

# Parish of St. Mary's

Mostrim



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Thirty Second Sunday - 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**Daily Mass** @ 10.00 a.m. is broadcast on the Cathedral Parish Website – [www.longfordparish.com](http://www.longfordparish.com).

**Sunday Masses** are also broadcast at:  
Vigil 7.30 p.m.; 8.00 a.m., 10.00 a.m., 11.30 a.m. and 1.00 p.m.

*"...THOSE WHO WERE READY WENT IN WITH HIM TO THE WEDDING HALL ..."*

**ARE YOU READY TO RESPOND TO CHRIST'S CALL FOR A VOCATION?**

If He is calling you to discern serving Him as a priest or consecrated religious, speak to your local priest, or call your Diocesan Vocation's Director, or email the National Vocations Office on [info@vocations.ie](mailto:info@vocations.ie)

**PASTORAL LETTER** - Bishop Francis has written a Pastoral Letter for November. It is entitled 'Remember in November - copies are available in the Parish Church - please take one home.

**NOVEMBER ALTAR LIST OF THE DEAD** - Please write the names of your departed relatives and friends on the sheets provided and place in the box at the front of the altar. Your deceased family members and friends will be remembered at Masses celebrated during November. May they rest in peace.

### • Seeing you life through the Lens of the Gospel •

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 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 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?  
- John Byrne OSA(INTERCOM)

'Only confidence in God is capable of giving me wings; fear, by contrast, freezes me and paralyses my being' - Sr Consolata. Francis of Assisi, hoeing his garden, was asked what he would do if he were suddenly to learn that he was to die at sunset that day. He said, 'I would finish hoeing my garden.' (Anon)

### • The Deep End •

I am a procrastinator. If a task is awkward or unpleasant, I am likely to put it off until another day. In any given week, I have a 'to-do' list I need to get through. The most important items always get done - things that can't be avoided, like work deadlines or paying bills. But bigger projects often get put on the long finger and I find myself transferring items to the following week's list. It is a part of life to learn how to prioritise, and to be prepared to tackle the important things. Even when we are not ready to face a certain situation, sometimes we need to push ourselves to just dive in.

Among the wedding customs in Jesus' time was a night-time procession from the bride's home to the grooms. The bridesmaids would go out with torches lit to welcome the groom and his entourage. The parable in today's Gospel sets two groups in contrast - the 'foolish' bridesmaids who run out of oil because they have failed to prepare, and the 'sensible' ones who are ready with their lamps and oil, who recognise the importance of the task. Only one group was ready when the groom approached.

This parable encourages us to focus on the here and now, to nurture our relationship with God in the present and to live well. There is no point in procrastinating, or waiting until the bridegroom is at the door. As well as having the light of faith, we need the fuel - the actions - to keep it lit so we are ready when the Lord comes.

*'It's a terrible thing, I think, in life to wait until you're ready. I have this feeling now that actually no one is ever ready to do anything. There is only now. And you may as well do it now.*

*Generally speaking, now is as good a time as any'* (Hugh Lane)

- Jane Mellett (INTERCOM)

**FAREWELL** - There will come a time when my links with earth will grow weaker, when my powers fail, when I must bid farewell to dear ones still rooted in this life with their tasks to fulfil and their loved ones to care for, when I must detach myself from the loveliest things and begin the lonely journey. Then I shall hear the voice of my beloved Christ, saying 'It is I, be not afraid'. So with my hand in his, from the dark valley I shall see the shining City of God and climb with trusting steps and be met by the Father of souls and clasped in the everlasting arms.  
- George Appleton

**2021 OFFERTORY AND PRIESTS DUES ENVELOPES:** The list of names for the Box of Envelopes for 2021 is currently being updated. If you are not already receiving a Box of Envelopes and would like your name to be included on the list, please contact the Parochial House @ 043 66 71046. It is very beneficial for the parish if parishioners use the boxes of envelopes as this enables us to use the Tax Relief Scheme. Your generous contributions towards the Offertory Collection and Priests Dues Envelopes are very much appreciated.

*'The shopkeeper had just handed me a demonstration pair of binoculars. I was getting the distant wall nicely into focus when a passer-by, seeing my Roman collar, quietly advised, 'Just tell them to move to the front of the church, Father.'* - John Stewart

*'The one thing children wear out faster than shoes, is parents.'*  
- John Plomp

*'Children are very adept at comprehending modern statistics. When they say 'Everyone is allowed to', it is usually based on a survey of one'*  
- Paul Sweeney

**WASH YOUR HANDS  
PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING  
DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK FOR HELP  
CHECK IN ON ELDERLY NEIGHBOURS  
BE KIND**

- Fr Tom Healy -