

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM
(33rd of year A)

This week: Divine Office - Psalter Week 1

Mon: St. Edmund, King and Martyr

9.30 Mass (I Macc. 1 v. 10-15, 41-43 54-57 62-64. Luke 18 v. 35-43)
Int: Church in East Anglia.

Tue Presentation of our Lady.

10.30 Mass (II Macc. 6 v. 18-31 Luke 19 v. 1-10)
11.00-1.00 Tea/Coffee/Cakes/Soup in Church
Int: Walsingham

Wed St Cecilia

9.30 Mass (II Macc. 7 v. 1, 20-31. Luke 19 v. 11-28)
Int: Musicians

Thur St. Clement

9.30 Mass (I Macc. 2 v. 15-29. Luke 19 v. 41-44)
Int: Peace of the World.

Fri St Andrew Dung-Lac

9.30 Mass (I Macc. 4 v. 36-37 52-59. Luke 19 v. 45-48)
Int: King and Government

Sat St. Catherine of Alexandria

10.00 1st Mass of Sunday
4.00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

NEXT SUNDAY: FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

9.30 Sung Mass, Address and Procession of the Blessed Sacrament
(Ezekiel 34v 11-12 15-17; I Cor 15v 20-26, 28; Matt 25v 31-46)

Notices

1. Please volunteer for making soup on Tuesday's coffee/lunch session in Church.
2. Grand draw tickets are available from Andi. Draw is 17th December after Mass.
3. Advance warning: Sunday 17th Dec from 5.00pm: Santa will be visiting with Carol Singers around the parish in Mendlesham Green and Mendlesham, collecting for the homeless & vulnerable people cared for by St Martin's Housing Trust Norwich. Anyone is welcome to join in.
4. Our usual SOCKBANK collecting socks, hats, scarves, gloves and used trainers in good condition for St Martin's will be in church from 17th December.
5. The Crib appeal for Christian Aid will start on 17th December. (Donations of non-perishable food and toiletries for the Stowmarket Foodbank can be made all year round in the 2 red boxes at the back of church.)

THEME: The parable of the talents has a great urgency about it which is very appropriate at this part of the Church's year. It reminds us we must always be working for the Lord and not just putting things off. Readiness is the keyword for us as Christians, so we will not be surprised when the Lord comes.

Blessing of Candles in the Holy Cross Chapel.

Entrance Hymn 134 v.1-3

PENITENTIAL RITE

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, for the times we have turned aside from your way.
Lord have mercy. **People:** *(sing)* **Christe Eleison** *(Ukrainian setting)*

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, for our doubts and fears. Christ have mercy.

People: Christe Eleison

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, for failing to use our talents. Lord have mercy.

People: Kyrie Eleison

Celebrant proclaims God's forgiveness

GLORIA: Sanctus setting *(words on laminated card)*

OPENING PRAYER: Let us pray that God will help us to be faithful. Father of all that is good, keep us faithful in serving you, for to serve you is our lasting joy.

LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

1st Reading: Proverbs 31 v.10 - 13, 19 - 20, 30 - 31. The virtues of the 'perfect wife' are recounted in the first reading. It is an illustration of the power of any person for good or evil. What matters is that she does all that she has to as one who fears the Lord and recognises the value of his gift to 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 PSALM: Psalm 127 © O blessed 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. ©	2. Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive around your table ©
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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. ©

2nd Reading: 1 Thess. 5 v 1– 6. We cannot put off conversion until tomorrow as it may be too late. We must begin now, with the gifts we have already have.

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 Hymn: 134 v. 4

Gospel Acclamation: (all) Alleluia, alleluia! Even if you have to die, says the Lord, keep faithful and I will give you the crown of life. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 25 v. 14 - 30. Matthew tells us the story of three servants and how they invested their talents. Jesus is not concerned with who has the greatest number of talents but rather how each person uses those they have been given.

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.”’

ADDRESS **CREED** Nicene Creed

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL:

Celebrant: Jesus the Lord has the message of eternal life. With this prayer in our hearts we make our petitions.

Reader: Let us pray for the whole Church, that we and all her members may be grateful for the gifts and talents we have received and ask for grace and strength always to use them for building up the Body of Christ.

God does not ever ask more than we can give. Let us remember this when life has become very demanding and offer to Him our trials and errors.

Let us pray that we may not envy others who appear more talented than we are, that we may not fail to use our talents through laziness, carelessness or lack of recognising opportunities, and that we may not be satisfied with ourselves until we have used our talents however modest they be.

Let us pray for those who have suffered from the violence and destruction of war and those who are still terrorised and imprisoned with fear, especially in Gaza, Israel and Ukraine. May they experience the lasting presence of Christ.

Let us pray for the sick, the disabled and housebound, that their unique contribution may be valued and that Jesus will come and bring them His lasting peace. We continue to pray for Jean Martin, Jenny Ellwood, Taylor Birch, Angie Wilson, Jan Ross and all prayed for at Shrine Prayers.

Let us pray for those who have died, that they may find the place Christ has made ready for them, remembering especially John Flaherty, Ivy Basters, Sara Fenning, Georg Nietzsche, John Dennis, Charles Lockwood, Ted Scruby, Caroline Stephanic, Ken Sanderson, Freda Foreman and Jean Hails, whose anniversaries of death occur at this time, and all who are commemorated by candles.

Let us pray with Our Lady who always did the will of the Father:

Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

S I L E N C E

ALL: Heavenly Father, we are the Talents, grant that we may not bury any part of ourselves. Help us to grow so that we may become what we are called to be. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Offertory Hymn **311 v. 1&2** Offertory prayers **311 v.3 - end**

Sanctus, Mystery of Faith and Agnus Dei – Sanctus setting

Blessed and praised be Jesus Christ, in the most Holy Sacrament; Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in excelsis

Communicants of other denominations are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you are not a Communicant and/or would like a blessing, please come to the altar holding a hymn book.

Hymns at Holy Communion: please join in. 179; 189

Hymns Ablutions **302**

Post Communion Prayer

Angelus

Notices

Blessing

Recessional Hymn **104**