

Mass Times

Vigil Saturday: 6pm
Sundays: 9 am & 11 am
Working Holy Days: 10 am & 7.30 pm
Monday to Friday: 10 am
Fr Colin Doocey Adm. Pro Tem

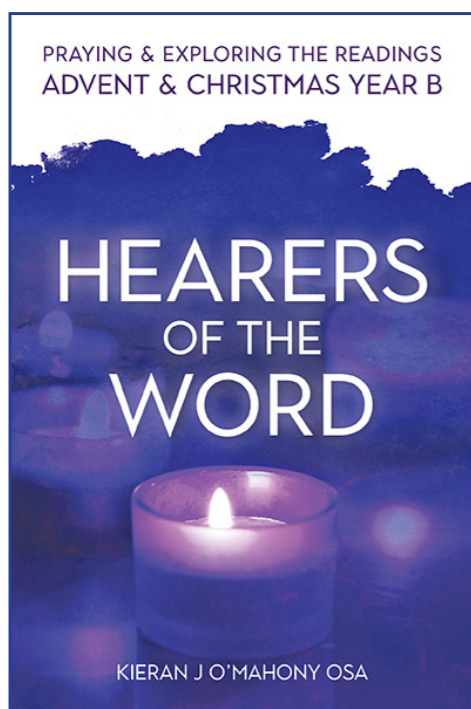


Baptism

All baptisms have been cancelled for the moment.

Recently Deceased

Peter F Whyte, Church Road
May the light of heaven surround him always.



Hearers of the Word

Praying and Exploring the Readings for Advent and Christmas
Available from messenger.ie

Welcome to St Michaels for Personal Prayer

To maximise the number of people that can join us for Personal Prayer, we have made a number of changes to the church so that we comply with HSE guidelines and keep everyone safe.

Please use only the bottom half of the church and exit from the left only, using the one-way system following the arrows.



We have placed **yellow spots** to highlight where people should sit.

We ask that you **do not kneel-down** at anytime

Many thanks for your help and we hope you all keep well.

An alternative ending

Not everyone is satisfied with the way the parable ends. In The Last Temptation of Christ, Nikos Kazantzakis offers an intriguing alternative:

"What would you have done, Nathanael," Jesus asked, pinning his large, bewitching eyes on him, "what would you have done if you had been the bridegroom?" Nathanael was silent. He still was not entirely clear in his mind what he would have done. One moment he thought to send them away. The door had definitely been closed, and that was what the Law required. But the next moment he pitied them and thought to let them in....

"I would have opened the door," the other answered in a low voice so that the old chief would not hear. He had been unable to oppose the eyes of the son of Mary any longer. "Congratulations, friend Nathanael," said Jesus happily, and he stretched forth his hand as though blessing him. "This moment, though you are still alive, you enter paradise. The bridegroom did exactly as you said: he called to his servants to open the door. 'This is a wedding,' he cried. 'Let everyone eat, drink and be merry. Open the door for the foolish virgins and wash and refresh their feet, for they have run much.'"

Matthew might not be happy with this ending, concerned as he was to tackle any latent or overt complacency.

Some Reflection....

We may feel that we need no lesson in patient endurance in these days of pandemic. Nevertheless, the parable of the wise and foolish virgins still has something to teach us. Matthew is hoping to trigger active waiting, not simply the passive variety. We can then ask ourselves what such active waiting might look like.

Over the weekend, papers carried ads from the (Irish) government on how to stay sane (reasonably) during these days of social austerity and privation. Under the general heading "Taking Care of Our Wellbeing & Resilience," the government gives detailed suggestions about keeping active, keeping in contact, getting creative, eating well and minding your mood. On the same weekend, an editorial in The Irish Times was devoted to Stoicism, of all things, with a native tinge.

As people of faith, we do have sources of life, resilience and compassion. God is with us always and, in that Emmanuel experience, we are supported and set free: to cherish the common good, to act with compassion, to have regard for the truth and, not least, to pray. As followers of the Christ, the anointed one, we have better oil in our lamps than the sheer doggedness of Stoicism!

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

Irish Catholic. (1) Archbishop Eamonn Martin: Let your TDs know we need to get back to Mass. Michael Kelly, David Quinn & Brendan O'Regan also write on this important matter. (2) Fr. Maurice Colgan O.P., St. Mary's Cork, on discerning the cultures's needs in both vocations and media. (3). Corruption in the Church must be stamped out continually, Pope says. (4) Fr. Sylvester O'Flynn, OFM Cap: Purgatory. -- a therapy of divine love, not punishment. **Tablet.** (1). Sister Marie-Ange de Saint Chamas belonged to a monastic community of woman who welcomed those with Downs(2). Christopher Lamb: Pope Francis declaration of support for same-sex unions will go down as one of the landmark moments of his papacy.



Thought for the day

To engage with today's readings, it might helpful to go back in your own mind to someone in your life whom you regard as really wise. When did you become aware of it? Have you benefitted from it? If someone were to ask how would you recognise wisdom and what are its marks, what would you say? Have you learned from your encounters with wise people? Do you desire wisdom for yourself? Perhaps as parent or friend or family member or colleague. Do you nourish your hunger (!) for the qualities and attitudes which we associate with people who have learned from life?
PRAYER
All-wise and loving God, the desire for you lies deep within us. Awaken us to the quest for true wisdom that by being true to ourselves we make come home to you, the source of all wisdom. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Some Thoughts....

1. While the parable has clear end-of-time applications, it can also be applied to any moment of grace. It reminds us that moments of grace come unexpectedly, and we need to be awake to receive them. Recall times when you were alert for such a moment. What were the consequences for you?
2. Grace can also be disturbing. We can be coasting along in life and suddenly an opportunity or a graced moment arrives and we are shaken out of our routine in order to respond. Perhaps you can recall both moments when you were unprepared and moments when you were able to respond. What lessons have you learned from such experiences?
3. We may be tempted to judge the wise virgins as being selfish for not sharing with the others, but perhaps Jesus is teaching us that there are some things that other people cannot provide for us. We have to acquire them ourselves. What qualities in life do you see as the essential oil that you must provide for yourself?

PRAYER

Almighty and ever-living God, remove the obstacles that stand in our way, that unimpeded in body and soul, we may freely devote ourselves to your service. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

K O'Mahony OSA

PARISH DEFIBRILLATORS

There are now 2 Defibrillators located in the Parish, one in the village & one outside Murphy's Circle K Petrol Station. The code to operate both is **2017**

When you use the newsletter, please take it home with you.

DO NOT RETURN IT TO THE TABLE

Coronavirus COVID-19



Stay safe. Protect each other.

Continue to:



Wash
your hands well and often to avoid contamination.



Cover
your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing and discard used tissue safely



Distance
yourself at least 2 metres (6 feet) away from other people, especially those who might be unwell