



33rd Sunday Ordinary Time

19th November 2023



The Parable of the Talents, which is the Gospel reading for this Sunday, is urging us to be ready for the master's return. Jesus is that master who went on a journey when he ascended to heaven. After a long time the master, Jesus, will return at his Second Coming. Whenever he comes again we will stand before him with our talents. The talents were not distributed to each servant equally in the parable. One servant received five talents, one received two talents, and one servant received one talent. Why? Jesus said they were distributed to each according to his ability. Therefore each servant received just the right number of talents to match his ability; not too many in order that talents would not go to waste unused, and not too few in order that the servant would not do good works.

Now is the important time. Now is the time, to use the words of Jesus in the Gospel parable, when we are either good or faithful servants or lazy servants. The Lord does not give us a blueprint for every hour of every day just as the servants in the parable were not told what to do with their talents. Yet the Lord expects diligence in using the gifts we have received. It is up to us to figure out what is best with what we have received. In today's uncertain world, there are many ways we can use the talents which we have been given so we can help those around us and if we have buried a talent, now is the time to dig it up so that we can hear the Lord say to us, "Well done, my good and faithful servant. Come, share your master's joy."

Tuesday 21st November marks the memorial of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary so let us offer our prayers through her as we implore:

Hail Mary,
Full of Grace,
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary,
Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now,
and at the hour of our death.



Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in these times. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

"Do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you!"
Pope Francis

In addition, this week let us pray for

- ◆ strength and support for all those facing difficult times;
- ◆ all those who are struggling with their mental health;
- ◆ those affected by war;
- ◆ all those connected to our community who are unwell, upset or mourning.

You have been faithful in small things; come and join in your master's happiness.

Matthew 25

