



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



**November 19, 2023**

## **THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

“Whatever skills I have acquired,  
whatever gifts I have been given I place  
them at Your service” *ST. AUGUSTINE*

### **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**                                **Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31**

**Reading 2**                                **1 Thes 5:1-6**

**GOSPEL**                                **Mt 25:14-30**

**INTRODUCTION:** This penultimate Sunday of the liturgical year reminds us not only of the end of the liturgical year but also of the end of all things and of the preparations we need to make to reach Heaven. The main theme of the three readings is an invitation to live in such a way that we make the best use of the talents God has given us, so that at the hour of our death Our Lord will say: “*Well done, my good and faithful servant! Come and share the joy of your master*” Mt 25: 21).

**First reading, Proverbs (31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31) explained:** The book of Proverbs is the best place to find practical advice about life. This first reading describes a good and faithful woman – a gracious wife and mother - who does all her household duties faithfully and efficiently and finds time to reach out a helping hand to the poor and the needy. Unlike

the “wicked, lazy servant” in the Gospel, this faithful and loving wife works diligently to bring good to others and is judged praiseworthy for increasing the quality of life within and around her. Since she practices love for both God and neighbor it has pleased God to say: “*Her value is far beyond a pearl*” (v 10). This reading suggests that we should be as diligent and industrious as a loyal and faithful wife in the use of our God-given gifts. Unlike the one-talent man, she takes her gifts and “*brings forth good, not evil*” (v 12); she “*reaches her hands to the poor and extends her arms to the needy*” (v 20). The author of Proverbs believes everyone should be creatively and lovingly active. Writing against a cultural background which stressed the exploits of men, the Sacred Author sees the “*worthy wife*” (v 10), as a dynamic, ingenious individual. Hence, the ideal Old Testament woman is no empty-headed sex object but a model held up for imitation by both women and men.

**Second Reading, (1 Thessalonians 5:1-6) explained:** When the Thessalonians first accepted the Christian Faith, they thought that their imitation of Jesus' death and Resurrection would be a short-term experience. Everyone, including Paul, was certain that Jesus' Second Coming was very near. As time went on without that Coming, the Thessalonian Church seethed with rumors about its exact date. People were more concerned with "times and seasons" of Christ's second coming than with living their Faith. Paul assured his readers that it was foolish to worry about the "*day of the Lord*" (v 2). Instead of expecting an imminent Parousia, Christians should always "*stay alert and sober,*" (v 6), doing their duties faithfully.

“*We belong neither to darkness nor to night; therefore, let us not be asleep like the rest, but awake and sober!*” (vv 5-6). Paul means that our wholehearted dedication to the responsibilities of Christian living will earn for us the Lord's praise at the Final Judgment. Paul reminds us that the children of light are destined not for wrath but for salvation when the Lord comes. He warns us that the Day of the Lord will come “*like a thief in the night*” (v 4), when we least expect it. Thus, we should keep awake and be sober, encouraging and building each other up as we wait

for the “Day of the Lord.” Only those who live each day to the fullest will be ready when Jesus' special Day arrives.

**Exegesis: The context:** The parable is set in the last of Jesus’ five great discourses -- this one focusing on Jesus’ eschatological teaching. The three parables in the twenty-fifth chapter of Matthew (The Wise and Foolish Virgins, The Talents, The Last Judgment) are about the end times, the end of the world, and the end (intent, purpose, and upshot) of our lives. Matthew's account provided good advice to the early Christian community as to how they are to behave in this period following Jesus’ Resurrection and Ascension while they await his imminent *second coming*. Whatever had been given to them — money, talent, opportunity was meant to bear fruit for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

The same is true for all of us. Perhaps, Jesus was condemning the Jewish religious authorities. They were like the third servant, so carefully bent on preserving in its purity the tradition with which they had been entrusted that they lost their openness for new things and refused to accept Jesus’ message. In the early community the parable was allegorized. The master was equated with Christ, his departure with the ascension, and his delayed return with the delay of the Parousia or the “second coming.”

### **SUNDAY COLLECTIONS- NOVEMBER 11-12**

<b>Loose cash</b>	<b>178.21</b>
<b>Gift Aid</b>	<b>125.00</b>
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>303.21</u></b>

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

Patrick Ngale, Philip McGreavy, Antony Parry

#### **ANNIVERSARIES (November 18-24)**

Amelia Jones: Rose Ann Girvan ‘73: Anthony Ray ’89, John Boyle:  
Mrs Ryles: Tara McArdle:, John Connoly ‘68: May Gaffney ‘86:

#### **SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION**

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

## **MASS INTENTIONS NOVEMBER 18-24**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Offered by</b>	<b>Intention</b>
Nov 18, Saturday		For the Parishioners
Nov 19, Sunday	Joan and Richard Oates	Deceased members of Joan and Richard Oats family
Nov 20, Monday	Pauline	Jerry Harris & Dave Edwards
Nov 21, Tuesday	Christine Dolan	Moira & Arthur Halt Family
Nov 22, Wednesday	P Stokes	John & Kathleen Jones RIP
Nov 23, Thursday	Anne Parry	John Wilfred Churchill
Nov 24, Friday	Anne Parry	Ann & John Churchill

## **WORLD DAY OF THE POOR**

Pope Francis has declared Sunday 19 November 2023 to be the seventh World Day of the Poor, with the theme of "Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor" (Tobit 4:7) In his message for this World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis reflects on the example of Tobit. He considers how the Book of Tobit teaches us to be realistic and practical in whatever we do with and for those suffering from poverty, writing that "caring for the poor is more than simply a matter of a hasty hand-out; it calls for re-establishing the just interpersonal relationships that poverty harms." Pope Francis reminds us that the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) is not simply a story from the past but continues to challenge each of us in the here and now of our daily lives. He writes: "It is easy to delegate charity to others, yet the calling of every Christian is to become personally involved."

## **Funeral Announcement**

Mrs. Ann Parry, a member of St. David's Parish, Pantasaph, was called to eternal rest on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The funeral Mass is scheduled for **November 24<sup>th</sup> Friday at 11.00 am**. We express our heartfelt condolences to Billy Glyn and Carmel Jones.

## **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**