

THE OIL OF SALVATION

Although this week's Gospel leads us to think about weddings, bridesmaids, and bride grooms who are late, the lesson Jesus teaches is, in fact, about the future of the Church - what we should do in the time before the second coming.

Here, it is Christ who is the Bridegroom, and the parable appears as an allegory for life in the Church during the time of waiting for his return. Picking up on a very ancient and original conception of the Church as the 'bride' of Christ, the parable portrays all the bridesmaids as the members of the Church, which of course is us. And as so often in Matthew's Gospel, the members of the Church described are not always what they could be - some do as well as they can, while others fall short; we are a Church of different people, who are at different stages of faith.

The oil, here, represents the kind of good deeds that Jesus wants the Church to carry out -- and these are not just deeds, but dispositions, or ways of living. Jesus wants us to live and act in 'justice, mercy, and faith' (23:23). The five foolish bridesmaids represent the kinds of members of the Church who cry out 'Lord, Lord', when it is convenient for them, but do not ordinarily have any good works which show that they act and live in justice, mercy, and faith. On the other hand, those who are wise not only act and live in justice, mercy, and faith, but these things become the light of the 'lamps' which remain shining.

So, the parable, and indeed the Gospel, remind us of the words of dismissal at the Eucharist: 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord'. These words are not randomly chosen, or there because they sound nice. They, in fact, spell out a programme for living the double command of love of God and love of neighbour -- we leave Mass, nourished by the Eucharist, strengthened to love the Lord and serve one another. Those of us who take these principled instructions with us, and build our lives around what they intend, will be the ones who carry with us the 'oil' required for salvation. It has the added bonus of being able to 'sleep' without anxiety, in case the Lord suddenly comes in the meantime!

Justice, mercy, and faith sit at the heart of our faith: they are the consequence of the great double commandment to love our God and love our neighbour -- perhaps this week we can look at what we have and what we do, and recognize some of our treasure as being those acts of justice, mercy, and faith in our lives.

Fr Philip



FISHER HOUSE NEWSLETTER

Sunday 12 November: 32nd Sunday of the Year
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

CALENDAR: WEEK VI OF TERM

Sunday 12	32nd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 9.00 Sung Latin Mass 11.00 Sung English Mass
Monday 13	1.05 Mass 6.30 Gilbey Requiem (EF)
Tuesday 14	1.05 Mass
Wednesday 15	1.05 Mass <i>St Albert the Great</i> 12.30 <i>Exposition of Blessed Sacrament</i>
Thursday 16	1.05 Mass <i>St Edmund of Canterbury</i>
Friday 17	1.05 Mass <i>St Hilda, St Hugh</i> 7.30 <i>Exposition, Evening Prayer & Reflection</i>
Saturday 18	1.05 Mass 4.30 - 5.30 <i>Confessions</i> 6.00 Vigil Mass of Sunday
Sunday 19	33rd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 9.00 Sung Latin Mass 11.00 Sung English Mass

MONS. MARK LANGHAM : SR ANN SWAILES OP : FR PHILIP MOLLER SJ

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR POVERTY

Pope Francis has designated next Sunday the *World Day of the Poor*, "so that throughout the world Christian communities can become an ever greater sign of Christ's charity for the least and those most in need."

Prayers at Mass will reflect this theme, and there will be a CAFOD display in the Fisher Room following the 11.00am Mass.

CAKE SALE

In what is now a delightful tradition, the Beer family will prepare and sell cakes for charity after the 11.00am Mass next Sunday.

BOOK SALE TOO!

While you are munching cakes, there will be a chance to browse excess stock from the library which we are selling off. Proceeds to charity.

BOOKS AVAILABLE

Caroline Stone is disposing of her library at 13 Millington Rd (in Newnham, off Barton Rd, on the left before you get to Grange Rd), the annex on the left, NOT the main house. She will be there from 2.15-5.00 today, Sunday, if anyone would like to visit and take some books. Contact Fr Mark on ml709 for more details.

GILBEY REQUIEM

The annual requiem for Mgr Gilbey will take place on Monday, at 6.30pm, in the Extraordinary Form, to be followed by a reception in the Great Chamber.

TUESDAY TALKS: APOLOGIA

This week, Sr Ann will speak on *The Mystery of Suffering*. All welcome. Dinner is served at 7.00pm, and the talk takes place at 7.45pm, followed by Compline and Bar.

SAINTS AND SCONES

Hear about a saint as you enjoy a real Devon cream tea. Sunday 4.30pm Sr Anne's room.

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST

Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to our ministers commissioned today.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

A one-day course for engaged couples will be held at Fisher House on Saturday 25 November. Please contact Fr Mark on ml709

INTERFAITH TALK

The next interfaith talk will be on Thursday 23 November, given by Rabbi Mordechai Zeller on the Jewish Faith.

RETREAT: 3-6 DECEMBER

This is now full, but contact Fr Mark to be put on the waiting list.

GIVING TREE



The SVP's traditional 'Giving Tree' has arrived, encouraging us to buy a gift for a homeless person over Christmas. Take a pair of labels in the price range you wish, buy the gift, one label on the gift, the other on the tree.

BENSON CLUB

We are reading Graham Greene's masterpiece *The Power and the Glory*, (a book every Catholic should read) and will discuss it on Wednesday 22 November in the Great Chamber.

COMPANIONS OF MALTA

On Thursday at 7.00pm in the Fisher Room, the Companions of Malta will host a Movie and Pizza Party - St. Giuseppe Moscati: Doctor to the Poor. Before the movie, they will briefly outline opportunities to visit local residential homes, so please do come along to more about our new volunteer project!

CAMBRIDGE CHURCHES' HOMELESS PROJECT

If you will be here over the Christmas holiday, or want to help early in the new year with this project, please contact Stephen Barwise on stephenbarwise@btinternet.com

CUCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS

The CUCA Annual General Meeting will be held at 12:00 on 26 November 2017. Elections for positions on CUCA Council will take place at the AGM. The following positions are to be filled: President;

Secretary (Dr Mark Retter standing for election); Treasurer (Dr Damian Crowther standing for re-election); Librarian (Ms Alex Browne standing for re-election); three Ordinary Members.

If you wish to stand for election for one of these positions, please contact the Acting Secretary at least 7 days before the meeting and arrange for your nomination to be proposed and seconded. For all enquiries, please contact: cuca_secretary@fisherhouse.org.uk.

FAITH IN POLITICS INTERNSHIPS

A tremendous opportunity for recent graduates to gain experience in Parliament and Public life. These internships are sponsored by the Bishops of England and Wales. Details on the poster outside the chapel.

COLLECTION LAST WEEK

£364.17

Thank you!