

# PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

## SUNDAY LITURGY

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A - 8 November 2020



**“Look, the bridegroom comes.  
Go out to meet him.”**

### Something to Think About

Jesus reminds his disciples to 'Be ready!' Some of the bridesmaids in today's story were extra prepared, but they did not share with those who had less. God gives each person gifts to use for their own benefit but also to help others. God's kingdom calls us to be generous and compassionate, not to selfishly hold onto our surplus goods and gifts.

### The Story

In today's gospel, ten bridesmaids all took their lamps ... but only five of them took extra oil. The bridegroom was late and the lamps needed to burn for longer than expected. The bridesmaids who took extra oil could keep their lamps lit. It is these women that the gospel calls 'wise'. The five who did not bring extra oil were called 'foolish'. They asked for help from those who had plenty - but were refused. They then went out, in the middle of the night and somehow, somewhere found more oil. But while they were gone, the groom arrived and the doors to the wedding were closed.

### The Scriptures

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 25:1-13**

Jesus told his disciples this story about the kingdom of heaven:

"The kingdom of heaven is like what happened one night when ten girls took their oil lamps and went to a wedding to meet the groom. Five of the girls were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps, but no extra oil. The ones who were wise took along extra oil for their lamps. "The groom was late arriving, and the girls became drowsy and fell asleep. Then in the middle of the night someone shouted,

'Here's the groom! Come to meet him!'

"When the girls got up and started getting their lamps ready, the foolish ones said to the others, 'Let us have some of your oil! Our lamps are going out.'

"The girls who were wise answered, 'There's not enough oil for all of us! Go and buy some for yourselves'.

"While the foolish girls were on their way to get some oil, the groom arrived.

The girls who were ready went into the wedding, and the doors were closed.

Later the other girls returned and shouted, 'Sir, Sir! Open the door for us!'

"But the groom replied, 'I don't even know you!'

"So, my disciples, always be ready! You don't know the day or the time when all this will happen."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Video

Click to watch the video.

[Friend of God](#)



## Group Discussion

Since the bridegroom was late in arriving, five of the women ran out of oil for their lamps. Had the groom been on time, all the women would have had enough oil. These unexpected things happen in life!

In today's world - who would parallel the five 'wise' women? Who are the ones who have more than enough but who refuse to share? Could this be a reference to many first-world countries who, each year, destroy huge quantities of food - enough to feed the rest of the world?

And who would parallel the five 'foolish' women who were resourceful enough to go out and find a way to achieve their goal - because those who had plenty refused to share?

## Praying For Others

*Leader:* Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

*Reader:* We pray that our leaders will be fair and just. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* We pray for poor countries. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* We pray for those who die from hunger each day. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* We pray that we may willingly share our gifts with others. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

**All: Amen.**



## Prayer

Say this prayer together during the week.

## Group Activity

You will need: an empty gift box, pieces of paper, pens.

Place the gift box in the middle of the gathering space for all to see. Discuss the concept of gratitude - for living in a relatively safe country; for enjoying three meals a day; for peace, family, friends and a place to live.

Invite the children to write or draw some of their gifts on a piece of paper and place them in the gift box as a reminder of their willingness to share their gifts with others.





# ALWAYS BE READY!

**JESUS WANTS  
US TO BE GOOD  
SO THAT WE ARE  
ALWAYS READY  
TO MEET HIM.**

**IMAGINE YOU ARE  
HAVING A FEW FRIENDS  
FOR A SLEEP-OVER AT  
YOUR HOUSE.  
HOW WOULD YOU GET  
READY FOR YOUR  
VISITORS?**