Religious Education:

Thirty-Second Sunday of the Year A

Week Beginning 8th November 2026

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25: 1-13

Gospel Reflection: Be Ready

Introduction:

It is easy to be ready for something to happen when we know the day and time to expect it. Today Jesus explains that we must always be ready for his return, even though no one knows when he will be coming.

Sorry:

Close your eyes and listen to this prayer as you say 'sorry' quietly in your heart.
Jesus, open our hearts and make us more loving. Help us to change our ways and make a fresh start. If we have hurt you or other people by being unkind or selfish, we ask for your forgiveness.

First Reading (Wisdom 6:12–16): Extols the radiant and unfading nature of wisdom, noting that she readily makes herself known to those who earnestly seek her at dawn.

Second Reading (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18): Encourages the community with the hope of the resurrection, assuring them that those who have died in Christ will rise and meet the Lord at his coming.

Gospel (Matthew 25:1–13): Jesus tells the parable of the ten maidens waiting for the bridegroom. The five wise maidens bring extra oil for their lamps, while the five foolish ones run out, emphasizing the need for spiritual readiness and vigilance.

Gospel Reading: Matthew (25:1-13)

Jesus told his disciples this parable:
"The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins
who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.
Five of them were foolish and five were wise.
The foolish ones, when taking their lamps,
brought no oil with them,
but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps.
Since the bridegroom was long delayed,
they all became drowsy and fell asleep.
At midnight, there was a cry,
'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'
Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps.
The foolish ones said to the wise,
'Give us some of your oil,
for our lamps are going out.'
But the wise ones replied,
'No, for there may not be enough for us and you.
Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.'

While they went off to buy it,
the bridegroom came
and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him.
Then the door was locked.
Afterwards the other virgins came and said,
'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!'
But he said in reply,
'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.'
Therefore, stay awake,
for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Gospel Reflection: Continues Jesus' teaching about his return. In the previous two parables, the figure representing Christ (or God) arrives at a time that surprises the owner of the house **(24:43–44)** and arrives early **(24:45–51)**. In this parable Jesus arrives surprisingly late. Jesus covers all possible options.

The parable of the ten virgins emphasizes the need for watchfulness in the event of an unexpectedly long delay in Christ's coming. When Christ returns, preparedness cannot be shared or transferred. Personal responsibility is emphasised.

The parable of the talents teaches that being ready for Christ's coming involves more than playing it safe and doing little or nothing. It demands faithful service. The identical statement of praise to both servants indicates that the point of the parable is not on the total amount earned but on faithful responsibility in living up to one's potential and giftedness.

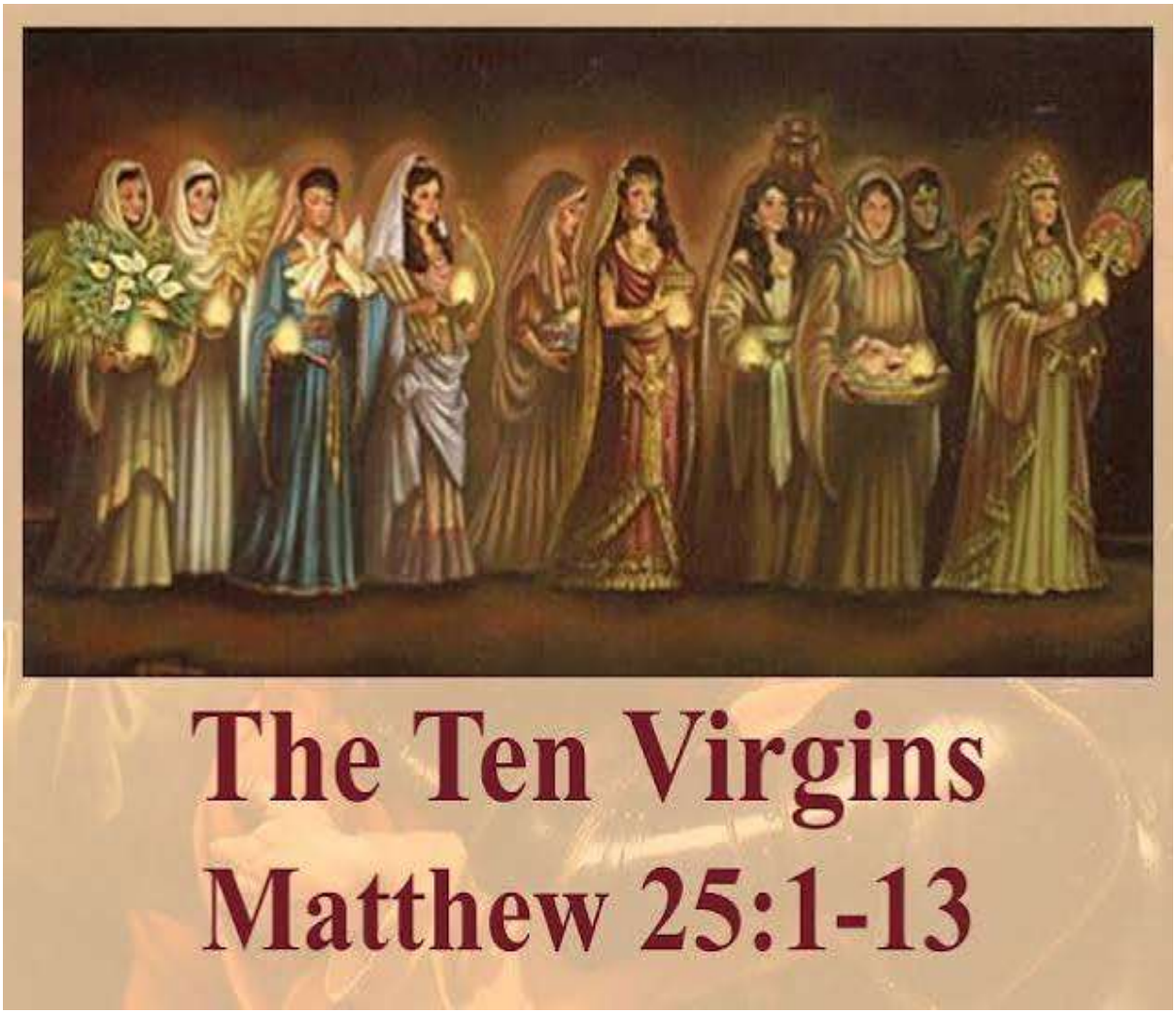
The sheep and goat's scene describes in more detail the final judgment that the end of the last two parables depict. Caring for the needy is not salvation by works but the fruit of repentance that demonstrates an individual's right relationship with God through Christ.

Ultimately there are only two types of people: Those who have not followed Jesus are against him and will endure eternal punishment; Jesus' disciples are with him and will enjoy eternal life.

How can we keep ourselves ready for when Jesus returns? – If we can live each day as well as possible, and make each day our best, then we will always be ready to greet Jesus when he comes. By trying to be good and to live as Jesus taught us, ready to say sorry when we get things wrong and to forgive others, then we will be like the wise bridesmaids who kept their lamps burning, and be ready for Jesus when he comes.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, we know that one day you will return and we will be with you in heaven. Help us to make each day our best, so that we will always be ready to greet you. Amen



‘A God who Speaks’: Year of the Word:

“But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. **(Ephesians 5:13).**

“For whatsoever is born of God over cometh the world: and this is the victory that over cometh the world, even our faith”. (**1st John 5:4).**

Christmas Appeal:

Hello parents and guardians, hope all is well.
As we prepare for the season of Advent and Christmas, we are once again inviting our school community to support local families and charities through our annual Christmas Appeal.

From now until **Friday 11th December**, we ask students and staff to begin bringing in **dry goods and non-perishable food items** that will help us create Christmas hampers and support those in need within our local community.

Suggested donations include:

- Tinned vegetables, soup and fruit
- Pasta, rice and noodles
- Tea, coffee and hot chocolate
- Breakfast cereals and porridge
- Biscuits and crackers
- Jam, honey and spreads

- Long-life milk and fruit juice
- Christmas treats such as chocolates, mince pies and Christmas puddings
- Toiletries and essential household items

Donations can be brought into school and given to Form Tutors or taken to the designated collection points.

For those who would prefer to contribute financially, donations can also be made through **ParentPay**, where funds will be used to purchase additional items for hampers and charitable distributions.

Last year, the generosity of our students, families and staff made a real difference to many people experiencing hardship at Christmas. We hope that, through this year's appeal, we can continue to live out our school mission and the Gospel's call to serve others with compassion, generosity and love.

Thank you in advance for your support and kindness.

God bless,

Elaine Henry

Remembrance Day 8th November 2026:

As a school community, we will mark Remembrance Day by pausing to remember and pray for all those who have given their lives in service to others during times of war and conflict. At 11:00am, on 11th November, students and staff will observe the national two-minute silence, providing an opportunity for reflection, prayer and gratitude. Through this act of remembrance, we honour the courage, sacrifice and dedication of members of the armed forces, emergency services and all those affected by conflict around the world.

Remembrance Day also reminds us of our shared responsibility to work for peace, justice and reconciliation in our communities and across the world. As a Catholic school, we reflect on Christ's call to be peacemakers and pray for an end to violence and division wherever it exists.

We are grateful to all students and staff who participate so respectfully, helping to create a profound and meaningful moment of remembrance. Through our prayers and reflection, we continue to remember those who have sacrificed so much and commit ourselves to building a more peaceful future.

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning. ("Lest we forget.")

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." **(Matthew 5:9).**

All Saints' Day 1st November and All Souls' Day 2nd November

At the beginning of November, the Church celebrates two important feast days that invite us to reflect on faith, holiness and the hope of eternal life.

All Saints' Day (1 November) is a celebration of all the saints, both known and unknown, who have lived lives of extraordinary faith and are now with God in heaven. The day reminds us that sainthood is not reserved for a select few but is a calling for every Christian. Through prayer, acts of service and daily witness to the Gospel, we are all invited to follow the example of the saints in living lives of love, faith and compassion.

All Souls' Day (2 November) is a special day of prayer and remembrance for all those who have died. The Church invites us to remember our deceased family members, friends and loved ones, entrusting them to God's mercy and praying for the repose of their souls. It is a day that offers comfort and hope, reminding us of Christ's promise of eternal life and the enduring bonds of love that unite us with those who have gone before us.

As a Catholic school community, these celebrations provide an opportunity for prayerful reflection and remembrance. We give thanks for the inspiring examples of the saints and hold in our prayers all those whom we have loved and lost, asking God to grant them eternal rest and everlasting peace.

"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen."

***The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them."* (Wisdom 3:1)**