

BURIED TALENTS

(MATTHEW 25:14-30)



Jesus continues his teaching on the coming of the kingdom of God with the parable of the landowner and the servants to whom he gives a portion of his resources and the judgement which ensues when he returns.

This is not a story urging self-improvement, but is another warning about the return of the Son of Man. This is indicated by the change in the way the main character is described. At the beginning, he is referred to simply as “a man”: but the third servant buries “his master’s” money. The term “master” is *Kyrios* in Matthew’s original Greek text and can also be understood as “Lord”, and is used for the rest of the narrative. Thus we can see that there is more to the message than meets the eye. The fate of the third servant is to be cast out of the household without a reference. He may be free of his tyrannical employer, but the chances of his finding another position at all, far less one at the level he previously enjoyed, are practically nil, hence the parable ends with a note about frustration, with “weeping and gnashing of teeth”.

It is worth noting that the master does not dispute the third servant’s description of him. However, once his sharp practices are set out in public, the usual social conventions have been breached and punishment is sure to follow. We should, therefore, be careful about allegorising, that is, seeing corresponding details in every aspect of the parable. ■

REFLECT

There are several possible themes running through this parable, most of which do not concern us today. The word “talent” refers, originally, to a considerable sum of money, but passed into English with the sense of innate ability, thanks to this story. The third servant may well be in the same position as someone who discovers that she or he is working for a boss or a firm whose working practices are fundamentally dishonest. We noticed that the central figure in the parable does not disagree with his servant’s assessment of himself as

“a hard man”, reaping and gathering from what was not his own. Did he commend the other two stewards, who doubled their amounts, for pursuing similar policies and exploiting other people? In that case, depositing the money in the bank would be the best way of avoiding such behaviour, but the third individual does not want to co operate in any way at all. If so, then he is perhaps not to be condemned as lazy or irresponsible, but rather commended for acting in an honourable way, according to his conscience.

We know that there are people who are caught in such a dilemma today. To take a stand as a whistle-blower takes a tremendous amount of courage, especially for a person who has family responsibilities. The “sensible” advice would be to remain silent, to keep one’s head down: but sometimes the situation cries out for justice and for the help of the Holy Spirit for the person concerned. ■

LEARN

The word “talent” originally referred to a large sum of money.

It passed into English usage as meaning a special aptitude or gift, due to the influence of this parable.

“Throw him out into the dark” refers to condemnation at the last judgement.

DO

When you hear on the news or in conversation about a whistle-blower, remember the person in your prayers.

SAY

Do not put me to that kind of test.

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Parish Priest: Fr. Tony Grace

Permanent Deacons: Rev. Peter Mascarenhas and Rev. John Penny Fr Michael Ryan OMI

15th November 2020 Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr Tony will be celebrating mass privately on a daily basis and intentions will be included

Saturday	14			Kathleen Perry RIP November Deceased list
Sunday	15	9.30am-10.30am	Private Prayer Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Tom Lennon RIP and Peggy Lennon RIP Anniversary Luigi Amatiello RIP Recently Deceased Reg Robinson RIP Recently Deceased James Hendrie RIP Recently Deceased
Monday	16		St Edmund of Abingdon, St Margaret of Scotland, St Gertrude	
Tuesday	17	10.00am-11.00am	Private Prayer St Hilda, St Hugh of Lincoln, St Elizabeth of Hungary	Michael Patrick Kavanagh RIP Rudolph Vandaele RIP Intentions of Peter M
Wednesday	18		The Dedication of the Basilicas of St Peter and Paul	
Thursday	19	10.00am-11.00am	Private Prayer St Josaphat	Modwena Hartnell-Parker RIP Helen Griggs RIP
Friday	20			
Saturday	21		Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Peggy Lennon RIP 1 st Anniversary
Sunday	22	9.30am-10.30am	Private Prayer Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe	Susan Washington RIP Marek Kotlar RIP November Deceased list

IN NEED OF A PRIEST Please contact Fr Grace at St Gabriel's 01270 877736

Prayer and Mass Intentions can be sent by email to us at stannesnantwich@btinternet.com

Dear Parishioners

As you are now aware, the coronavirus lockdown came into effect on Thursday until the 2nd December. This means that the church will be open for Private Prayer only. There will be no mass or other services celebrated during this period. The church will therefore be open for Private Prayer as detailed below. These days and times will be repeated each week until the lockdown ends.

I hope many of you can come to the church during the lockdown and we look forward to seeing you all. Can you spread the word that the church will be open for Private Prayer.

Take care and keep safe. You are in our prayers always.

Fr Tony, Fr Mike and Deacons Peter and John

Important Information for Attending Church during the November Lockdown

As church services are not permitted during lockdown, St Anne's Church will be open for private prayer only at the following times:

Sundays 9.30 - 10.30

Tuesdays 10 - 11

Thursdays 10 - 11

The doors will not be opened before these times.

This will continue until 2nd December. You may spend up to 15 minutes in church.

Please wear a face mask over your nose and mouth whilst you are in church, sanitise your hands, keep 2 m apart from others and follow the one-way system everyone has become so good at!

Votive candles may be used, please ask a steward to light a candle, from which you can light one yourself.

The stewards will sanitise vacated seats in preparation for the next person and to reduce the spread of infection.

A huge thank you to all the stewards for their work in keeping St Anne's parishioners safe and in anticipation of the weeks to come.

Mass Intentions Please post Mass intentions through Presbytery door or email us. Donations for intentions can be made by bank transfer. Details available from Teri by email.

CLERGY EDUCATION & TRAINING FUND - SPECIAL COLLECTION. This week the annual Collection for the Shrewsbury Clergy Education & Training Fund will be held. On the training and formation of Priests, the future of our Diocese so much depends. For those attending Private Prayer there are baskets at the exits. If you wish to Gift Aid your donation, please make your donation Online. To donate online please go to www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/clergy-education-and-training-fund A link to the leaflet about the Fund is available on the Parish website. This explains how you can also donate to the Fund by Standing Order or Cheque and how to Gift Aid donations made using these methods.

New Community Hub Hooray!! We have reached our 1st initial target of £173k and can now progress to planning permission stage. Thank you to everyone who has donated, this really does mean a lot to the Parish and community. Understandably things have been quiet whilst we have been under Covid lockdown however we need to continue fundraising to reach our next target of £87k to reach £260k. Please do help by making donations via this link <https://app.thegoodexchange.com/project/17726/st-annes-church-nantwich/st-annes-community-hub> or to the presbytery.

OFFERTORY

Last week's collection

£273.00

Thank you. During Private Prayer baskets will be available for offertory donations. Online donations <https://investmycommunity.com/not-logged-donor/page/stannesdioceseofshrewsbury2168>

November Prayers for the Deceased Envelopes in which you can place the names of your deceased relatives and those for whom you wish to pray are now available at various points in the church. There will be a basket at the altar for these November Intentions. Unfortunately, we won't be holding our usual Mass for the recently deceased as this does not fall within our COVID 19 guidelines, however we will have Mass intentions for the recently deceased of the Parish throughout November. Fr Tony will include these intentions in his daily private masses.

Pope Francis' prayer for November: Pope's November prayer intention: that progress in robotics and AI "be human" In his video message on his prayer intention for November, Pope Francis emphasizes that progress in robotics and artificial intelligence (AI) be oriented "towards respecting the dignity of the person and of Creation". <https://youtu.be/NYkwVRteZTI>

Prayer in Difficult Times – Talks by Fr. Matt Blake OCD

Drawing on the Carmelite tradition to help us pray and live deeply our Christian lives during this time of lockdown.

Mondays November 9th, November 16th, November 23rd, November 30th Times: 10.00am and repeated at 8.00pm

www.carmelitechurch.org You Tube "Kensington Carmelite Church"

You'll notice that the talks, as well as being given live at 10.00 am and 8.00 pm and streamed from the Kensington Carmelite Church will also be streamed on YouTube, where they will continue to be available as recordings.

Christmas support for Nantwich Foodbank are promoting a reverse advent calendar idea. It gives suggestions of what is needed in the parcels (they don't expect people to donate all the items unless they wish to!) Donations can be dropped at Brine Leas school on 28/11/20 between 11-13.00. The organisers for the Food festival are arranging this collection. Copies of the calendar are available at the exits to St Anne's and on our website.

Despite Covid-19, **the Christmas Shoebox Appeal** is going forward in faith. Nantwich Churches and community have for years sent 'boxes of love' to children on the margins of society usually in Eastern Europe and Africa. Teams4U charity, based in Wrexham, still aim to send a lorry and St Mary's Church Nantwich have offered to be the collection venue for the boxes. Collecting starts from Sunday Nov 1 and ends Thursday Nov 19. The Church aims to open weekdays and Saturday from 10am to 3p.m. and of course after the Sunday Services which are 9.30am and 10.45 am. Advice on how to fill a box can be found on their website www.teams4u.com.

Charity Christmas Cards from Cards for Good Causes Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions we will not be able to operate our annual Christmas Card shop in the Tarporley Baptist and Methodist Church. However you can still support Cards for Good Causes by visiting our Chester shop which this year will be in the Grosvenor Shopping Centre, at 15 St Michael's Row. Alternatively cards can be bought on line at www.cardsforcharity.co.uk Charities have had a very difficult time raising much needed funds during this pandemic. Over 70% of our sales goes directly to the charities and so do please support us by buying your cards from either the Chester shop or on line. Stay safe. All enquiries Mary Thompson 01829 733642.

Bible Timeline Course - If you have struggled to read the Bible, and maybe given up several books in, this course is designed to help you understand the history of salvation. There are seven sessions from 7pm - 8.30pm starting Wednesday 4th. November. It is free and looks at the Bible story in a clear and simple way. You will need access to a Catholic Bible to read a section prior to each session. A description of the course is available in the link below as well as details of how to register. comeandsee.org The course is held live on 'Zoom' but you do not need a zoom account, the course leader will send you a link enabling you to join in.

Fratelli tutti is the title Pope Francis has chosen for his encyclical letter dedicated to "human fraternity" and "social friendship". In English, it can be read as 'All Brothers', 'Brethren all' or 'Brothers and sisters all'. The first words of the new 'circular letter', or encyclical as we know it, come from St Francis of Assisi. <https://catholicnews.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8bfb372c271fbad8a971552fb&id=d1814557fa&e=d5cb67f88d>

Feast and Memorial Days



St Margaret of Scotland 1046-1093 Born in Hungary, Margaret died in Edinburgh. She was of Anglo-Saxon and Hungarian parentage, finding refuge from the Norman conquest of England with Malcolm III of Scotland. They were married in 1070 and she bore eight children. Margaret reformed the royal court, founded monasteries and sponsored major reforms of church life.



This feast celebrates the dedications of two of the four major basilicas of Rome.

Saint Peter's Basilica was originally built in 323 by the emperor Constantine. The basilica was constructed over the tomb of Peter the Apostle, the Church's first Pope. After standing for more than a thousand years, Pope Julius II ordered the building to be torn down due to structural concerns. The construction of the new church spanned over 200 years before its completion. It was dedicated on Nov. 18, 1626. It is considered the most famous church in Christendom.

Saint Paul's Basilica is located outside the original walls of Rome. It was also originally built by the emperor Constantine though it was destroyed by fire in 1823. Donations from around the world made the reconstruction possible. Before the completion of Saint Peter's Basilica, St Paul's was the largest church in Rome. The Basilica was built over St. Paul's grave. Pope Pius IX consecrated the Basilica in 1854.

These two churches continue to draw millions of faithful pilgrims each year as well as many visitors from other faiths.

Prayer Resource for November: month of the Holy Souls



Prayer: *taken from the Roman Missal* Listen kindly to our prayers, O Lord, and, as our faith in your Son, raised from the dead, is deepened, so may our hope of resurrection for your departed servants also find new strength. 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

Song of Farewell: *From the Order of Christians Funerals*

Saints of God, come to their aid!
Hasten to meet them, angels of the Lord!
Receive their soul and present them to God the most high. May Christ, who called you, take you to himself;
may angels lead you to the bosom of Abraham.
Receive their soul and present them to God the most high.
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
Receive their soul and present them to God the most high.

Psalm 22:

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort.

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

Eternal Rest grant unto him/her, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon him/her. May he/she rest in peace.
Amen. May his/her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

Subject: Autumn talks on Spirituality A series of eight, fortnightly talks about Spiritual Masters, given by distinguished speakers. They are free to view live-streamed, although there will be a fee to view recordings. Saints, Scholars and Spiritual Masters. A series of online talks on Thursday evenings at 7.30 pm, starting on 3 September organised by the Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst. For details and to register: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/event/saints-scholars-spiritual-masters/>.

Centre for Applied Carmelite Spirituality series of lectures. This features the five great Teresa's of the Carmelite tradition - Teresa of Avila, Teresa Margaret Redi, Therese of Lisieux, Teresa of the Andes and Teresa Benedicta (Edith Stein). For Teresa of Avila and Therese of Lisieux the paid-for talks in this series overlap with the free talks in the Christian Heritage centre series (given by the same or an equally distinguished lecturer), but it would be a chance to learn about the other Carmelite spiritual masters. On selected Sundays at 8.00 pm between 20 September and 15 November. The cost is £20 for each lecture. For details and to register: <https://mailchi.mp/oxcacs.org/new-spirituality-series-of-lectures-from-cacs?e=1f35f1f3f8>

Sanctuaries, shrines Catholics can 'visit' virtually in Europe, Mideast. <https://catholicsentinel.org/Content/Arts/Arts-and-Entertainment/Article/Sanctuaries-shrines-Catholics-can-visit-virtually-in-Europe-Mideast/6/31/40431>

Journeying Together <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/journeying-together/>

Shrewsbury Youth Mission. <https://www.svmt.org.uk/>

The National Shrine for Our Lady of Walsingham www.walsingham.org.uk/livestream

Laudato Tree <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/world/news/2020-05/laudato-tree-sahel-pope-francis-laudato-si-year.html>

Watch a Mass from home. Live-streaming of Masses Shrewsbury Diocese: <http://www.churchservices.tv/shrewsburycathedral/embed#tab-player> Church Services TV: <https://www.churchservices.tv/timetable/>

Prayer resources at: <http://pathwaystogod.org/>. <https://www.sacredspace.ie/> <http://ln54.blogspot.com>

<http://pravasyougo.org/>

Catholic Bishops Conference <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/> and latest news <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/news-and-media/news/>

Prayer for times of Flu or Illness <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/03/prayer-flu-viruses.pdf>

Stream Father Denis McBride's Mass for the Dead <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pY1bOyrcDbw>

Life Helplines and Information can be found at <http://www.dayforlife.org/article/helplines-and-information-2020/>

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction.

You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God,
the constant gladness of being devoted to
you,
for it is full and lasting happiness
to serve with constancy
the author of all that is good.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

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.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 127

Response:

O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

1. 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. (R.)
2. Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. (R.)

3. 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. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians.

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about "times and seasons", since you know 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 the darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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 25:14-30

(For shorter form, read between > <)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

>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 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 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 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.'"

>The Gospel of the Lord.<

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;**

**through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,**

(all bow during the next three lines)

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant, O Lord, we pray,
that what we offer in the sight of your majesty
may obtain for us the grace of being devoted
to you
and gain us the prize of everlasting happiness.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**To be near God is my happiness,
to place my hope in God the Lord.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We have partaken of the gifts of this sacred
mystery,
humbly imploring, O Lord,
that what your Son commanded us to do
in memory of him
may bring us growth in charity.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.