

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Proverbs
31:10-13

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.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R Happy are those who fear the Lord.

SECOND READING

*A reading from first letter of St Paul to the
Thessalonians*
1 Thess 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.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew*
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."

The Gospel of the Lord



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

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33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

14th / 15th November, 2020

*Heavenly Father,
from whose own abundance
all gifts and skills are lavishly bestowed,
encourage us to use our talents
as generously as You have allotted them,
so that, being faithful to Your purpose,
we may share in Your glory.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

In its original usage, a 'talent' was a measure of weight. It came to designate a weight measure of silver. One talent was roughly equivalent to a labourer's wages for 10 years. It was a huge amount of money! Due largely to the reference in this gospel parable the word eventually came to its more common meaning of a special natural ability. Although in its original use in the gospel, 'talent' meant nothing more than a large sum of money, it is a happy development of language that makes this scripture passage such a favourite.

The three servants were allocated money, 'each in proportion to his ability'. The emphasis of the parable is on what each servant did with the funds they were allotted. They were charged with managing the money in the place of their master; acting in their master's place to further develop his wealth. Like all of Jesus' parables, this one has a sting in the tail. Although the third servant has done nothing illegal or corrupt, he is very harshly dealt with. His crime is laziness! He was given a great opportunity to demonstrate his abilities and yet he shied away and returned to his master exactly what had been entrusted to him, unimproved. The author of Matthew's gospel uses this parable to shock the audience out of complacency. They cannot rely solely on the promised return of the Lord, they must continue to act on Jesus' message and work to bring about the Kingdom in their own lives. Those who fail to act, leaving everything to the work of God, are as bad as the lazy servant who failed to grasp an extraordinary opportunity. © Greg Sunter

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Mon 16th Nov St Margaret of Scotland, & St Gertrude

Tues 17th Nov St Elizabeth of Hungary

Wed 18th Nov Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts Peter & Paul

Sat 21st Nov The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

I have come that you may have life and have it to the full

(John 10:10)

PARISH PRIEST:
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DEACON:
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Carolyn Sombekke 9758 1029
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PARISH OFFICE: 9758 1029
Monday 9.45am – 3.45pm
Tuesday to Friday 9.00am – 3.00pm
Secretaries: Charmaine Premaratne
& Maree Wilson
Accountant: Sara Luk
Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

SCHOOLS:
St John the Baptist 9758 1013
Principal: Catherine Mason

St. Joseph's College 9758 2000
Principal: Catherine Livingston

Mater Christi College 9754 6611
Principal: Mary Fitz-Gerald

MASS TIMES Limited to 20 people bookings essential
Saturday 6:00 pm
Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am
Tuesday 7:00 pm
Wednesday & Thursday 9.15 am
Friday 11.00 am

RECONCILIATION: People who identify within themselves the need for Confession should contact Fr Thomas directly 9758 1029

BAPTISMS:
We are now able to have Baptisms again with limited numbers. Contact the Parish Office on: 9758 1029 or via email at: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

WEDDINGS:
By appointment, 6 months' notice required. Saturdays or weekdays (not Sundays). Contact the Parish Office: on 9758 1029.

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A
14th / 15th November, 2020

PRAYING FOR...

All who have died recently:
Margaret O'Rourke,
Christopher Windebank (UK)

Those who we remember at this time:
Jim Moloney, Noel Clarke, Luigia Cecchin, Len Nash, Mary Stewart, Elizabeth Dvoracek, Niall Hargreaves, Frances Middlebrook, Victor Etienne.

The sick: Peter Thomas, Wilma Neville, Ruby Samtoy, Fame Pelgrim, Elsie Johnson, Barbara Kenny, Anne Jayawardena, Lea Hartley, Cosimo Petracca, Giuseppina Zarro, Catherine Turner, Patricia Quinn, David Merton, Michael Byrne, Mary Edmunds, Bev McNamara, Anthony McNamara, Victoria Lewis, Nicole Moore, Peter Fairhurst, Hans Whitaker, Edward Osborne, Allida Serafin, Clive Geach.

KEEP IN TOUCH: We love to being able to keep in contact with you, especially during these unprecedented times of isolation. Please let us know your current email address or/ and phone number. We are happy to email the bulletin to you!

TRY PARTICIPATING IN A MASS ONLINE:

<https://stsimonsparish.com.au/mass-videos> or
<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> or
<https://holymfamilydoveton.org.au/>
or **if you don't have a computer:** Mass can also be heard on **The Light FM radio station (89.9 FM)** at 7am each Sunday morning. Or **MASS ON T.V. C31 / 44 shows the 11am Sunday Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral** and will continue to be televised free to air. Or Mass for You at Home on Ch10 Sunday at 6am.

MONDAY MOVIE CLUB. once a month.

The suggested movie for this month is: **"The Festival of Lights"**, which is **currently screening on "SBS on demand"** Please watch the movie, and there will be a discussion on Monday 23rd November. If you are interested in joining this fun event, please give Trish Magee a call on PH 0400 960 138



ST JOHN'S PARISH MASSES

We are now able to have 20 people in the church at one time for Mass. If you would like to **book a place** please email or ring the parish office on **Wednesdays only**. If you do not get a place in the church you will still be able to watch **Weekend Masses** at the same time that Mass takes place each day. That is **Saturday 6:00 pm; Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am; From Next Tuesday, the Weekday Masses will no longer be Zoomed.** To join us from the comfort of your own home via Zoom. The link below is recurring so you can use it each time you want to join in.

<https://zoom.us/j/95544717317?pwd=RzZjNlVGdnZHVUhxZWZlqHNOZz09>

Meeting ID: 955 4471 7317

Passcode: SJBMass



CONFIRMATION 2020 for children not attending St John the Baptist. An email was sent to all on our contact list, and the result of the response is that we have a minority of people



expressing that they would like to have their child Confirmed by Fr Thomas at St John the Baptist Parish this year. Fr Thomas and the confirmation formation team have considered all the possibilities and circumstances regarding restrictions. The short time frame available to prepare the children, and the COVID-19 restrictions that are still in place have influenced our decision. In light of this we have decided that we will not be offering Confirmation for your child this year. It is proposed that Confirmations will be held in the first half of 2022 (all being well) with preparations beginning in May 2020. we will hold on to your details and contact you again in 2020. We are sorry that this will be a disappointment for some of our proposed candidates, but we feel that we have made the right choice at this time.

POSITIONS VACANT ACROSS THE ARCHDIOCESE Details can be found on the Archdiocese of Melbourne website for various administrative and liturgical positions. For more information visit the **Archdiocese website at:** <https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

BAPTISMS – We offer our congratulations to **Eli Kenneth Schimizzison** of Sean & Maxine, who is to be baptised this weekend: The Church of God welcomes you with great joy



FUNERAL MASS – The Funeral Mass for the late **Margaret O'Rourke** will be celebrated here at St John's Church on **Thursday, 19th November at 11.20am, with Rosary preceding the Mass at 11am.** Owing to current Covid-19 regulations limited places are available, which will be allocated by the family

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES New sets of envelopes for envelope contributors are now available for collection from the Church foyer. Please contact the Parish Office to arrange collection if you are not able to attend a Mass due to Covid restrictions. A huge thankyou to everyone for your generous support.

2020 SVDP VOLUNTEERS "THANK YOU" DINNER 4TH DECEMBER 6:30PM The Society would like to thank Father Thomas and all parishioners for your continued support to the works of the society. 2020 has been for many a challenging year many functions being forced to cancel. It is a good time to come together to share a meal and catch up with friends, we sincerely hope you will be able to join us.

Date: 4th December 2020

Venue: To be advised.

Time: 6:30 pm

Please RSVP: by 28th November, 2020 to

Connie PH 9753 5000 / Mob: 0413 747 685.



NOVEMBER—MONTH OF PRAYER FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED In November we pray for our faithfully departed. The Church dedicates the



month of November to praying for our deceased loved ones. Both Scripture and Tradition remind us to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins and enter the joy of Heaven. Offering Masses therefore is the greatest gift we can give to them. Please collect an envelope for November Masses for the Holy Souls from the trolley. Envelopes can be put in the plate or handed to Fr Thomas or brought to the Parish Office. As stipulated by the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, each November Mass for the dead is \$20.00 per Mass.