

Reflections on the Gospel



THE SAVING WORD

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

19 NOVEMBER 2017

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.

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INVESTING OUR TALENTS

The Bible teaches that everything in the present order of this world will pass away. But God will establish something new and definite. Israel awaited an *eschaton* (end time) when a lasting and just political order would be established by God. The *eschaton*, characterised by this new order would be brought about by the Messiah, the glorious agent of God. As Christians we believe that Jesus is the Messiah. Through his life, death and glorious resurrection, death has been conquered. The reign or Kingdom of God has begun. The *eschaton* has commenced.

The Kingdom of God is 'here but not yet'. Jesus' entry into human life – his words, his miraculous deeds, his passion, death and resurrection – is already the inauguration of the Kingdom of God. And yet the glorious signs of the *eschaton* are not yet fully realised. That will happen only on the Day of the Lord – the *Parousia* – when Christ will come again. Until that day, Christians are living in an interim period. They are assured of God's salvation, but they must work out this salvation with fear and trembling (Phil 2:12).

This living in the tension of 'already/not yet' is emphasised in the Gospel parable of the talents. Certainly each person has received certain 'talents' or gifts from God: life, health, natural intelligence, education, physical and spiritual capabilities, etc. We must 'invest' these talents, using them for the good of our neighbours and for the glory of God as we await the coming of God's Kingdom in all its fullness.

Fr Gil Alinsangan SSP

FIRST READING Prov 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

Give her a share in what she has worked for.

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 Ps 127: 1-5. R. v. 1

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord /
and walk in his ways! / By the labour of your
hands you shall eat. / You will be happy and
prosper. **R.**

2. Your wife like a fruitful vine / in the heart
of your house; / your children like shoots of
the olive, / around your table. **R.**

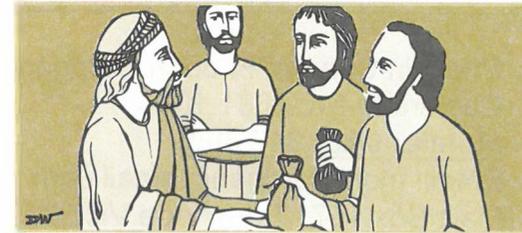
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed / the man who
fears the Lord. / May the Lord bless you from
Zion / in a happy Jerusalem / all the days of
your life. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Thess 5: 1-6

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

*The day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in
the night.*

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 Jn 15: 4, 5

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

GOSPEL Mt 25: 14-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

*Because you have been faithful over a few things;
enter into the joy of the Lord.*

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.

St MALACHY'S PARISH
APSLEY * EDENHOPE * GOROKE *
MINIMAY

**19th November 2017, 33rd Sunday in
 Ordinary Time A**

Priest in Charge: Fr John Corrigan
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Bulletin notices

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Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries: Dorrie Ryan, Roger Pahl, Barrie Norman, Mary-Louise Merrett, Henry Sampey, Brian Mulraney, Eugene Clark, Robert Robertson, Audrey McDougall, Joseph Farrelly, Lucy Griffin

Next weekend

Church Collections – from 5th Nov

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Edenhope | \$121.00 |
| Planned Giving | \$230.00 |
| Total: | \$ 5,972.00 |

Parish Diary

Sun Nov 19 11am Mass
Sun Nov 26 5pm Mass
Sun Dec 3 11am Mass
Sun Dec 10 10:30am SAWC

New roster times: Please be aware that 9am masses will now be at 11am

Edenhope: This Weekend 11am Mass

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Reader | C McCann |
| Prayers/Psalm | G Griffin |
| Gifts | T & A Kealy |
| Leader | |
| Ministers | C Heenan |
| Cleaning | H Munn, B Ryan |
| Linen | G Clarke |
| Lawns | D Brook |
| Collection | R Burgess, G McDonnell |

St Malachy's School

Mon Kinder Transition until 1 o'clock; Ang in Hamilton for Southwest Network Data Meeting

Tue Years 2 – 6 students at Lake Wallace for 'Memory Lane Café'

Wed Western Trinity Senior Planning Day in Coleraine

Thu Ang at Fountas and Pinnell PD in Warrnambool

Fri Ang at principal meeting in at St Pius; students participating in a golf clinic

Sat Brolga Exhibition opening – St Malachy's students have an entry in the competition

St. Malachy's Church Working Bee
 Sunday, December 3rd after the 11:00 am
 Please bring pruning tools, spades, garden tools etc.

Father John's Corner

PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD: It is a comfort to us on earth, when a loved one dies, to think that the person is in heaven. This consolation is real and it is right and good for us to hope for heaven, but death is not always a free pass to Heaven. In order to get there, many souls will benefit from the gift of our prayers. Each November, the Church gives us extraordinary means to intercede for the holy souls in Purgatory. You're encouraged to visit a cemetery and pray, even if only mentally, for the dead. Cemetery Masses are scheduled this month, but you might also consider a personal visit and private prayer.

TAKING ACTION AGAINST SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN AUSTRALIA:

Did you know that slavery and human trafficking exists today, here in Australia? Australia is a destination for trafficked people who are used for a variety of purposes in various industries. ACRATH stands for the Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans and works towards the elimination of human trafficking in Australia, the Asia Pacific region and globally. The ACRATH website tells the stories of victims of slavery so that we can make a stand against the abuse of human rights. Together, we are called to respond to this injustice. The ACRATH website provides a wealth of resources and information. See www.acrath.org.au.