

15th November 2020

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM

(33rd of year A)

Livestreamed from just before 9.30 at <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysmendlesham/>

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 that we must always be working for the Lord and not just putting things off. Readiness is the keyword for us Christians so that we will not be surprised when the Lord comes.

PENITENTIAL RITE

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, for the times we have turned aside from your way.

Lord have mercy.

People: **LORD HAVE MERCY.**

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

Christ have mercy.

People: **CHRIST HAVE MERCY.**

Celebrant: Forgive us, Lord, for the way we fail to use our talents.

Lord have mercy.

People: **LORD HAVE MERCY.**

Celebrant proclaims God's forgiveness

GLORIA:

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. ®

® **O blessed are those who fear the Lord.**

Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive
around your table ®

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 Thessalonians 5 v 1 – 6. We cannot put off our conversion until tomorrow because tomorrow may be too late. We must begin now, with the gifts we have already been given.

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: (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 the 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.”’

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 all her members may be grateful for the gifts and talents they have received and use them diligently for the building up of the Body of Christ.

Let us pray that the Lord may grant us the grace to be prepared and eager for His coming and to be faithful in all that He asks us to do.

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 for those who through laziness, carelessness or simply lack of opportunity, have failed to make use of their talents.

Let us pray that we may not envy others who are more talented than we are 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: especially those who are still terrorised and imprisoned with fear. 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 our house communicants Margaret Maundrell, Hazel Lockwood, Billy and Margaret Carter. We also pray for Nichola Berry, Paul Allen, Michael Denny, Lynda Brill and Ellen Howlett and all prayed for at Shrine Prayers.

Let us pray for those who have died, that they may find peace and happiness in the company of the Saints, Kenneth Stannard, Derek Hundleby; Gladys Capon; Lilian

Hendry; Alan Little; Victoria Heyor; Mandy Martn; John Flaherty; Ivy Basters; Sara Fenning; Georg Nietzsche; John Dennis; Charles Lockwood; Ted Scruby; whose anniversaries of death occur at this time, and all who are commemorated by candles.

We bring before God all the dead that they may find the place Christ has made ready for them. May they hear our Lord say ‘Well done, good and faithful servant’,

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.

Sanctus

Agnus Dei

Post communion prayers **and Angelus**

This week: Divine Office - Psalter Week 1

Mon: Requiem Mass - Departed Priest (Is. 25 v6-9. John 6 v. 51-58)

Tue St. Elizabeth of Hungary

Mass (Rev. 3 v. 1-6, 14-22. Luke 19 v. 1-10)

Int: H.M. Queen Elizabeth and her Government

Wed Requiem Mass – forgotten dead

(Wisdom 3 v. 1-9. John 14 v. 1-6))

Thur Requiem Mass – Those who have committed suicide

(Lamentations 3 v. 17-26. Luke 23 v. 33, 39-43)

Fri St Edmund

Mass (Rev. 10 v. 8-11. Luke 19 v. 45-48)

Int: The Church in East Anglia

Sat Presentation of Our Lady

Mass (Zach. 2 v. 14-17; Matt 12: 46-50)

Int Walsingham

NEXT SUNDAY: FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

9.30 Parish Mass livestreamed

(Ezekiel 34 v. 11-12 15-17; I Cor 15 v. 20-26, 28; Matt 25 v. 31-46)