



St. David's Parish  
Monastery Road, Pantasaph,  
Holywell. CH8 8PE



**November 12, 2023**

**THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

“Christ portrayed the faithful entering into the kingdom of heaven under the image of virgins there by extolling the gift of virginity—the purity of holiness, while philanthropy, kindheartedness, and help for the poor under the image of Oil”

*ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM*

**Mass Timings**

Saturday Vigil Mass      4.00 Pm  
Sunday Mass                10.00am  
Weekdays                9.00 am In Denbigh House

**READINGS**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading**                        **Wis 6:12-16**

**Reading 2**                        **1 Thes 4:13-18**

**GOSPEL**                        **Mt 25:1-13**

**INTRODUCTION:** Our lectionary ends the Church's liturgical year with texts about the coming of the Son of Man, which leads into Year Cycle B and the Season of Advent -the Season of "Coming." Jesus' future coming as the conquering Son of Man at the end of time and his past coming as the helpless infant in a manger are the topics of our remembrance. This Sunday's readings bring the usual warnings about preparation for the end of our own world, the end of our own time, and our passage to another world. They tell us that a searching, watching, and growing heart is essential for a lively, dynamic faith in God. They ask us whether we are ready for these events and how we are preparing for them.

**The first reading (Wis 6:12-16) explained:** Jesus' parable in today's Gospel shows us five well-prepared, wise women, and the first reading chosen for today offers us Wisdom, personified as a woman. Writing in Greek to the dispersed Jews living in the cosmopolitan city of Alexandria, in Egypt, around 100 BC, the author wants his fellow Jews to seek wisdom and learn from her. Wisdom is a Divine gift – but a gift that will not elude the one who seeks it sincerely. What the author suggests is that the faithful adherence of the Alexandrian Jews to their ancestral religion in their somewhat hostile environment is seeking after Divine Wisdom. The Jews need not envy the wisdom of the pagan philosophers, because they themselves have true Wisdom in their Sacred Scripture, a Wisdom which regulates not only this life but the next as well. They must live their lives in strict conformity with the Divine Wisdom given them so generously by God. Those who are watchful enough to find and welcome Wisdom will also find that they will be prepared for the rest of the journey – from this life to the next.

Wisdom (Whom we, in our blessed times, recognize as the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity Incarnate (St. Louis-Marie de Montfort *The Love of Eternal Wisdom*), is searching for those who are waiting. The message given by the first reading is clear: God willingly reveals Himself, but mysteriously in His own way, according to His own timetable. God can be found, but only by those who never give up the search, yet patiently await His initiative. “The deepest wisdom and fullest readiness is to live chastely, honestly, non-violently (Mt 5), and to meet our neighbors' basic needs (Mt 25).” (Fr. Dennis Ham)

**The second reading (I Thes 4:13-18) explained:** First Thessalonians is the earliest of Paul's letters. When he wrote it, contemporary Christians, including Paul himself, expected Jesus to come very soon -- within their lifetime -- to rebuild the Kingdom and to establish his glorious reign. So they needed to be vigilant in order not to miss his return. Some quit their jobs in the belief that the Kingdom was at hand. But then, as the years passed, there seemed to be no signs of the Second Coming. Paul writes this earliest Christian letter to respond to the community's fears and

questions about those who die before the Parousia: will the few Christians who die in this short period somehow miss out on the benefits of Jesus' return? Paul says they will not, because what God has wrought in the death and Resurrection of Jesus is powerful enough to save even those who have already "fallen asleep." Paul helps them to realize that they need to believe in what the Lord has done for us. He doesn't want them to fret. He explains, "*We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope*" (1 Thes 4:13). Instead, the Thessalonians should prepare themselves for the Kingdom. The central idea is clear: only the alert and the vigilant can experience God coming in their lives. Those who are asleep to the present never seem to notice God's Presence.

**Gospel exegesis:** *The parable* tells a story which could have happened at any time in a Palestinian village and which could still happen today. Since a wedding was a great occasion, the whole village lined up at the sides of the road to wish God's blessings on the bride being taken in procession by her groom to her new home. The invited ones would join the procession, which started from the bride's house and moved to the groom's house, to take part in the week-long celebration of the marriage. Since the bridegroom might come to the bride's house unexpectedly, the bridal party had to be ready at any time, with accompanying virgins (bridesmaids in our day), carrying lighted torches and jars of reserve oil. Five of these virgins neglected to bring reserve oil, and so had to run to the dealers to buy some. They missed the arrival of the groom's party, and so, lost their chance to take part in the celebration. They lost not only the opportunity of witnessing the marriage ceremony, but also of participating in the week-long celebration that followed.

**SUNDAY COLLECTIONS- NOVEMBER 4-5**

|                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| <b>Loose cash</b> | <b>140.58</b> |
| <b>Gift Aid</b>   | <b>80.00</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>220.58</b> |

## **MASS INTENTIONS NOVEMBER 11-17**

| <b>Date</b>  | <b>Offered by</b>    | <b>Intention</b>                          |
|--------------|----------------------|---|
| Nov. 11, Sat | Angela Rhodes        | Those in the prayer list book             |
| Nov. 12, Sun | M. Ewes              | Catherine Guliagan                        |
| Nov. 13, Mon | Joan Oates           | Deceased members of Richard & Joan family |
| Nov. 14, Tue | Nseobery Nelly Iwobi | Charles Chuka, Funeral                    |
| Nov. 15, Wed | Hazel                | Richardina Machado                        |
| Nov. 16, Thu | Ned Ward             | Ward Family                               |
| Nov. 17, Fri | Andrew Tyson         | Clare Tyson                               |

### **Let us Remember the Sick in Prayer**

Ann Parry, Patrick Ngale, Philip McGreavy, Antony Parry

### **ANNIVERSARIES (November 11-17)**

Pat Taylor '95, Margaret Ann Slattery, '14., Gwilym Oare '75:  
Helen Cartmel '81: Joseph Begley '97:, Mary Wise '02:  
Timothy Moynihan '04: David Schwarz 09, Sr. Gerard '80:

### **SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION**

**Sacrament of Confession at 11.30 am on Saturday  
ON EMERGENCY ANY TIME 0741-749-4277**

### **DONATIONS TO THE PARISH**

**Account Name: Wrexham Diocesan Trust**

**Account Number: 08190771, Sort Code: 55-81-42**

**Website: <http://www.pantasaph.org>,**

**Email: [pantasaphstdavids@gmail.com](mailto:pantasaphstdavids@gmail.com)**

**Phone: 0741-749-4277, 01352 711053,**

**Registered Charity No. 70042**