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**Year A** 32ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

"TO THE HEIGHTS" YOUTH EDITION AVAILABLE ALSO

## Sunday Mass Readings

**First Reading:**

Wisdom 6:12-16

**Responsorial Psalm:**

Psalm 62(63):2-8

**Second Reading:**

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

**Gospel:**

Matthew 25:1-13

*'So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'*



James Tissot, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

## Hear

Grab your Bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries, you can find this week's readings online [here](#).

Check out [this video](#) on the readings for children.

## Pray

In the Gospel today we hear Jesus telling the parable of the wise and foolish virgins.

- What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this piece of Scripture? How do these words resonate with you personally?
- Are you shocked when the bridegroom closes the door on the bridesmaids at the end, saying "I don't know you."?
- How ready are you to meet Jesus? If today was your last day, would you be ready for heaven? What comes to mind when you reflect on that question? Are there relationships that need mending? Quarrels that need fixing? People who need to hear that you love them? Apologies that need to be said?
- Stay with that question this week, asking the Lord to show you what you need to do to make sure the lamp of your heart is stocked with oil.

## Talk

In today's readings we hear Jesus explain how important it is to be always ready for heaven.

- What kind of things keep us very busy as a family? What are our priorities?
- Are we good as a family at making time for prayer, for scripture, for Mass?
- Are we good as individuals at making time for God every single day?
- What happened to the five foolish bridesmaids who were not ready in this parable?
- What kind of things can we do as a family to make sure God is a priority for us every day? How can we help each other?

## Family Challenge!

Every morning, pray a simple or more traditional Morning Offering prayer to remind you to focus on God for the day ahead.

*Thank you, God, for giving us this day;  
help us to be like Jesus in all we think, do, and say.*

*Amen.*

# ARE YOU READY?

This week's Gospel is the Parable of the Ten Virgins. In this story, ten virgins take their lamps and go to meet the bridegroom. Five of them take oil for their lamps and five do not. When they hear of the bridegroom's arrival, the five virgins who did not bring oil or ask the others for oil. They replied: "No, there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves." While these five virgins are buying oil for their lamps, the bridegroom arrives, and the virgins who are ready to go into the wedding banquet. The ones who fell behind to buy oil are not allowed entry into the wedding. Jesus closes this parable by saying: "Therefore keep watch because you do not know the day or the hour."

Through the story of ten virgins, this parable is meant to tell us that we do not know when the Lord's coming is, so we must stay vigilant. Will we be prepared when the time has come? It also shows that not everyone will be allowed into the Kingdom of Heaven. The five virgins who were prepared at the time of the bridegroom's arrival were welcomed into the wedding. The five who were not ready in time were left behind the closed door and not allowed entry, even though they acquired the oil for their lamps later. It was too late for them. This is why we must be ready at any hour! When the Lord comes, there will not be time to right your wrongs. We must use our time now to prepare for what is to come.

Life throws so many unexpected things at us, but it is reassuring to know that the Lord will return and that we can prepare for his arrival by living out our best lives as Christians.

**The Torch Project**

## CHECK IT OUT: LITTLE SAINT ADVENTURES



### **Raising Saints with the Help of the Saints:**

Little Saint Adventures is an innovative app that engages and teaches the Faith to children 3-8. There are over 40 games, quizzes, Bible stories, and activities for children. As well as faith formation games for children e.g. walking in the forest with St Francis, sailing in Galilee with Peter, Shamrock Isle with St Patrick, there are also conversation starters for parents and suggestions for family activities.

Can be purchased in the App Store/.



## DO YOU LIKE SURPRISES?

Normally the thought of bridesmaids and weddings is a cheery, exciting one, but this parable from Jesus is far from talk of dresses and bouquets! The bridesmaids in this parable have one job, to have the torches lit for the arrival of the groom, even though they do not know exactly when he will be there. As with all of Jesus' parables there's a lot more going on than a simple wedding feast here: it's the heavenly banquet, and Jesus himself is the bridegroom. He asks us, are we ready for when He comes? It's a sobering question! Every year, as we approach the end of the liturgical year, we get that shake up! Ever since Jesus ascended into Heaven, the Church has taught that Jesus will come again, even if we don't know when it will happen. Whether or not we witness that event in our lifetime, we know that we will also meet Jesus at our death. We should be prepared - it should be a good surprise!

St Dominic Savio, the young Italian saint was playing football with his friends one day when he was asked by St John Bosco: "If you knew you had only an hour to live, how would you spend it?" St Dominic replied, "I'd continue playing football" - because he was living his life completely prepared for meeting Jesus. I'm not sure how many of us would have that same certainty and confidence, but it's completely possible for us too if we are living united with Jesus. Is there anything in your heart or in your life you think needs to change if St John Bosco asked you that question?

### **This week:**

*This week, reflect on how ready you are to meet Jesus, and what that even means to you. Are we living our lives with Him, trying to be the best version of ourselves? Or are we putting off change, and settling for mediocrity?*



Fr Mike Schmitz: The Greatest Surprise



Even So Come (Chris Tomlin)

To the Heights Youth Resource also available



## Family Prayer

*Jesus, help us to never be complacent in our faith, but to be ready to serve you at all times, our hearts filled with your love. Amen*

## EVENTS

**St Joseph's Men's Prayer Group:** Wednesday Evening in St. Saviour's Church, Bridge Street, Waterford: 7pm Exposition, Mens Adoration, Benediction, Faith 7:45pm Formation & Group Sharing, ending with Tea and Biscuits

**Family Day:** Sunday 26th November at Holy Family Mission, Glencomeragh House. 10am - 3pm. Prayer, Talk, Mass, Music, Fun and Games for all the Family! Bring a packed lunch! Booking is essential: email [info@holymission.ie](mailto:info@holymission.ie)

**Take the Risk for Christ "Come and See Weekend":** Sat 18th - Sunday 19th Nov. St. Patrick's College Maynooth. For Further Info please email: [info@vocations.ie](mailto:info@vocations.ie) Please note that this weekend is only open to those who are currently known to their Diocesan Vocations Director and are actively discerning a vocation to the priesthood.

**Fire in the South:** A Catholic Charismatic Outreach Movement to enable people to encounter the personal love of God Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Zoom on Wednesday with companionship, music, sharing, prayer, the odd funny story, Sacred Scripture and adoration. Zoom ID: 86141473152 / Password: fire / Wednesdays 8 to 9.15 p.m.

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