

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 understanding 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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 62

For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

1 O God, you are my God, for you I long:
for you my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water.

2 So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise.

3. So 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,
my mouth shall praise you with joy.

4. On my bed, I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help:
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (or 4:13-14)

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.

Alleluia, alleluia! Stay awake and stand ready, because you do not know the hour when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 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 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".

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St Anthony of Padua



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Deacons: Rev. John Kilshaw (07759 943667)

Rev. Tom Butler (retired - 07853777957)

Sunday Masses: 6.00 (Vigil - Saturday Evening) 9.30am, 5.00pm (Sunday Morning)

Weekday Mass: Mon-Wed, Fri: 9.15am. (Thurs 9.15am at Holy Family)

Confessions: on request

Annexe: 725544

Social Centre: 735963

Primary school: 726621

Playgroup/Preschool 07963 700591

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Readiness

The context of today's gospel is the in-between time of Jesus' Ascension and the awaiting of his coming again, which his followers thought to be imminent. So the question of how to live in this in-between time – and always - is what this parable is speaking about. Keeping in mind that symbolic language seems to be Jesus' preferred way of teaching spiritual realities, we could understand the oil to symbolise living in readiness and this oil is also clearly a metaphor for something that we and only we can do, that someone else can't do for us and can't give us. [1] "The oil symbolises our own distinctive inner connection to the Source of eternal life. The truth of this oil is: you have to have your own. One cannot develop spiritually by taking the consciousness and action of another as your own." [2] So it is not that the wise virgins are selfish and refuse to share their oil; it's that it simply cannot be done.

Today's gospel begins, "The Kingdom of heaven is like this" and it is a way of Jesus describing what he meant when on another occasion he said, "The Kingdom of God is within you." We experience the kingdom of heaven within us when we live out of the same consciousness and mindset as Christ, and our actions flow from that same place. When we live "in Christ," (to use the phrase St. Paul uses 164 times), we are rooted in that spiritual Source which sustains us when circumstances in our life become difficult or when what we hope and long for never seems to come. In our parable, these difficult life circumstances and delayed hopes are symbolised by the fact that the bridegroom is delayed in coming, and night has fallen. [3] When we continually let go of what dims the light within us (when we trim the wicks) we will experience a deepening of our oneness with the true Source of life and light.

Each one of us makes our own journey; each one of us 'meets the Bridegroom' in our unique wonder-filled moments that come our way. We cannot make that journey for anyone else. [4] No one can make that journey for us.

Adapted from: [1] Martha Kirkpatrick [2] John Shea

[3] <https://christchurchanoncity.weebly.com/> [4] Daniel O' Leary

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

8th November 2020

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DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 7th November 2020

Sat		Private intention	
Sun		Mary Pamela Hatch Bogumila Osmokiewicz For our parish	<i>32nd Sunday of the Year</i>
Mon		Molly & Ernie Hindle	<i>Dedication of Lateran Basilica</i>
Tue 10.30 11.00am	<i>H.Family St. Ant</i>	Funeral Mass: Margaret Curry Funeral Service: Joseph Dugdale	<i>Feast: St. Leo the great</i>
Wed		Robbie & Patsy Hasson	<i>Feast: St. Martin of Tours</i>
Thur		The Byrne family	<i>Feast: St. Josaphat</i>
Fri		Dennis Long	
Sat		For our parish	<i>Feast: St.</i>
Sun		Patrick Bolger In thanks for safe birth	<i>33rd Sunday of the Year</i>

Last Weekend: Attendance 127. (6pm 47, 9.30am 43, 5pm 37.) Offertory £520.36.
World Mission Sunday £50.50. Sick & Retired Priests: £54.50.
Thank you for your continued generosity.

BIDDING PRAYERS

We pray for Francis our Pope, for Bishop Paul and all bishops, priests, Religious and all believers, that we may bear steadfast and faithful witness to the risen Christ and be ready to greet Him when He comes again.

We pray for all who have died in war and armed conflicts, both those on active service in defence of their country or those caught up in the fighting. May we never forget or take for granted their great sacrifice.

We pray for our parish community and for all Christian communities in our city and region, that we may all bear the renewed period of lockdown and isolation with fortitude and trust, strong in the hope that we may soon be able to gather together once more in the presence of the Lord.

We pray for the sick and the housebound of our parish and for those who care for them, particularly: Bill Embery, Lawrence Dunnagan, Betty Murphy, John Myerscough and Alice Myerscough, Chris Goldsmith, Frank Stanton, Marie Gardner, Joan Green, Carole Adnitt, Frances & Les Farrer.

Pray for those who have died recently: Joseph Dugdale, Anthony Thistlethwaite, John Gardner; Margaret Curry, Patrick Bolger;

... and for those whose anniversaries are around now: Jim Sheldon, Mary Jones, Patricia & Robbie Hasson, Harold Mark Bradley, Norman Green, Mark Dey. Lucy Swarbrick, John Twine, Margaret Turner, Keith Yates, Monica Jackson, Alison Taylor, Helen Proctor. May they rest in peace.

Remembrance Sunday 8th November 11.00am

Remembrance Service: Preston City Council will not hold a public commemoration Service. Instead they will film the service and stream it on the council website www.preston.gov.uk. People are encouraged to stand for a two-minute silence on their doorstep.

Today's Virtual 'Coffee Morning' Same log in details: on Zoom at 11.00am. Log in: Meeting ID: 819 8015 2432 Passcode: 879577

Masses received this week: Mollie & Ernie Hindle, Denis Long, Robbie & Patsy Hasson, The Byrne family, Paddy Bolger.

Lockdown. Sadly for the safety and protection of parishioners all public Services have again been suspended. Our church will be open for private prayer (with Exposition) as follows: Mon & Wed: 10am-11am; Fri 5pm-6pm; Sat & Sun: 11am-12noon. Fr. Peter and Fr. John will offer Mass every morning but this has to be in private.
- There will a Newsletter every weekend as usual. Copies will be in church but if you would like one by e-mail send your e-mail address to parish.priest2@btinternet.com

Mass At Christmas We are still hopeful of celebrating Mass at Christmas as planned but we will obviously have to take things as they come.

Baptisms are now restricted to six people and Weddings to 15 people

Preston Faith Forum

Interfaith Week 2020 in Preston: 8th - 15th November. There are a series of events throughout the week, mainly on zoom or facebook. For events elsewhere in the UK please see <https://www.interfaithweek.org/events/calendar>

Safeguarding.

We've been asked to print the following notice:

On Tuesday, the Independent Inquiry into Child Abuse (IICSA), will publish its report into the Catholic Church in England and Wales. Whilst the Church with its different dioceses and religious orders will be the focus of the report, our hearts go out to anyone who has suffered abuse in a Church setting. Such acts represent a gross breach of trust and are truly reprehensible. We acknowledge that victims and survivors have usually endured years of pain, made worse by the failures to listen and respond to their voices. We anticipate the report will make many recommendations to the Church. The Bishops and the institutes of consecrated life and societies of apostolic life in England and Wales have already commissioned an independent review of our Catholic safeguarding arrangements, especially at national level. This has been undertaken under the leadership of Ian Elliot, a renowned safeguarding consultant. His report is also due to be published soon. The following are places which offer support and advice:

- 1) Safe Spaces, which is run by Victim Support on behalf of the Catholic and Anglican churches, is for anyone who feels they have experienced Church-related abuse of any form in England or Wales (whether this is in the past or is happening now). A confidential telephone helpline and live chat facility is available from Monday –Saturday from 10.00am –6.00pm (Thursdays 12.00-8.00pm). Telephone 0300 303 1056. Live Chat www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk
- 2)The Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator: Jane Robinson janer@lancasterrcdioocese.org.uk Telephone 07935 931947. All concerns and allegations regarding abuse in the Church should be reported here. It is national policy that all such reports are referred to the statutory authorities.