



Cathedral QR code

St Christopher's Cathedral Parish, Canberra

(including St Peter Chanel's Church, Yarralumla)



33rd Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Year A -
15 Nov 2020

Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn
Archbishop: Most Rev Christopher Prowse DD STD
Vicar General: Fr Tony Percy VG
Administrator: Fr Trenton van Reesch
Assistant Priest: Fr Norvin Dias

Masses at St Christopher's
will be offered with a maxi-
mum of 139 people present
until further notice

PARISH OFFICE

55 Franklin Street, Forrest ACT 2603 (02) 6239 9846 (bh) Emergency Phone for Priests: 0491 072 304
cathedral@cg.org.au www.cg.org.au/cathedral
Online Payments Link: <https://www.bpoint.com.au/payments/sccp>
Parish Secretary: Michelle O'Connor—Mon-Fri, 8.30am-12.15pm, 12.45pm-4.30pm
Accounts Officer: Karina Widjaja—Friday, 8am-4pm

Sunday Mass

St Christopher's

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

Sat. Vigil: 5.00pm

Sunday: 8.00am,
11.00am (livestreamed),
5.30pm

St Peter Chanel's

Cnr Weston & Loch Streets,
Yarralumla ACT

Saturday: 6.00pm Vigil

Sunday: 9.30am
2.00-3.00pm Adoration
& Confessions

Weekday Mass

St Christopher's

Monday to Friday: 7.30am &
12.15pm

Saturday: 9.00am & 12.15pm

St Peter Chanel's

Tuesday: 5.30pm

Thursday: 10.00am (9.30am
Adoration): Anointing Mass first
Thursday of the month.

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

Tuesday to Friday: 5.00-6.00pm

Baptisms

Sundays: 12.30pm

Weddings

St Christopher's: Saturday

1.30pm & 3.00pm

St Peter Chanel's: By arrangement

Dear parishioners and visitors to Saint Christopher's parish,

Today marks the Fourth **World Day of the Poor**, this year's theme coming from the book of Sirach, "Stretch forth your hand to the poor". On this day Pope Francis reminds us to keep our gaze fixed on the marginalised, especially during the pandemic, warning us against surrendering to a "whirlwind of indifference". He speaks particularly of the gift of *generosity* "[which] supports the weak, consoles the afflicted, relieves suffering and restores dignity... a condition for a fully human life." At the same time, the Pope recognises that "keeping our gaze fixed on the poor is difficult", but underlines, that it is "more necessary than ever if we are to give proper direction to our personal life and the life of society." "The power of God's grace" he concludes, "cannot be restrained by the selfish tendency to put ourselves always first." We must stretch out to the other!

How providential that today we hear in the Gospel, the Parable of the Talents. Three servants are given a different number of 'talents', and are tasked with making a return on their master's investment. Upon the masters return he checks to see what his servants have done with what was distributed to them. To his delight man with five has doubled his share! The last however has done nothing. And then comes the devastating moral point of the story which has confounded many for centuries. "To the one who has much, more will be given until he becomes rich... and to the one who has least, even what He has will be taken from Him." This seems entirely unfair, such a 'cut-throat', venture-capitalist approach to life. However, the parable goes much deeper than first impressions indicate. What could this parable possibly be speaking of?

A point to be aware of is the perhaps unfortunate confusion generated by the term 'talent' as understood in the contemporary sense, and its use in the time when this parable was spoken. The word *talent* comes from the Greek word *talanton* which means a measure of something particularly weighty, usually silver or gold. The gold talent was reported as weighing roughly the same as a person.

What we might typically miss then, the people of Christ's time did not; and that is that a talent was something *exceedingly weighty*. Such a reference in the parable would have recalled in the Jewish mind the heaviest weight of all, the *kabod* of Yahweh. That is, the *Glory of God*. And where was the Glory of God house, but in the Temple, sitting upon what was known as the *Mercy Seat*, in the Holy of Holies.

From this we begin to see that the three servants in the parable aren't so much given a personal gift or 'talent' as we understand the term today, but rather a share in *God's Mercy*. The servants are granted a participation in the weightiness of divine love. And since mercy is always directed toward the other, these talents too were gifted *for the other*. The more mercy given, the more expected of the individual. The weakness then of the last servant who buried the talent, was not that he did not cherish, nor deserve the gift given to him, but that he fundamentally misunderstood the nature of the gift, keeping it to himself.

And so we see that this isn't a parable about some capitalist investment program, but about understanding the gift of mercy which we have been given. The divine Mercy exists only in Gift form. Mercy gives itself away and thus when you 'spend' the divine mercy, the *Kabod*, the weight of God – it only increases in you. It doubles, it triples, and comes back 30, 60, 100 fold.

The one thing we cannot do with the divine Mercy, is hang onto it, as our possession. For when we do, we simply lose it! Let us then 'stretch forth our hand' to those we know, in these days more than ever; the hand of comfort, kindness, witness, and love. But above all, the hand of Mercy.

PARISH NEWS

PARISH MINISTRIES

Director of Music

Jaki Kane

RCIA

Contact office to register your interest for next RCIA program.

School of Religion

Youth Minister

Chiara Catanzariti

Email: chiara.catanzariti@cg.org.au

Weekly Liturgical Calendar

Mon 16 Nov 33rd week in Ordinary time

Tue 17 Nov St Elizabeth of Hungary, religious

Wed 18 Nov 33rd week in Ordinary time

Thu 19 Nov 33rd week in Ordinary time

Fri 20 Nov Day of Penance

Sat 21 Nov Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sun 22 Nov Our Lord Jesus Christ, King Of the Universe

Legion of Mary

(In Recess at the moment)

Contact: 0431 060 556

St Vincent de Paul

Assisting people in need and combatting social injustice in our community

Adventurers Youth Group

(primary school age)

Sundays, 8.45am SPC

Good Shepherd Prayer Group

Wednesday at 7pm SPC

Parish Room (Feb-Dec)

Christian Meditation

Saturday at 5pm 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

Filipino Community

First Sunday bi-monthly at 5.00pm SPC

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

**PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE OR REPOSITION
'SIT HERE' SIGNS ON THE PEWS.**

NOVEMBER MASS OFFERING ENVELOPES are found amongst your Planned Giving Envelopes and at the Church exits. Completed envelopes can be placed on either collection box, placed in the baskets in front of the altar dropped into the parish office. Please print clearly.

Sunday 18th November—WORLD DAY OF THE POOR: "Stretch forth your hand to the poor" (Sir 7: 32). Age-old wisdom has proposed these words as a sacred rule to be followed in life. Today these words remain as timely as ever. They help us fix our gaze on what is essential and overcome the barriers of indifference. Poverty always appears in a variety of guises...In all of these, we have an opportunity to encounter the Lord Jesus, who has revealed himself as present in the least of his brothers and sisters (cf. Mt 25:40). The Holy Fathers Message <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2020/06/13/200613d.html>

Child Protection Training and Protocols Evening: 8 Dec, 6.30pm, Haydon Hall. Maria Hicks, IPSS Manager, has been invited to lead us through the latest protocols. **ALL** those who perform ministries in the parish are required to attend. Maria's presentation will be opened up to all parish ministries. Please RSVP to cathedral@cg.org.au or 6239 9846.

Request for Covid Marshalls for weekend Masses— The parish office is requesting volunteers who can ensure the correct procedure is followed. This would require arriving 30 minutes early and inspecting each sign in. If you are able to assist, please contact the parish office with your details either by phoning 6239 9846 or email cathedral@cg.org.au.

St Christopher's Book of Life Inscriptions: Parishioners seeking to have the names of deceased loved ones inscribed in the Cathedral's perpetual Book of Life, located in the All Souls Chapel at the back of the Cathedral, are asked to make an offering of \$30 per name to the Parish Office by 20 Nov. Each name is beautifully inscribed in calligraphy. The All Souls Chapel is open daily for quiet, prayerful remembrance.

Entry to the Cathedral only through front doors for the next month: A Scaffolding ramp has been erected at the front of the Cathedral for access. This is required due to repairs to the bell tower roof which will commence next Monday. For safety reasons the Franklin Street access will be closed until work is completed. The Chapel door will only be used as an emergency exit. Work will be complete in 4-5 weeks. We apologise for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): RCIA is the journey through which those who have an interest in the Catholic faith may explore the possibility of becoming Catholic. It is also for those who simply wish to learn and grow more. Contact Cathedral Office to express interest. Sessions continue 19 Nov in the Parish Office.

Vinnies Giving Tree Christmas Appeal: This year we are seeking to help once again those families in need through the donation of gifts and non-perishable food items. Considering the immeasurable impacts of COVID-19, the need this year is greater than ever. Our parish giving tree will be erected soon in preparation for the Christmas season.

Save the date for Parish Christmas Party on Friday 11 December 2020

Youth Group—Next group meeting will be on Sunday 15 Nov. Enquiries to Chiara—chiara.catanzariti@cg.org.au

Young Adults HOME Group (18-35yrs) – Wednesdays, till November 11th (6- 7.30pm). Enquiries to Chiara—chiara.catanzariti@cg.org.au

New ways of Giving

- Direct Debit
- Qkr app
- Tap & Go
- Collection Point

More information:
www.cg.org.au/cathedral
or contact Parish office
6239 9846.

OTHER NEWS

Mass live streamed from the St Christopher's Cathedral. Sunday at 11:00am. The congregation will be filmed during the livestreaming. <https://www.catholicvoice.org.au/mass-online/>

PRESENT PROTOCOLS - Please be familiar with current guidelines

- In accordance with government restrictions, only 139 people are permitted in the Cathedral at any one time. Entry to Mass will be through one door.
- ALL PARISHIONERS & VISITORS MUST sign in upon entry. Records are securely stored and destroyed after 28 days.
- All attendees (including children) must complete the Mass Register prior to entry.
- Communion is received in the hand only & not under the species of the Precious Blood.
- Physical distancing rules still apply—respecting the 4sqm p/p rule.
- Please sit where there is a 'Please sit here' marker. Every 2nd pew is closed. NB: Families can sit together.
- Please use hand sanitiser upon entry and clean your pew/space with the wipes provided.
- There will be no physical contact at the sign of peace.
- No collection plates are in use, but money/envelopes can be deposited at collection points.
- Please DO NOT return your bulletin to the basket, but keep or dispose of appropriately. **Please maintain social distancing 1.5m, at all times, including in the single line formed to receive Holy Communion.** Blue squares and yellow markers on the tiles indicate these distances. Thank you for your commitment in keeping everyone safe.



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/call Roger 0431 995 058/palms@palms.org.au

Jesus Laughing & Loving exhibition—12 Nov—5 Dec, 10.30am-3.30pm, ACCC Chapel, 15 Blackall St, Barton. Exhibited around the world from 34 artists. *"This exhibition is a step towards liberating the person of Jesus from the traditional other-worldly image so that his power and relevance for modern living might be rediscovered and enjoyed"* Rev Tim Costello AO

High School Retreat—20-21 Nov. St Benedict's Church Narrabundah. Explosion Youth Presents: **SANCTIFY** an end of year retreat for young people in grades 10-12. Join us for a weekend of games, music, prayer, dramas, and more! Cost: \$45. Info/register: explosionyouth.org and follow us on instagram @explosionyouth_

Christmas Stall—28-29 Nov, 8am-5pm, Calvary Hospital Auxiliary will hold its annual Christmas Stall at Belconnen Fresh Food Markets with a huge range of Christmas gifts and homemade goodies will be available. All proceeds will go towards the purchase of equipment and items for the comfort of Calvary Public Hospital patients. Phone Pat 0403 797 192.

St Vinnies request for Christmas Holiday volunteers—Are you looking for an opportunity to help people in need? Vinnies shops need short-term volunteers to help us during our busiest time of year. Min. 4 hours/day; volunteer period 21 Dec-2 Feb. If you are interested, please call 0407 905 217, email volunteer.cg@vinnies.org.au or drop into your local Vinnies. You can find your nearest Vinnies shop by visiting www.vinnies.org.au/shops

Catholic Book Shop—Adore—Advent & Christmas Daily Reflections 2020 booklet. Advent is such a busy time of year and we can so easily forget that—at its heart, it is a time of preparation, waiting and hope for the coming of Jesus into our world and lives. This pocket size book will enhance your daily reflections. Only \$5 at the Canberra Catholic Bookshop; open Mon-Fri 9.30am-5pm; Sat 9am-1pm (starting 21 Nov), 55 Franklin Street, Forrest (6239 9888). As well as books, we offer a wide range of piety goods, from icons to candles to sacramental gifts, and now beautiful Christmas Season gifts, Christmas cards and Nativity scenes have arrived for purchase—so we hope you will come and visit us.



Engaged Encounter Retreat—20-21 Feb 2021. How prepared are you for marriage? Engaged Encounter provides you with deeper insights into each other and into married life. For further information visit: www.engagedencounter.org.au.

Masses for the Holy Souls—During the month of November Aid to the Church in Need is encouraging the faithful to arrange Masses on behalf of loved ones and for the souls that have nobody to pray for them. Find out more: www.aidtochurch.org/november

Gifts of Faith—A Gift of Faith is a Christmas present given in place of a material gift. One can arrange multiple Gifts of Faith for children, grandchildren, godchildren, siblings, cousins, co-workers, friends and parishioners. Find out more: www.thatcatholicshop.com/giftsofffaith

A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

Dear Lord, I believe in the presence of Your Body and Blood in the Eucharistic celebration of the Last Supper. Since I cannot receive You Sacramentally, I embrace You Spiritually into my heart. Never permit me to be separated from you. My Lord and my God. Amen.

We pray for...

Those to be baptised: Alessandro Rao

Those to be married: Kara Monterosso & Ruwan Perera

Those who are ill: Arianna Vignale, Lucy Duncan, Stella Lazar, Rod Duncan, Anthony, David Kibbey, Frank Boyle, Paul Mychailuk, Kalum

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, John 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 Belmonte, Margaret Frawley, Tan Roberts, Garry O'Donnell, John Gallagher, David Cusack, Raymond Fry, Jeremiah Lynch

Recently Deceased: Curtis Holland (USA), Lino Farronato, Gerald Byrnes, EPrain Barbary, Muriel Morgan, Dominic McKeown, Leena Lemley, Lou Westende, Shirley Cummings (nee Deane), Brian F Savage, Joan Ophel, John Kovacic, Geraldine Lawler, Barbara Develin, Beirut explosion victims, Tom Hallahan,

Readings of the Day – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time —Year A

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.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: *Happy are those who fear the Lord.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Alleluia, alleluia! Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit. Alleluia!*

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: *To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.*

First Reading

Prv 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-31

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.

Second Reading

1 Thes 5:1-6

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, 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 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 darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober

Gospel Reading

Mt 25:14-30

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."

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LITURGICAL MINISTRIES ROSTER

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Lectors			Extraordinary Ministers of Eucharist	
Mass	14/15 Nov	21/22 Nov		
5.00pm (SCC)	Leeann Galloway Gabrielle Wright	Ruth Meadows Eleanor Noorli	n/a	n/a
6.00pm (SPC)	Felicity de Fombelle Fiona Wheeler	Wanda Kaucz Marcelle Disanayake	n/a	n/a
8.00am (SCC)	Assigned Scott Pobihun	Joe Zavone Louise Zavone	n/a	n/a
9.30am (SPC)	Gloria Osborne Jaye Longland	Dominic Chin Clarice Poh	n/a	n/a
11.00am (SCC)	Ceciley Matthews Jacqueline Hipwell	Leeann Galloway Bronwen Grey	n/a	n/a
5.30pm (SCC)	Liz Porra Rebekah O'Meahger	Gabrielle Wright Jacob Madden	n/a	n/a

St Christopher's Cathedral Parish encompasses the areas of Barton, Causeway, Deakin, Forrest, Fyshwick, Griffith, Kingston, Manuka, Parkes, Red Hill, Yarralumla