED— for the **St Vincent de Paul Emergency Relief Helpline** at Yarralumla. Duties include answering calls and taking requests. Training included, in a friendly, supportive environment. Hours to suit you. For more information, please call the helpline 62822722

Loreto Ex Students' Reunion— in Canberra Saturday, **16 March 2024** For further details: loreto.canberra@gmail.com

MAGI PILGRIMAGES— You are invited to an 18-day pilgrimage with Fr Maria Raju, from 23rd Sept—9th Oct 2024. The pilgrimage features Fatima, Lourdes, Turin, Milan, Padua, Venice, Florence, Assisi, Rotondo and Rome for an all-inclusive price of \$8790. The fare includes Return Economy Airfares + Local Transfers in Deluxe coaches + Stay in Premium Hotels + All Breakfasts & Dinners + Catholic Priest + English speaking professional guides. For enquiries & bookings call 03 8839 6615 or 1300 721 561 or email us pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au



Year of the Holy Spirit

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE

O God, who by the light
Of the Holy Spirit,
Did instruct the hearts
Of the faithful,
Grant that by the same
Holy Spirit we may be
truly wise and ever rejoice in His
consolations.
Through the same
Christ our Lord

Amen.

AUGUST 2023—AUGUST 2024

We pray for...

Those to be baptised: Thomas and Zoe Dejong, Darcy Maxwell, Cooper Kilmister, Evelyn Walsh.

Those who are ill: Margaret "Peggy" Byrnes, Archie Ferris, Tony Dickins, Catherine Cleary, Marilena Damiano Fr Greg Beath, Sophy Jacob, Alla Skorokhodova, Tony Kelly, Susie Menadue, Geraldene Ford, Kevin & Geraldine Conlon, Maja Marija Olip, McKenzie Killian, Fr Bill, Leung Man Kon, Beryl Johnson, Florencio Fariña, Alejandra Martinez, Colliss Parrett, Arianna Vignale, Stella Lazar, Rod Duncan, Paul Mychailuk, Kalum, Nicholas Dyne.

Anniversaries of death: Anna Maria Murphy, Barbara Crossin, Gerald Billings, Dorothy Simmons, Ken O'Toole, Paul Webber, Mario Damo, Shane Christopher Greenwood, Maurizio Scarpino, Milka Fink, Lady Nora Randall, Gladys Robertson, Alma Back, Molly Broash, Anna Murphy, Joan Pederson, Gaetano De Simone, Giulio Pantano, Frank Colvin, Mary Roots, Alison Waldren, Michael (Jock) McGuigan, Blair Brookes, Thomas Green, Alyson Edwards, Vincenzo Bimonte, John Robertson, Margaret Frawley, Tan Roberts, Garry O'Donnell, John Gallagher, David Cusack, Aurelio Biurra, Ray & Betty Fry, Philomena D'Cruze

Recently Deceased: Don Debus, Raymond Anthony, Kevin Bray, Colin Dwyer, Anita Ong-Siong Sy, Mgr Rob Egar, Rosa Mustapic, Pamela Rotmwell, Norma May, Ethel Lee, Francesco Calabria, Domenico Mico, Anton Sampath, Michael Miley, Fr Brian Gleeson CP



Cathedral QR code

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

Responsorial: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Be watchful and ready: you know not when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia!

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

First Reading

Wisdom 6:12-16

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 understating 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.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

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.

Gospel

Mt 25: 1-13

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 of them 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.’

READERS ROSTER NOVEMBER

Lectors

Eucharistic Ministers

Mass	Lectors		Eucharistic Ministers	
	11/12 Nov	18/19 Nov	11/12 Nov	18/19 Nov
5.00pm (SCC)	Crystal Lavien Becky Langworthy	Dorilyn Desuyo Ruth Meadows		
6.00pm (SPC)	Tarinya Hannedege	Felicity de Fombelle Fiona Wheeler		
8.00am (SCC)	Louise Zavone Joe Zavone	Stewart Unwin Dione Smith		
9.30am (SPC)	Wanda Kaucz Raphael Molu	Raphael Molu Tarinya Hannedege		
11.00am (SCC)	Jacqueline Hipwell Bianca Goh	Cecilia Flores Jacqui Ramesh	Bronwen Grey Mark Hyman	Edwina Hyman Bronwen Grey
5.00pm (SCC)	Rebekah O’Meagher Jacob Madden	Samuel Thatcher Sarah Miron		

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