CATHOLIC PARISH OF WESTBOURNE
NEWSLETTER
8 NOVEMBER 2026 32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

COME TO MEET HIM

Although commentators and writers have found difficulty in explaining many of the details in this parable, the general lesson is clear enough. Our Lord described an incident that happened or could have happened at a wedding festival to bring home to his listeners the need for being ever vigilant and ready in his service if they wish to avoid the calamity of being excluded from the heavenly and eternal nuptials on the last day. In the other parable in which our Lord uses a wedding feast to describe his kingdom, the lesson concerns those who refused the invitation and will not come to the wedding. Here it concerns those who gladly accepted the invitation.

The ten bridesmaids, or maidens, in the parable represent all Christians. On receiving the sacrament of baptism, the Christian starts on the road to heaven; he gets his invitation to the heavenly nuptials, but this journey is only the beginning. From the moment he comes to the use of reason, he is expected to prepare himself by living according to the law of God for the great moment when the call will go forth: *'Behold the bridegroom! Come to meet him.'* This moment will be, first, at the hour of death for each individual when one's eternal fate will be decided, and again at the general judgement of the human race. During their lifetime all are invited to the heavenly wedding, and all have the necessary means to get ready. But, like the foolish bridesmaids, many will fail to make use of these means and will realise their folly when it is too late. This is very sad. But as we will see, it doesn't need to be this way.



A certain number of those for whom Christ died on the cross, and to whom he gave the gift of his revelation and offered all the help they needed, will never reach heaven because they exchanged their heavenly birthright for a mess of earthly pottage. That the foolish bridesmaids in the parable lost a golden opportunity through their negligence is evident, and we can all sympathise with them up to a point, but the thoughts of very few will turn to the bride and groom who were so seriously insulted by this act of negligence on the part of chosen friends.

So too, every Christian lost is a grievous insult to the God who created and redeemed him.

SEE PAGE TWO

MASS TIMES

Sunday 8 November - 32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY)
9.00am
11.00am - *Requiem Mass*

Mon 9 November - DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA
No Mass

Tuesday 10 November - ST. LEO THE GREAT
10.00am

Wednesday 11 November - ST. MARTIN OF TOURS
10.00am

Thursday 12 November - ST. JOSAPHAT
10.00am

Friday 13 November - FERIA
10.00am (*Mass is followed by Adoration)*

Saturday 14 November - OUR LADY ON SATURDAY
10.00am

Sunday 15 November - 33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
9.00am
11.00am

OUR PARISH

OUR LADY IMMACULATE CHURCH
SEAMOOR ROAD, WESTBOURNE,
BOURNEMOUTH, BH4 9AE

Parish Priest: Fr. Leslie Adams
Telephone: 01202 764027
Email: ladams@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
(Baptism, Marriages, Sick Visits, Funerals and Confessions)

Parish Administrator: Dominic Farrell
General enquires and hall bookings
Telephone: 01202 760640
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Safeguarding Officers:
Joan Smithies and Edward Adamson
safeguarding.boush@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Donations: CDP Bournemouth
Our Lady Immaculate
Sort code: 309304 **Account:** 00875075

SUNDAY READINGS

Entrance Antiphon
Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

Responsorial Psalm
For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia! Stay awake and be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon
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.

COME TO MEET HIM (FROM PAGE ONE).
Christians have received the fullness of God's revelation and have been offered a special place in his marriage festival; they have received a privileged invitation not given to others. Is it not a serious and deliberate insult to God not to comply with the conditions of that generous offer?

Providing themselves with oil was the obligation imposed on the bridesmaids in the parable. It was surely a trivial condition when compared with the reward offered them: a very special place at the marriage feast. The obligations imposed on us Christians are surely trivial too when compared with the reward offered us in return: an eternity of happiness in heaven. It seems incredible that there are many among us this very day who, like the foolish bridesmaids, doze and sleep contentedly holding empty lamps in their hands, while at any moment they may be awakened by: "*Behold, the bridegroom comes! Go forth to meet him*".

Now is the time for all of us to say, *"Lord, Lord, open to us."* It is up to us now to decide, aided by God's grace, where we shall be found on the last day - with the wise bridesmaids or with the foolish.

PARISH AND DIOCESAN NEWS

OUR LOVED ONES. During the month of November, traditionally dedicated to the Holy Souls, envelopes are available at the baptismal font for you to write the names of your deceased loved ones whom you wish to be remembered in prayer. Please place your completed envelope on the altar. Those whose names are submitted will be remembered at Mass throughout the month of November.

PRESENTATION OF THE FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN. The children who are preparing for their First Holy Communion next year will be presented to the parish at 11.00am on Sunday 22 November. They will also be helping to serve refreshments after Mass so please do come along to say hello to the children if you can.

HALL. A complaint has been raised about tables being left dirty after use. Please can all hall users ensure that tables are wiped down as appropriate so that they are clean for the next group. Thank you. *Fr. Leslie*

SAVE THE DATE. In place of the usual parish lunch, we will be having a carol service followed by a Christmas international buffet on Wednesday 16 December at 6.00pm. More details will follow.

MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION OF THE HOLY FATHER. *For the proper use of wealth.* Let us pray for the proper use of wealth. By not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, let it always be put at the service of the common good and those who have less.

CARITAS CHARITY MASS AND NETWORKING EVENT. This will take place on Saturday 14 November from 10.30am - 3.00pm in St. Bede's Church, Basingstoke. For more information email: caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

ARE YOU GOING INTO HOSPITAL? Please let the Catholic Chaplaincy know so that appropriate support can be given to you during your stay.

BOURNEMOUTH AND CHRISTCHURCH PASTORAL AREA PRAYER. *Lord Jesus Christ, you call us to be your witnesses in this area and in this time. Root us deeply in your love, shape us as missionary disciples, and teach us to steward wisely all that you have entrusted to us. Give us the courage to change, the humility to listen, and the faith to trust where you lead. May your Spirit guide our prayer, our planning, and our action, so that all we do may give glory to the Father and draw others to you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

PLEASE REMEMBER all the sick and housebound in our parish: *Mary Stone, Geoffrey Dixon, Christopher Browne, Elizabeth Lubrow and Liz Judge.*

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND. If you are interested in a home visit, please contact the office, so Fr. Leslie can arrange this for you.

GOING AWAY? Need someone to care for your home or pets while you're away? If you're planning a holiday, mission trip, family visit, or other time away from home, *Christian House Sitters* can help provide peace of mind. *Christian House Sitters* connects Christian homeowners with trusted Christian house sitters who can care for homes, pets, gardens, and livestock while owners are away.

Homeowners register free of charge. Sitters are Christians with references. Pets and homes receive personal care and attention. The service also supports the work of TLC Children's Trust helping vulnerable children in Kenya. Visit the website for more details: www.christian-housesitters.com

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE. Please send any newsletter items to the office by 9.00am on Wednesday. They can also be emailed to the parish inbox at: oliadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Thank you!

PORTSMOUTH VOCATIONS. If you're considering a vocation to the priesthood, please contact Canon John Cooke on 01329 318 869. Please pray that more men will come forward for the priesthood.

GOSPEL - MATTHEW 25:1-13

‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, *‘The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, “Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.”*

Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, “Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.” But the wise answered, saying, “Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.” And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterwards the other virgins came also, saying, “Lord, lord, open to us.” But he answered, “Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.” Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.’

BAPTISM, being the doorway to fullness of life and to the kingdom of God, is the first sacrament of imitation celebrated. If you are thinking of having your child baptised and raised in the practice of the faith, please speak with Fr. Leslie.

A FOUNDATION MASS is a memorial Mass for a specific person that is offered on an annual basis, on a specific day, for a period of 25 years. Please speak to Fr. Leslie if you would like to know more.

MARRIAGE SUPPORT. Retrouvaille could be the solution if you're experiencing difficulties in your marriage. Visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk or call 0797 338 0443.

OUR SECOND COLLECTION on Sunday 15 November will be for the retired clergy.

DIGITAL PIANO FOR SALE (IN EXCELLENT CONDITION). I am helping a priest friend to downsize, and he has a *Yamaha Clavinova CLP-360* digital piano for sale. It would be ideal for beginners (young or old) learning to play or perfect for the more established player for practice at home or for use in a church hall or community centre. This digital piano is in excellent condition and comes with a high-quality professional piano stool.

This belongs to a local priest who is a keen pianist and has been beautifully cared for. It features a full-sized keyboard with weighted keys for the feel of a traditional piano and headphone capability for silent practice. It is a size that can easily fit into any home or church/community hall. It never needs tuning. Please note, this will need to be collected. Price: £300 o.n.o. Contact: Fr. Leslie 07496 253542.

MASS INTENTIONS. If you would like a Mass to be celebrated for a loved one, please speak to Fr. Leslie.

GETTING MARRIED? Congratulations! Please speak with Fr. Leslie after Mass, so he can discuss the preparations with you.

THE MONTHLY MASS at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital will not be celebrated during November. Please note that while Mass isn't celebrated at Poole Hospital there is a prayer session with the Divine Mercy Chaplet and the Holy Rosary from 3.00pm each Friday. All are welcome to come and pray for the patients and staff.

SIGN UP for the Portsmouth Lay Leaders' Conference that takes place on Saturday 21 November at The Solent Hotel & Spa, Whiteley. This will be a day of encouragement, inspiration and fellowship. Please see the poster in the porch for more information about this engaging event. Thank you.