

Living FAITH

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land
and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A Primary

"A Story about Ten Girls"

WE GATHER

Ever Present God;
You challenge us to be our best self all the time,
not just when we think people are watching.
Help us to live Your love by seeing the face of Jesus,
in everyone we meet.
We make this prayer in Jesus' name.

Amen

WE LISTEN

A reading from Matthew (25: 1-13)

A Story about Ten Girls

The kingdom of heaven is like what happened one night when ten girls took their oil lamps and went to a wedding to meet the groom. Five of the girls 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.

When the girls 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."

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

While the foolish girls were on their way to get some oil, the groom arrived. The girls who were ready went into the wedding, and the doors were closed. Later the other girls 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.



For courage,
to be our best self even if we think
no one is watching.

Lord, hear us.

For hope and trust,
that people will see that we are
doing our best,
even when we make mistakes.

Lord, hear us.

For faith,
that we are loved just as we are.

Lord, hear us.

For our own needs...

Lord, hear us.



WE REFLECT

There are lots of ways to be organised and prepared for things that you know are coming up. Your teachers and parents help you learn to use calendars, they might set alarms and reminders on their phones or on your computer. You might go to practice during the week to prepare for your sports game on the weekend, practice your instruments to prepare for your music exams and work hard on your routines to prepare for your recitals. As Christmas is coming you might even start to be on your "best behaviour" for the next couple of months to make doubly sure that you are on Santa's "good" list.

But what you can't prepare for, is when you should be your best self. Today's Gospel reminds us that following Jesus means being the best version of yourself even if you think no one is watching. You can't prepare for when you might bump into Jesus. It can happen at any time, at any place. In fact, you may have met Jesus before and not realised. Jesus is in the face of people you meet all the time, you just might not recognise him. This means that you need to be your best self all the time, or at least as much as you possibly can. It also means that you need to treat everyone you meet as though they **are** Jesus, so treating them with respect and kindness. That way, when you do meet Jesus, you will be as happy as can be, knowing you showed Jesus your absolute best self.

WE ARE SENT FORTH

Jesus,
You taught us to love others in the same way You love us.
Help us to listen to this Good News and proclaim it for others.
We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, Son of the Living God.
Amen.

***In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
Amen***

***"Find new ways to spread the Word of
God to every corner of the world"***
- Pope Francis

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Scripture quotations taken from the Contemporary English Version (CEV)

