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| ***Immaculate Conception Parish***  P O BOX 600 Tumut  Catholic Community  Collection amounts for January 2016 ~PARISH NEWS~  ~ PARISH NEWS ~  **~ GOSPEL REFLECTION ~** |

How many times were you told as a child to be ready for an outing or for the expected arrival of visitors or for dinner or for something else when you simply wanted to stay as you were? Sometimes it matters little whether we are ready or not. Sometimes it really matters and today’s gospel parable depicts one of those situations when it is of crucial importance to be prepared.

The imminent event is a wedding celebration. The betrothal period is over and the bridegroom has left to bring the bride from the home of her parents to his family home. Ten young women of his household will watch for the arrival of the couple and will light their way into the wedding feast. The young women in their turn can expect to be welcome at the feast. Five are well prepared for the arrival and five are not. The five who bring (olive) oil for their lamps are designated “wise” while the other five who bring no oil are said to be “foolish”. Negotiating the terms of the marriage contract takes longer than expected so that the bridegroom is delayed. The young women wait and wait, then fall asleep. At midnight, the bridegroom’s arrival is signalled and the young women rise to trim their lamps in readiness for their role of lighting his way.

The bride is invisible in the telling of the story, presumably because the focus must be on the bridegroom alone. Earlier in Matthew’s gospel (9:15), Jesus is depicted as “the bridegroom”. The attentive reader of the gospel is aware that today’s parable is about Jesus and that it forms part of Matthew’s end-time discourse (24:1-25:46). The delay of the bridegroom evokes the community’s expectation that Jesus who has died and been raised will return at an undisclosed time. In the interim, the members are to be actively watchful and ready, living in the spirit of Matthew’s first discourse (5:1-7:29) with its emphasis on right relationship. Matthew 7 concludes with reference to wise and foolish decisions: the foolish one builds on sand while the wise one builds on rock. The behaviour of the “wise” in today’s parable is as puzzling as that of the “foolish”. The “foolish” fail to prepare: they have no oil and cannot expect to light the way without it. The “wise” have prepared and they receive their reward. Is there wisdom, however, in sending their “foolish” friends to buy olive oil at midnight? There are more unanswered questions than we can address in this little reflection. We can identify with both the wise and the foolish. We need the wisdom to ensure that the produce of God’s Earth, represented by the olive oil, is received as gift and used in right measure or in right relationship. *An excerpt by* ***Sr.Veronica Lawson***

***An excerpt by Sr. Veronica Lawson***

**‘CLERGY’**

* **Fr. Sijo Jose (Parish Priest)**
* **Fr. Luke Verrell (Assistant Priest)**

**‘PARISH SECRETARY’**

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**‘WEEKEND MASS TIMES’**

**Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm**

**Sunday: 10am (Children’s Liturgy)**

**Talbingo Sunday: 8.00am**

**‘THIS WEEKS MASS TIMES’**

**Saturday: 9am (every fortnight - Thursday: 11am BUPA Liturgy**

**Saturday: 9.40am BLAKENEY LODGE Liturgy)**

**‘ROSARY’**

**Saturday at 8.45am**

**Exposition at 8.30am (1st Sat of month)**

**‘RECONCILIATION’**

**Saturday at 5.15pm**

**‘LITURGY MEETING’**

**Tuesday: 2.00pm in Chapel**

**‘PRAYER GROUP’**

**(Rosary & Divine Mercy)**

**Wednesday: 2pm in Chapel**

**‘CONTACTS’**

**Care Group: Anne Huebner 69473406**

**32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Year A**

**November 12th 2017**

***Entrance Antiphon***

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

***Responsorial Psalm***

**My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.**

***Gospel Acclamation***

**Alleluia, alleluia! Be watchful and ready; you know not when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia!**

***Gospel Acclamation***

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Alleluia, alleluia! Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed; the Saviour of the world will be our king. Alleluia!

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| T THIS WEEK Saturday & Sunday 11th & 12th November | | | |
| Ministry | Saturday Vigil 6pm | Sunday 10am | |
| Acolyte | Barry Madigan | Dave Shedden | |
| Reader | Cath Purcell | Anne Huebner | |
| Commentator | Mary Kelly | John Power | |
| Children’s Liturgy | ---------- | Kirsty Beavan | |
| Musicians | Maureen Norman | Patricia & Monica | |
| Altar Servers | Chloe Turnbull & Lily Webb | Jude Moreno & Hunter Styles | |
| Church Care  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  LINEN Marie Ambrose | Group 5: Sandra, Maria & Margaret Dean | | |
| NEXT WEEK Saturday & Sunday 18th & 19th November | | | |
| Ministry | Vigil 6pm | | 10am |
| Acolyte | Tony Butler | | Anita Mason |
| Reader | Patricia Wilks | | Chris Kelly |
| Commentator | Maureen Cook | | Liz Boxall |
| Children’s Liturgy | ---------- | | Fran Butler |
| Musicians | Maureen Norman | | Anna Quinn |
| Altar Servers | Jessie Raftery & Dana Parry | | Darcy Halloran & Charlotte Kelly |
| Church Care | ---------------------------- | | |

Feast Day**Wishing all our wonderful dads a Happy Father’s Day**

R O S T E R S

**FEAST DAY 17th November: Saint Elizabeth of Hungary**

**For Sale – 2018** Daily Mass books $22.00@ and Columban Calendars $8.20@

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**You must be the change you wish to see in the world *Mahatma Gandhi***

**~PARISH NEWS~**

**CLERGY** **RETREAT** Fr. Sijo and Fr. Luke will be away next week attending this retreat in Galong. There will be liturgies instead of the Masses during these days.**ANNOINTING MASS**McAuley school will present this Mass on Wednesday 22nd November at 10am***.*** Everyone welcome.**CATHOLIC VOICE** November edition is now available. **TUMUT COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCHEON** Preparations are happening for this event, and the working group is looking for additional volunteers to help on the day, and/or as a lead up to Christmas. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Patricia on 0401472161. **BAPTISMS** we welcome into our community this weekend Evelyn Veronica Jesperson daughter of Nicholas and Chloe and Lauryn Louise Cheryl and Lillian Jean Taylor Heard daughters of Travis and Annie. We pray for all baptism families. **SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL** – ANNUAL CHRISTMAS APPEAL envelopes for this appeal will be available next weekend, your support would be most appreciated. **MASS INTENTION ENVELOPES** are available for your November Mass requests, please take one. **SPECIAL THANKS** this weekend to our new Altar Servers **Jude & Hunter**

**We pray for those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith especially: RECENTLY DECEASED: Mary Joyce McGrath, Ruby Harmer and Pearl Bawden**

**MASS HAS BEEN REQUESTED FOR:**

Members of Young, Egan, Breward & Van de Brug families, Russell & Peter Ritchie, Hector, Annie & Kevin Turner, Jean Kelly, Margaret McMahon, Veronica Tiernan, Mollie Fuller, Joan Malone, Ken & Brian Gee & family members, Rudi & Filomena Comai, Marallo & Comai families, Celia Mullaly, Sr. Mary Francis Daly, Sr. Mary Jo Wells, Sr. Lorna Woodroff, Jim McInerney, Kath Stuckey, Gus & Kath Clout, Ab & Mildred Shanahan, Ina Clout, Timothy Blakeney, Madeling Fenn, Jan Salan, Chris Ballard, Maude Kelly, Norma Leyden, Reg Millgate, Joan Liddell, Lois Shallow, Helen Corbett, Frank, Eileen & Marie Malone, Edward, Marcy & Clem Malone, Frank Stanfield, John Callister, Imelda, Bede & Francis McInerney, Teresa Butler, Joan Stockwell, Emmet Donovan, Hassel McGrath, Noel Cook, Leo & Elvie Holt, Lionel & Tereasa Holt, Hugh Oliver, Pat Malone, Jim Whitaker, Matt & Edith Downing, Con & Ennis Twomey, Pauline Shedden, John Hourigan, Tom & Dorothy French and James Kelly.

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