

Catholic Parish of Walsingham

ST PETER, BLAKENEY ✕ ST HENRY WALPOLE, SJ, BURNHAM MARKET ✕ OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION, WALSINGHAM ✕ OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA, WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA

(1836)

Parish Mass Book, Readings & Prayers 152-154 Prayer of the Church, 4

THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY
YEAR OF ST MATTHEW
NOVEMBER 8TH, 2020

Several of Jesus' parables begin, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to..." Today's parable, however, begins, "The kingdom of heaven will be like.."; its future tense prompts us to turn our minds



to the *parousia*, the second coming of Christ. We know very little about wedding customs in first century Palestine but from this parable we can gather that part of the event took place privately, perhaps contractual arrangements between families, before the wedding feast at the end of the day. The young women in the story seem to be waiting to escort the bridegroom in a torchlight procession towards the banquet. Presumably the girls are keen to participate both in the procession and in the banquet – especially the banquet. It is the banquet, the eschatological banquet, that we too, as Christ's disciples, have set our hearts on. It is strange that the last line admonishes us to 'stay awake'. All the girls in the story fell asleep. What distinguishes the wise from the foolish girls is not their wakefulness but their foresight: they had brought along sufficient

oil to feed their torches even if, as turned out to be the case, the bridegroom was delayed. We are being encouraged to make adequate provision to meet Christ whenever he might come again. The story takes us back to an earlier part of the gospel narrative. "It is not anyone who says to me 'Lord, 'Lord' who will enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 7:21-27) There we are told that, "Those who listen to these words of mine and act on them," are like a sensible man who built his house on rock." The girls who brought enough oil are likewise called sensible. In order to welcome the Kingdom of God, for the coming of which we pray daily, we must listen to and act upon Christ's words, words of him who is the Word of God made flesh. What we must do to welcome Christ when he comes again is the same. If we forget to listen, or forget to act on what we hear then, like the foolish girls who brought no oil, when we cry out, "Lord, Lord", the dreadful reply: "I do not know you" will ring in our ears. Some say the wise girls could have helped the foolish ones. If this were just a story of everyday life rather than a parable they might well have done so. But the story is not really about oil. It is about keeping in mind the promise of a *parousia*, and making provision for it by hearing and keeping the word of God. This is something we all must do for ourselves. We can, of course, develop an environment suffused with God's word where we can sleep the sleep of the just confident that, when we wake up, all will be well.

from FRATELLI TUTTI

"We are growing ever more distant from one another, while the slow and demanding march towards an increasingly united and just world is suffering a new and dramatic setback. To care for the world in which we live means to care for ourselves. Yet we need to think of ourselves more and more as a single family dwelling in a common home. Such care does not interest those economic powers that demand quick profits. Often the voices raised in defence of the environment are silenced or ridiculed, using apparently reasonable arguments that are merely a screen for special interests. In this shallow, short-sighted culture that we have created, bereft of a shared vision, "it is foreseeable that, once certain resources have been depleted, the scene will be set for new wars, albeit under the guise of noble claims".

[*Laudato Si'* (24 May 2015), 57] (16-17)

FINANCE

After six months of Coronavirus, our finances are beginning to suffer. The income from collections at Mass and fundraising is halved and there has been no income from the repository or candle sales, which amounts to around £3,000. I would ask those who do not already do so to consider supporting the parish by setting up a standing order. Please contact Terry, Dilys or Fr Keith for bank details.

"The bridegroom is here! go out and meet him"



REMEMBRANCE DAY

Wednesday November 11th is Remembrance Day and the nearest Sunday, November 8th is Remembrance Sunday. The government-led event will be closed this year but can be watched on television. Streamed requiem masses are available on the internet. We should not allow the remembrance of those who died in wars to slip our memories.

*What shall we pray for those who died,
Those on whose death our lives relied?
Silenced by war but not denied, God give them peace.*

LOCKDOWN

The British Government has imposed new measures to deal with the Covid 19 crisis. These will apply nationally for four weeks up to and including Wednesday 2 December.

It is permitted for an individual or family, “to attend a place of worship for individual prayer, a funeral or a related event for someone who has died, to visit a burial ground or a remembrance garden, or to attend a deathbed wedding. ”

It is not permitted for anyone, “to partake in communal, congregational or corporate worship (devotions/ worship/ service/ prayer led by a Minister of Religion or lay person, e.g. Evensong, informal prayer meetings, Jummah, **Mass** or Kirtan)2

CHURCH OPENING

Our Lady of the Annunciation, Walsingham:

Wach day, 10 – 11.30 Private Prayer

St Henry Walpole, Burnham Market:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 1030-1130 Private Prayer

FROM IGNITE

The Ignite Team are planning plenty of new online content over the coming months. Join us on YouTube for First Fridays, our NEW monthly online chat show which goes live on the First Friday of each month. And why not join young people across the Diocese for our Mass for Young People on the Second Saturday of each month? Streamed via our YouTube channel and coming in person to a church near you!

Follow us on Instagram and subscribe on YouTube to keep up to date with all we have to offer you: @igniteya

HOMELESS BOX CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

As the colder days approach let's make a special effort to help the homeless and those in need. New socks, hats, gloves, scarves, toiletries please. Because of Covid 19 restrictions NO KNITTED ITEMS please. Thank you.

PARTICIPATION IN THE LITURGY

Now, once again, we are able to celebrate the Eucharist. This is a real cause for rejoicing but we must still be careful to take every precaution against Covid 19. We are not obliged to put ourselves at risk in order to take part in the Mass. There are many online liturgies.

You can take part in the liturgy via the internet at the Catholic Shrine webpage:

PAM'S JAM FACTORY

As is her custom Pam Tester has been making jam. She kindly sells this to raise money for the building fund. Covid 19 restrictions mean that it cannot be displayed. You must ask for it at the church or call at her house, Wythe Cottage, Burnt Street, Wells-next-the-Sea. Exciting new flavours available!



THE YEAR OF THE WORD

Befriending the Scriptures cannot, of course, meet at present. We can, however, keep reading Matthew's gospel and the readings appointed for the Mass of the day even though we cannot meet.

Sunday:	Wisdom 6:12-16	Psalm 16	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Matthew 25:1-13
Monday:	FEAST OF THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA			
Tuesday:	Isaiah 25:6-9	Psalm 26	Romans 5:5-11	Luke 7:11-17
Wednesday:	Philippians 2:5-11	Psalm 21		Luke 14:15-24
Thursday:	Philippians 2:12-18	Psalm 26		Luke 14:25-33
Friday:	Philippians 3:3-8	Psalm 104		Luke 15:1-10
Saturday:	Philippians 3:17-4:1	Psalm 121		Luke 16:1-8
	Philippians 4:10-19	Psalm 11		Luke 16:9-15

Parish Clergy: Revv. Keith Tulloch, SM, (Parish Priest), Thomas Goonan, SM,
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