

ST. GABRIEL'S BULLETIN

32nd Sunday (A)

8th November, 2020



A HA'PETH OF TAR

A child at school said she didn't like the five wise bridesmaids because they were mean and wouldn't share their oil with the foolish ones!

Understandable enough, except it misses the point of Jesus' parable. The story is really about wisdom and perseverance. The foolish five could not have been complete strangers to the groom. They had to be friends. They had received the invitation; they had made preparations; they had turned up and were looking forward to the festivities. What they had not done was to think through the consequences of their actions.

It could be argued that they had concentrated only on the hats and dresses, on the externals. Yet they did not have the wisdom to see that they were not equipped to do what was demanded of them. They couldn't provide light when it was needed.

In our own journey with God we run the risk of coasting. We have been let into that wisdom which allows us to know and follow Jesus. But we can easily take things for granted. We can rely on a routine practice of our reli-

gion that loses the sparkle, the excitement and the privilege of being called by God. We've kept the lamps of our baptism, but our commitment is running low on oil and our wicks are looking decidedly worse for wear.

It's not usually gross negligence that we're guilty of. It's more likely to be that we grow lax about our commitment and lazy in doing something about those little things that would make us better Christians. We begin to take the pearl of our religion for granted and we put things off until tomorrow. For the sake of a ha'peth of tar we can find ourselves drifting.

If we want to be at tomorrow's wedding, today's the last day for buying the oil.



This is Remembrance Sunday. May we hold dear in our memories and give thanks for our beloved relatives who accepted the call to sacrifice for the sake of our nation and our world.

MASS READINGS

Today

1. Wisdom 6:12-16
2. 1 Thess. 4:13-18
3. Matthew 25:1-13

Psalm 62

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

Next Sunday

1. Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
2. 1 Thess. 5:1-6
3. Matthew 25:14-30]

Psalm 127

*O blessed are those who fear the
Lord.*

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PARISH CLERGY

Fr. Michael Woodford P.P.
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Sunday Masses
during pandemic

9am and 11am

Tickets for mass can be obtained from **Eventbrite** via parish website and Facebook page.