CATHOLIC PARISH OF CORPUS CHRISTI, CRANEBROOK

Sunday 8th of November 2026 | Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH, CRANEBROOK, NSW

The Net

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years.

Address: 86-92 Andromeda Drive
Cranebrook, NSW, 2749
Postal: PO Box 21
Cranebrook , NSW, 2749
Phone: 4730 1249
Email: cranebrook@parracatholic.org
Facebook:
www.facebook.com/CorpusChristiParishCranebrook

Office Hours: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm (Tue–Fri)
Office unattended Thurs & Fri, 9:10–9:40 am during morning Mass.

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6pm
Sunday 7.30am & 9.30am

Weekday Masses

Tuesday & Wednesday at 6pm
Thursday & Friday at 9.10am

Reconciliation

Saturday evening from 5.00pm - 5.45pm in the Meeting Room

Regular Events

Rosary
Fridays after morning Mass

'Young in Spirit' Seniors Group Morning tea
Last Friday of the month after morning Mass

Parish Morning Tea
Second Sunday of the Month after the 9.30am Mass

Parish Woman's Group
Exclusive group with new members always welcome. Contact the Parish Office if you wish to be a part of the group

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

We, the people of *Corpus Christi*, seek to grow in living Christ-centred mission, sharing our gifts to foster welcome, justice and community in today's world.

A very warm *welcome* to anyone who is new to the parish.

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.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 62:2-8. R. v.2
(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.
1. 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.)
2. 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.)
3. 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.)
4. 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.

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.

Gospel Acclamation
Matthew 24:42. 44
Alleluia, alleluia!
Be watchful and ready:
you know not when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!



Continued on next page

PARISH TEAM:

Parish Priest-Fr Abraham Kunnatholy CMI
-Email: Abraham.Kunnatholy@ parracatholic.org
-Ph: 0492 894 167 (Emergencies only)

Vanessa Sultana – Office Support/ Safeguarding Champion
- Email: cranebrook@parracatholic.org
- Ph: 02 4730 1249

SCHOOLS OF THE PARISH:

Corpus Christi Primary –
Ph 4726 2200
Principal - Mrs Sarah O'Rourke

Xavier College –
Ph 4777 0900
Principal - Mr Michael Pate

CATHOLIC PARISH OF CORPUS CHRISTI, CRANEBROOK

Sunday 8th of November 2026 | Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

Pope Leo XIV's Prayer Intention for November

For the proper use of wealth

Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

Feast Days this Week

November 9th: The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

November 10th: Saint Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church

November 11th: Saint Martin of Tours, Bishop

November 12th: Saint Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr

Let us Offer Gifts of Prayer

Recently Deceased:
David Fisher, Charles Galea, James Dunn, Rena Vella

Anniversaries:
Patrick Conneely, Rose Azzopardi

For those who are sick:
Nick Scicluna, Darren Hooton, Ruta Pelenatino, Rose Zahra, Marlene Rodger, Fr. Jerome Antogop, Joseph Cauchi, Bartolo Barca.

Safeguarding Training – November

Safeguarding training helps us ensure that our parish is a safe and welcoming environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults. Face-to-face Safeguarding Training opportunities are available at various parishes throughout August, with online training also available for your convenience.

To view upcoming face-to-face and online training opportunities and register, please visit: https://parracatholic.org/connect-events/?series=safeguarding-training

For more information, please email safeguardingtraining@parracatholic.org

Planned Giving/Parish Donations

Your gift to Planned Giving helps cover the running of the parish and also contributes towards outreach in our parish and beyond.

If you would like to contribute directly, the parish bank details are:

BSB: 067 950
Acct No: 100000698
Acct Name: Cranebrook Parish

Please ensure you put your details in the reference section (ENVELOPE N# OR SURNAME)

Please contact the Parish Office (02 4730 1249) if you are contributing to the Planned Giving Program via the envelope system and would like to change to credit card or direct debit or would like to join the Planned Giving Program.

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 of them 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 Scripture Readings are taken from the Jerusalem Bible © 1966, 1967, 1968 Darton, Longman & Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co. Inc. Used by permission of the publishers. The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997 International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. Image taken from Liturgyhelp.com

From the Desk of Parish Priest

Death does not bring an end to our relationship with those whom we love. As Catholics, we believe that the Church is one family in Christ, united beyond the boundaries of earthly life. This is what we call the Communion of Saints – the spiritual bond between the Church on earth, the souls undergoing purification, and the saints in heaven.

Why, then, should we pray for the departed?

The Catholic Church teaches that those who die in God's grace and friendship, but are not yet perfectly purified, undergo a process of purification called Purgatory. They are assured of eternal salvation, but need to be cleansed of the remaining effects of sin before entering the perfect holiness of heaven (CCC 1030–1031).

Our prayers for them are not an attempt to change God's decision or purchase their salvation. Rather, they are expressions of love and solidarity. Through our prayers, sacrifices, almsgiving and, above all, the offering of the Holy Eucharist, we ask God to grant them the grace of purification and the fullness of heavenly joy.

This belief is deeply rooted in Scripture. The Second Book of Maccabees says: "It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins" (2 Maccabees 12:46). St Paul also reminds us that our salvation is ultimately God's work (Philippians 1:6).

The Mass offered for the departed is particularly meaningful. In the Eucharist, we unite our prayers with Christ's perfect sacrifice, entrusting our beloved dead to God's infinite mercy.

Praying for the dead also transforms us. It reminds us that earthly life is temporary, that our choices have eternal consequences, and that we too must prepare ourselves to meet the Lord. Month of November is a time we specifically remember our dearly departed ones and pray for them. That's the way we can remain united in love with them even after their death.

Let us not remember our departed only through photographs, anniversaries and visits to cemeteries. Let us remember them at the altar. Have Masses offered for them, pray the Rosary, offer sacrifices and perform acts of charity in their memory.

Love does not stop at the grave. While we pray for those who have gone before us, we also look forward with hope to the day when, by God's mercy, we shall all be united in the eternal joy of heaven.

Fr Abraham Kunnatholy CMI



CATHOLIC PARISH OF CORPUS CHRISTI, CRANEBROOK

Sunday 8th of November 2026 | Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR PARISH AND DIOCESE...

A PASTORAL INVITATION FROM FR ABRAHAM

Getting to Know Our Parish Family

Fr Abraham would love the opportunity to visit parishioners in their homes, spend some time with you and your family, and get to know you more. If you would welcome a visit, please contact the Parish Office or add your name and contact details to the sign-up sheet in the foyer. We will then be in touch to arrange a suitable time. Thank you to all who have already taken up this opportunity.

Fr Abraham looks forward to meeting with you and your family!

ALTAR SERVERS' COMMISSIONING AND CELEBRATION – SUNDAY 8TH OF NOVEMBER

All our altar servers, both new and existing, are warmly invited to join us at the **9:30am Mass on Sunday 8th of November** as we celebrate their valuable service to our parish. During the Mass, Father Abraham will offer a special blessing and commissioning for our altar servers as they continue their important ministry at the altar.

Following Mass, everyone is invited to join us for our monthly Parish Morning Tea, where we can continue the celebrations and express our gratitude to these wonderful young people for their willingness to serve our parish.

We look forward to celebrating with our altar servers and their families!

NOVEMBER REMEMBRANCE

Thank you to everyone who has submitted the names of deceased loved ones for our November Remembrance. All the names have now been gathered into a scroll and placed in the sanctuary, where they will remain throughout November as we remember and pray for those who have gone before us.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A MASS OFFERED FOR A DECEASED LOVED ONE, NOVEMBER REMEMBRANCE ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE ENTRANCES TO THE CHURCH. PLEASE COMPLETE THE ENVELOPE, INCLUDE YOUR DONATION, AND RETURN IT TO FR ABRAHAM OR THE PARISH OFFICE.

May our prayers bring comfort to all who grieve, and may our deceased loved ones rest in the peace and love of God.

RED NOVEMBER – PRAYING FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

This weekend, 7th and 8th of November, Corpus Christi Parish will acknowledge Red November, joining Catholics around the world in prayer and solidarity with the more than 388 million Christians who face persecution for their faith.

Organised by Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), Red November raises awareness of the suffering of Christians around the world and honours the sacrifice of those who remain steadfast in their faith despite persecution.

At all Masses this weekend, we will remember and pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters. We will also pray the Red Rosary, offering our prayers for their protection, strength, courage and peace.

The Red Rosary will be prayed:

Saturday 6pm Vigil – after Mass (Together with the Women's group Devotion)

Sunday 7:30am Mass – after Mass

Sunday 9:30am Mass – before Mass

We warmly invite all parishioners to join us in this special time of prayer and stand in solidarity with Christians who suffer for their faith.

To learn more about Red November, visit www.rednovember.org.

STUDY CATHOLIC THEOLOGY

An opportunity is available for parishioners who would like to deepen their faith and grow in their understanding of Catholic theology through further study. The Diocese of Parramatta will fund 50% of the course fees, and the parish may be able to offer some additional assistance, depending on individual circumstances and available resources.

To learn more about the course and how to apply, visit parracatholic.org/learn/study-catholic-theology.

WOMEN'S GROUP – MARIAN DEVOTION AND ROSARY

Our Women's Group warmly invites all parishioners to join them for a Marian Devotion and Rosary on the first Saturday of each month.

TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR MORE PEOPLE TO ATTEND, THIS DEVOTION WILL NOW TAKE PLACE AFTER THE 6:00PM VIGIL MASS, RATHER THAN AT 5:00PM. OUR NEXT GATHERING WILL BE ON SATURDAY 7TH OF NOVEMBER, FOLLOWING THE VIGIL MASS.

All are welcome to come together in prayer and devotion to Our Blessed Mother Mary.

WOMEN'S GROUP – RECONNECT AND CATCH UP!

It's been a little while since we've all had the chance to come together, so our Women's Group warmly invites all ladies of the parish to a relaxed evening of friendship, fellowship and fun!

JOIN US ON THURSDAY 26TH OF NOVEMBER AT 7:00PM IN THE CHURCH COURTYARD (WEATHER PERMITTING) FOR A LOVELY OPPORTUNITY TO RECONNECT, ENJOY A CHAT, SHARE SOME LAUGHS AND CATCH UP OVER A CUPPA.

Feel free to bring a plate to share if you wish, but there is absolutely no obligation. Just bring yourself! Whether you're already part of the group or haven't joined, we'd love to see you there. All women are welcome!

BIBLE STUDY & LENTEN RETREAT – AN UPDATE

Our parish Bible Study group, which was due to commence this month with monthly Tuesday evening gatherings, will now be postponed until the New Year.

With the busy Christmas period approaching and a prior commitment for Fr Abraham on the proposed first meeting date, we have decided to allow a little more time before getting this initiative underway. In the meantime, we are pleased to announce that we are planning a three-day Lenten Retreat during the first week of March 2027. This will be a wonderful opportunity for our parish community to come together in prayer, reflection and spiritual renewal as we journey through Lent.

We are also looking forward to commencing a four-week Bible Study following Easter, with weekly gatherings on Thursday evenings.

Further details about the Lenten Retreat and Bible Study, including dates and arrangements, will be announced in the New Year. We look forward to sharing these opportunities for faith, fellowship and growing together in our relationship with God.

BREAK OPEN THE WORD 2027

Break Open the Word 2027 is now available to order for $35 per copy. This book is particularly helpful for our parish readers as they prepare for the Sunday readings and reflect on the Word of God.

ANYONE WISHING TO PURCHASE A COPY IS KINDLY INVITED TO ADD THEIR NAME TO THE ORDER FORM IN THE CHURCH FOYER.

PREPARE YOUR HEART FOR CHRISTMAS

As we approach Advent, we are invited to slow down, make time for prayer and prepare our hearts and homes for the coming of Jesus. An Advent devotional can be a beautiful way for individuals and families to grow closer to Christ during this special season.

We invite you to consider one of the following resources:

PRESENCE: Advent & Christmas Daily Reflections 2026 – Daily Scripture-based reflections and prayers. Approx. $6–$6.60. Purchase from the Diocese of Wollongong online shop.

The Way of the Heart – Advent 2026 – A 27-day prayer and reflection booklet for individuals and groups. $5 plus GST. Visit the Archdiocesan Ministries online shop to check availability.

ST PAULS Advent Devotionals – A range of Catholic Advent prayer booklets, with selected titles from around $5.95. Browse the ST PAULS online shop or visit their bookshop in Strathfield.

May these resources help you and your family journey through Advent with faith and hope, preparing to welcome the Christ Child with open hearts this Christmas.

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2027

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

PENANCE

Wed 5 May, 7pm — Parent Information & Registration
Preparation sessions: Wednesday afternoons or Thursday evenings, May–June
Thu 17 June, 6.30pm — Sacrament of First Reconciliation

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Wed 8 Sept, 7pm — Parent Information & Registration
Preparation sessions: Wednesday afternoons or Thursday evenings, Sept–Oct
Thu 4 Nov, 6.30pm — Compulsory Second Rite of Reconciliation
Sat 6 Nov, 10am / Sun 7 Nov, 9.30am / Sat 13 Nov, 10am & 6pm — Sacrament of First Holy Communion

CONFIRMATION

Wed 30 June, 7pm — Parent Information & Registration
Preparation sessions: Wednesday afternoons or Thursday evenings, July–Aug
Thu 26 Aug, 6.30pm — Compulsory Second Rite of Reconciliation
Sat 28 Aug, 10.30am / Sun 29 Aug, 9.30am — Sacrament of Confirmation

- Each sacrament includes 5 preparation sessions.
- Both child and parent/guardian must attend all preparation sessions.
- Weekend Mass attendance is compulsory during the 5 weeks of preparation.
- Sessions do not run during school holidays.
- For full details and to register, please contact the parish office.

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

Save the Dates for Our Parish

This weekend! · First three events

SAT 7 & SUN 8 NOV	**Red November Celebration.** During all our weekend Masses.
SUN 8 NOV	**Altar Server's Commissioning and Celebration.** During the 9.30am Mass.
SUN 8 NOV	**Parish Morning Tea.** After the 9.30am Mass.
THU 26 NOV	**Women's Group Reconnect.** 7pm, in the parish courtyard. All women are welcome.
FRI 27 NOV	**Seniors Morning Tea.** After the 9.10am Mass.
SAT 28 & SUN 29 NOV	**Bishop's Christmas Appeal.**
THU 10 DEC	**Second Rite of Reconciliation.** 7pm. As we prepare for Christmas.
TUE 15 DEC – WED 23 DEC	**Nine Day Christmas Novena.** With daily evening Masses. (More information to follow)

All are welcome!

With thanks to all our local businesses who support our parish...

Steve Balassis
Director / Owner
SPARTAN LAUNDRY SERVICES
0409 311 339
steve@spartanlaundryservices.com.au
www.spartanlaundryservices.com.au

CSI CRANEBROOK SECURITY INSTALLATIONS
Services Provided:
Installation & Service of:
* Alarm Systems
* CCTV
* Video Intercom
Vic Xiberras
Alarm Technician
Security Licence: 407 563 753
Masters Licence: 409 810 455
Vic Xiberras: 0418 234 293
Dianne Xiberras: 0400 774 213
info@cranebrooksecurity.com.au
www.cranebrooksecurity.com.au.

NEPEAN VALLEY FUNERALS
Traditional Care with Dignity & Respect
Tel: 4722 8222 24hrs / 7 days
Local family owned and operated.
Shop 4 / 2-6 Castlereagh Street, Penrith
Catholic Cemeteries & Crematoria

Bateman Battersby | Complete Legal.
We invite members of the parish to take advantage of our legal services.
02 4731 5899
bbcl.com.au
enquiries@bbcl.com.au
Conveyancing and Property Law
Business and Commercial Law
Family Law
Wills & Deceased Estates
Disputes and Litigation
Criminal Law
Employment Law

Have a Chat NSW
Counselling service
Robert Azize
Counsellor
0417 459 705
Chatnsw.com.au
F: Haveachat NSW
Chatnsw@outlook.com

CLARITY WEALTH
Ph: 1300 187 358
Suite 7, 488 High St, Penrith
Your local financial planner
Matthew Corry
Financial Advisor
RETIREMENT ADVICE
SELF-MANAGED SUPERANNUATION
AGED CARE... and more

This space is available for Advertising. For more information, please contact the Parish Office on 02 4730 1249

CATHOLIC PARISH OF CORPUS CHRISTI, CRANEBROOK

Sunday 8th of November 2026 | Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

Gospel Reflection

The three gospel accounts from the final three weeks leading up to the season of Advent all come from Chapter 25 of the Gospel of Matthew. They can be seen together as an extended treatise on living life in response to Jesus' message and preparing for the end of time. This week's gospel starts out as a Kingdom parable and becomes a bit more of a metaphor for living a Christian life.

The gospel parable relates to ten bridesmaids – five foolish and five wise – who are participating in a wedding ritual that involves meeting the bridegroom and escorting him the last part of his way to the wedding reception. The foolish bridesmaids have not brought sufficient reserves of oil for their lamps and have to leave at the critical time to try to obtain more. When they eventually arrive at the reception hall they are turned away because they have shamed themselves as well as the bride and groom by not fulfilling their duty.

Some of the original audience of Matthew's gospel, along with many of the early Christian followers, had an expectation that Jesus was going to return and usher in the end of the world in their lifetime. The message of this gospel is captured in Jesus' final words, 'So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.' The timing of Jesus' coming cannot be predicted and so all Christian believers, like the bridesmaids, need to continue to act with hope and expectation; being prepared for the fact that it may be further off than anticipated. Many early Christians were living their lives as though the world would end at any time. The gospel warns them, and us, to continue to follow the example of Jesus and not to become complacent – expecting that everything is about to come to an end.

Historical Context – Where was the bride?

It may seem a little odd that the bridegroom was travelling to the wedding hall by himself. What appears to have been the custom is that the bridesmaids escorted the bride to the hall whilst the groom remained behind to settle matters with the bride's family. Whilst the bride price, or dowry, would have been agreed well before the wedding, the family would emphasise and even haggle over the value of gifts to further reinforce the great value of the bride and the wise choice that the groom and his family had made.

From the perspective of... a bridesmaid.

My friend, Miriam, was married yesterday. She is two years older than me, and has married a fine man. As we waited to receive her husband, some of the girls ran out of oil. They asked me for some of my oil but I knew that if I gave them my spare oil we might all run out before he arrived and then there would be no one to welcome him and light his way. What shame that would be! Miriam and her husband were so angry they didn't allow the girls into the hall. No one will ask them to be bridesmaids again!

Living the Gospel – Living in hope.

A feature of Christian faith is an approach to life that views the future with hope. In our world today many people look to the future with distrust and even fear. As Christians, we look forward with hope. When change occurs, some allow that change to happen to them whilst others engage in the change process and approach it with hope and expectation. Today's gospel reminds us to be ready for what the future holds; to look with hope towards what lies ahead, but to ensure that we've prepared ourselves properly. The future can only be viewed with expectant hope if we've done the proper preparation!

Questions for Adolescents

Q. Why would Jesus have used a story about bridesmaids waiting for a groom?

Q. Why wouldn't the wise bridesmaids give their spare oil to the others?

Q. How do you think the bride might have reacted to the events of the story?

Q. In what ways is this story a parable of the Kingdom of God?

Q. What message comes out of this gospel for a modern audience?

Questions for Adults

Q. In what ways is this story a parable of the Kingdom of God?

Q. If this story were to be put in a contemporary setting, what is a modern metaphor for preparedness that might be used?

Q. How can we properly prepare for the coming of the Kingdom?

Q. In what ways are some Christians today like the foolish bridesmaids?

Learning moments

- Illustrate the parable as a cartoon storyboard or as a comic strip.
- Write a diary entry from the perspective of the bride describing the events of the parable.
- Use meditation or guided reflection to imagine yourself in 3-5 years time. What would you like to be doing and what sort of person would you want to be? Prepare a written or illustrated plan of what you need to do to prepare for that future.
- Prepare a 'Signs of Hope for the Future' chart and name those people, organisations, events and actions that give hope for the future.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The early Christians thought that all their questions about death had been answered with the resurrection of Jesus. Therefore, when loyal Christians began to die, not only did their old questions come back, but also they were plagued with new and difficult ones. Was it possible that those loyal Christians had not been loyal after all? Or worse, were the promises made by Jesus empty promises? No! Paul assures us. It is all true. Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again, and all the faithful will be joined with him. How it will happen, we do not know. When it will happen, we do not know. That it will happen, we are sure.

The wisdom that we have culled from life becomes the treasury from which we draw the prudence and insight needed to negotiate life's paradoxes. It throws light on our strengths and on our weaknesses; it enables us to discern what is important and what is not; it directs us to bring extra oil in our lamps. Life and the wisdom that we have acquired through it, have taught us that we can indeed trust the promises of God. They have been fulfilled in the past, and wisdom assures us that they will be fulfilled in the future. It is wisdom that cautions us to be vigilant, to be ready to adjust our plans. It is wisdom that prepares us for the night watches of life. It is wisdom that instructs us to be ready at all times.

REFLECTION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE – by Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart

God is the source of all wisdom. Wisdom is a gift of the Holy Spirit. Wisdom is what leads to success.

Think of a time in your life when you weren't very wise, and you found yourself in a 'no oil for the oil lamp' situation. What happened? How did you deal with the consequences?

Think of a time when you were wise – a time when you did think ahead and were prepared – and your preparation paid off because something unexpected popped up. What happened? How did you benefit?

Do you think that most of the young people you know tend to be on the wise side or on the foolish side? Why? Give some examples of how that affects your school, your church, your city or town, and the world.

How would Jesus describe success?



Content and image: Liturgyhelp.com

The Living Word
For Children

Gospel Reading:

A Story about Ten Young Women

The kingdom of heaven is like what happened one night when ten young women took their oil lamps and went to a wedding to meet the groom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps, but no extra oil. The ones who were wise took along extra oil for their lamps.

The groom was late arriving, and the young women became drowsy and fell asleep. Then in the middle of the night someone shouted, "Here's the groom! Come to meet him!" When the women got up and started getting their lamps ready, the foolish ones said to the others, "Let us have some of your oil! Our lamps are going out."

Those who were wise answered, "There's not enough oil for all of us! Go and buy some for yourselves."

While the foolish ones were on their way to get some oil, the groom arrived. The five who were ready went into the wedding, and the doors were closed. Later the others returned and shouted, "Sir, sir! Open the door for us!"

But the groom replied, "I don't even know you!"

So, my disciples, always be ready! You don't know the day or the time when all this will happen.

Discussion Questions

- Who has ever had to wait for someone in the dark?
- What was it like?
- How could you make waiting in the dark easier? (e.g. by being prepared with a torch, coat, umbrella, phone, another person etc)
- Jesus tells us that the kingdom of heaven is like what happened to ten girls with lamps waiting in the dark for the guest of honour.
- How were some foolish?
- How were the others wise?
- Jesus says that we are to be ready and alert and watch for him.
- How can we be alert and ready to meet Jesus among us?



Image and Content: Liturgyhelp.com



Help Jesus tell the story of the girls with oil lamps. Add words and pictures to the story.

Ten girls went to a _ _ _ _ _ _ _ and waited for the groom.

Five were foolish. They took their lamps but no extra _ _ _.

Five were _ _ _ _. They took extra oil for their lamps.

The _ _ _ _ _ was late. The foolish girls asked for some oil, but the wise girls did not have enough to share.

While the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ girls were buying more oil, the groom arrived. Everyone went inside and closed the doors.

The foolish girls returned. They shouted, "Open the _ _ _ _ _!", but they were not allowed inside.

What words would you use to describe the wise girls and the foolish girls?

The wise girls

The foolish girls



Mt 25:1-13

© Creative Ministry Resources 2005

What's happening in the diocese and beyond...















