



## MOYNE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

St Patrick's Parish, Port Fairy  
Infant Jesus Parish, Koroit

[www.moyneatholic.org.au](http://www.moyneatholic.org.au)



# *Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2020*

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

*A perfect wife - who can find her?*

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.

### **RESPONSORIAL** Ps 94(95):1-2,6-9

**R/. Happy are those who fear the Lord.**

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/. Happy are those who fear the Lord.**

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive,  
around your table.

**R/. Happy are those who fear the Lord.**

Indeed thus shall be blessed  
the man who fears the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion  
all the days of your life!

**R/. Happy are those who fear the Lord.**

### **SECOND READING** 1 Thess 5:1-6

*God will bring with him  
those who have died in Jesus*

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.

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** John 15:4. 5

**V/. Alleluia!** **R/. Alleluia!**

**V/. Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit.**

**R/. Alleluia**

## GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14-30

*You have been faithful in small things:  
come and join in your master's happiness*

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."

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## PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED



We pray for **Bill Brennan** who died recently. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

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## WEEK DAY MASSES

*Twenty people permitted inside church.*

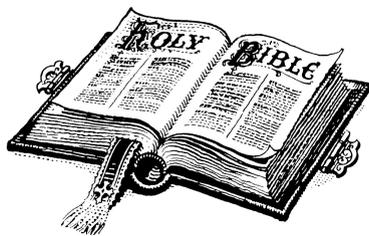
**No weekday Masses this week.  
Fr John is making his annual  
retreat in Castlemaine.**

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## SUNDAY MASSES?

All eyes will be on Premier Daniel Andrews next Sunday, when he announces the next step in the Victoria's roadmap. We can anticipate up to 100 people permitted at indoor religious gatherings, but also subject to a floorspace restriction of people per square metre.

The priests in the region will review the new restrictions and determine when and how Sunday worship might be resumed. The churches in the region will all open on the same weekend. In the meantime, Sunday Mass at St Joseph's in Warrnambool will continue to be broadcast on Youtube. Visit [www.moynecatholic.org.au](http://www.moynecatholic.org.au) for details.



## Reflection on today's Readings

by Fr Francis Fernandez

### GENEROSITY TOWARDS GOD

During these final weeks of the liturgical year, the Church calls us to consider the eternal truths. These truths are of immediate relevance to our souls. As we read in today's Second Reading, our encounter with the Lord will arrive without warning, *like a thief in the night*. No matter how prepared we think we are for its arrival, death always takes us by surprise.

In today's Gospel the Lord teaches us that we must spend our earthly life in such a way as to win Heaven. Jesus compares our time on earth to a long-term leasing arrangement. *For it will be as when a man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.* The owner knew the capacity of each of his servants. He did not want to burden every one of them with the same responsibility. That would have been unjust. He therefore gave according to each one's capability to receive. Despite the different amounts allotted to them, each servant had been entrusted with a considerable sum. After some time had passed, the master returned from his travels and came to settle accounts with his men. The servant with five talents produced five talents more. In like manner, the servant with two talents had doubled his share. These servants had made good use of their time to yield additional earnings. Consequently, each one thoroughly deserved these wonderful words of praise and blessing from their lord: *Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over*

*much; enter into the joy of your master.*

The meaning of the parable is crystal clear. We are the servants. The talents are the qualities God has bestowed on us – our intelligence, our ability to love, our power to make others happy, temporal goods ... The journey of the master signifies the duration of our life. His unexpected return signifies our death. The settling of accounts is our judgment. The banquet is Heaven. The Lord frequently reminds us in the Gospels that we do not own what we have. We are stewards entrusted with God's property. A day will come when we shall have to give an account of our behaviour. Let us examine our whole approach to the gifts we have received from God. Do we think of ourselves as stewards, or do we live under the illusion that we are the true owners of what we possess?

We might want to reflect on our attitude towards our body and senses. Do we really use them so as to give glory to God? Do we contribute to the common good with our belongings, our professional work, our friendships? The Lord wants to see that his gifts have been well administered. His reward is in direct proportion to what he has already granted us. *Every one to whom much is given, of him will much be required; and of him to whom men commit much they will demand the more.*

*Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little.* This is what the lord said to the man who received five talents. What men may see as much, God views as little. Enter into the joy of your master – this outcome is what God sees as valuable. *What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, (is) what God has prepared for those who love him.* We surely want to be found vigilant when the Lord arrives. Nothing could be more important. Let us make use of the time we have to make ready. How happy He will be to find us alert and on the watch! My Lord, we will tell him, I have lived my life for your glory and nothing else.

## SCHOOLS TRANSFER

Last Friday was the official signing of 'School Transfer Agreement' for our parish schools of St Joseph's and St Patrick's (Port Fairy and Koroit). The agreement is the transfer of governance from the parish priest to DOBCEL (Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited) effective 1st January 2021. The transfer is at a governance level and doesn't impact the day to day running of the school.

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## CHANGES AT CENTACARE

In the new year the Ballarat Diocesan family and community organisation, Centacare, will merge with the other Victorian diocesan agencies to form CatholicCare Victoria. Further information is available from the diocesan website, [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/catholic-care-victoria](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/catholic-care-victoria)

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## CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION

The South West Victoria CPE Centre is offering the opportunity for education and formation in Pastoral Care, with the option to have a CPE unit recognised as 30 points should you wish to enrol in theological studies with the University of Divinity. The Centre is registered through the Association for Supervised and Clinical Pastoral Education Victoria (ASACPEV Inc.).

CPE is currently offered online and will be this way for at least the first semester in 2021, after which it will be reassessed. For more information call 0455 033 321 or [bernadette@bernadettewurlod.com.au](mailto:bernadette@bernadettewurlod.com.au)

## PETITION TO PREMIER ANDREWS

Although restrictions have been eased, the limits on religious gatherings remain much stricter than they were after the first lockdown, without any data supporting this decision. Please consider adding your name to a petition objecting to the government's arbitrary and unequal treatment of religious communities.

*"We, people of Victoria's faith community, request that you adjust the 'Roadmap for Reopening' in a way that secures the equitable treatment of religious communities and grants us the opportunity to practise our faith in a COVID-safe manner."*

Sign at [www.equalityforfaith.com.au](http://www.equalityforfaith.com.au)

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## PRAYER FOR EXAM STUDENTS

Loving Father, we bring before you our VCE & University Students. Give them the wisdom, right judgement, knowledge and courage. Bless them with calm hearts and clarity of mind as they sit their exams. May they be affirmed in their efforts and may they know that you are there with them.

We pray that they will stay calm under pressure and work to the best of their ability. May they feel your loving presence in their lives, now and always, and may they be strengthened by the prayerful support of us, their family and their community.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

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