



The Parish of

St Anne & St Bede

Parish Office: 1 Severn St, Balwyn North

Office Hours: Closed during Stage 4 Restrictions.

Phone: 9401 6355
in case of emergency 9401 6368

E-mail: balwynnorthkeweast@cam.org.au

Website: parishofstanneandstbede.org.au

For those wishing to contribute to Stewardship or Priests' collection, the Parish account details are listed below for electronic funds transfer.

1st Collection

**Account name: St Bede's Presbytery Account
Presbytery Account BSB: 083 347 Account no.
666017079**

2nd Collection

**Account name: St Bede's Church Account Church
Account BSB: 083 347 Account no. 458706734**

Please click on the link below from 5pm on Saturday, 7 November, to watch Mass Online, celebrated by our priests:

<https://youtu.be/Z-A3rvib3h0>

First Reading - Wisdom 6:12-16

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.

By those who love her she is readily seen,
and found by those who look for her.

Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them.

Watch for her early and you will have no trouble;
you will find her sitting at your gates.

Even to think about her is understanding fully grown;
be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you.

She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her
and graciously shows herself to them as they go,
in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 62(63):2-8

R. My soul is thirsting for you O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. **R.**

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.

For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. **R.**

So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. **R.**

On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. **R.**

Second Reading – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them; to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel – Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

Parables are never as simple as they appear on the surface. They always carry a deeper meaning which is applicable to daily living.

On the first hearing this parable of bridesmaids who were excluded from the wedding feast and forced to remain locked out in the dark, we could easily be forgiven for regarding their sensible companions, as a selfish lot in refusing to share their oil with them. To our way of thinking the punishment of having the door of the wedding banquet slammed in their face is too severe. At worst they deserved a reprimand for their last minute rush.

However, the gospel story is not about forgetting to bring along extra oil for a lamp, but about how we view the invitation extended to us all to take our place in the kingdom of God. We only have ourselves to blame if we fail to arrive or are unprepared when the times comes. Being ready beforehand is what matters most and a last minute hurry to get ourselves into spiritual shape is not to be recommended. If we are to have an eternity of joy we shall have to prepare for it wholeheartedly. Admittance to the banquet of eternal life cannot simply be taken for granted. Christ teaches this parable as a warning because the Lord will come with startling suddenness like a thief in the night.

An essential part of the Christian life is to cultivate a personal relationship with God, which each one must possess, work at and live because it cannot be borrowed at the last minute. We do this by developing a calm and believing attitude as we go about our normal work. There is no better way of achieving this than by using those spare moments during the day to share our thoughts, plans and worries with Christ, in prayer, telling him what is on our mind and asking him to guide us. Christ is always prepared to meet us, so we, on our part, should be prepared to meet him. He does not give an appointment but comes as he wills into our lives.

The gospel brings home the importance of being ready and prepared while we wait, by loving God and neighbour. We are not to take the chance of going through life relying on the minimum of holiness. When the call comes, what will count are the qualities of character we have developed, not the riches we possess or the fortune we have gathered.

Being prepared is important no matter how old we are. Being ready isn't just for old people, and it is nothing new; we do it all the time in the secular world. What if we begin a trip to a foreign country without a passport? How can we begin to prepare for an exam when the test is today?

Fr Toan Nguyen

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: The way of Christ is not hidden but is readily found by those who search for him. We make ourselves known through these prayers.

We pray for Pope Francis, all the Bishops and Clergy of our Church. By their teaching and example may they lead people to see the wisdom embodied in the Gospel.

Lord hear us

As we continue to commemorate the end of the First World War this month, we pray that people in our world, again ravaged by war, may experience peace in their lives.

Lord hear us

We pray for our civil and political leaders. May they exercise their stewardship with responsibility and a genuine concern for the good of all.

Lord hear us

We pray for our faith community during this period of lockdown, when we are not able to meet in our houses of prayer to celebrate the Eucharist. May our faith stay strong in isolation and may it not be too long before we can again meet face-to-face.

Lord hear us

We pray for the sick of our parish, especially **Marie White** and **Thina Raman**. May they receive the comfort of God's love from those engaged in caring for them.

Lord hear us

We pray for those who have died recently, especially **Pierina Pellegrini** and **Pia Di Stasio**, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially **Thomas Hanh Truong, Greg Forristal, Giuseppe Di Stasio, Tony D'Agostino and Ong Boe-Kee**. May they be brought to the fullness of life with Christ.

Lord hear us

Celebrant: We are confident, God of mercy, that you will continue to encourage our hearts and strengthen them through grace. Hear our prayer, we pray, through Christ, our Lord. Amen

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,

I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You;

never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL VULNERABLE PEOPLE

We hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our parish. The Parish Statement of Commitment and Reporting Process are on display in all churches and all Parish Policies are available on the website or at the parish office.