LIVING FAITH

ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY



THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

Matthew 25:1-13

'Then 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 wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

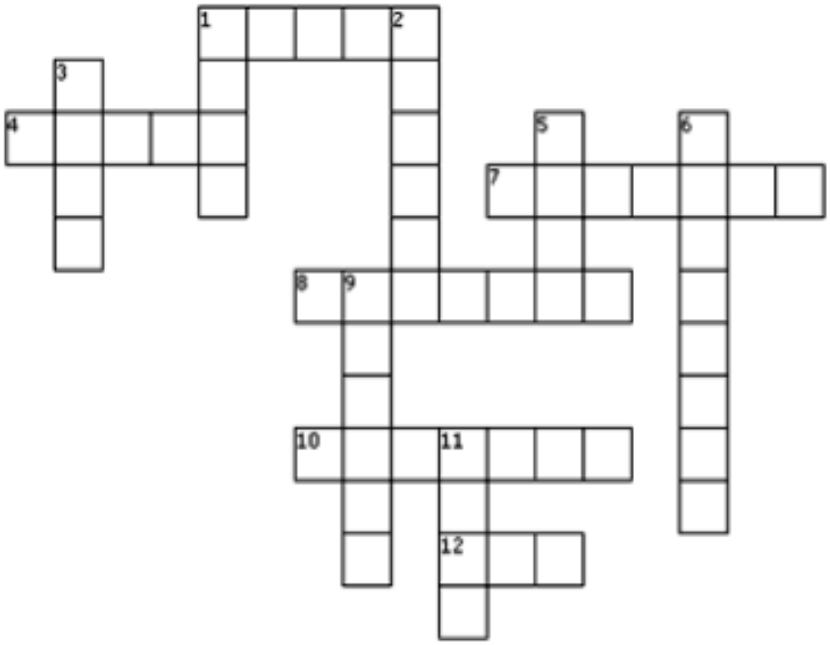
Jesus teaches in parables in order to give us glimpses of what God is like. People often think that the Kingdom of Heaven is a place or a state of being that will exist after our earthly life is finished; but this is not the Kingdom that Jesus speaks of so often in His stories. The Kingdom of Heaven that Jesus speaks of, the Kingdom that He worked so hard to bring about, is possible here on earth, if we love one another. In the Kingdom of Heaven, people are like the five wise bridesmaids. What does that mean? They were ready, ready to go out to meet the groom, even though they could not be certain at what hour he would come. We People of the Kingdom have to be ready as well, ready to meet Jesus at whatever hour He comes. This does not mean death, as so many people think; it means that we must be ready to love others when they most need it, to tend the sick when they most need care, to feed the hungry when the need arises, to welcome the stranger when they are in need. People of the Kingdom are ready and watchful, seeking to meet Jesus in our neighbour. Whatever we do for one of the least of our sisters or brothers, we do to Him.

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The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids

Matthew 25:1-13





ACROSS

1. To observe or look at something
4. Devices used to produce light
7. Someone who does not use good judgment is _____.
8. A feast or meal held in recognition of some person or occasion
10. Ceremony in which a man and a woman are married.
12. A liquid that is often used to make fuel.

DOWN

1. Someone who has good judgment and makes good decisions is _____.
2. Where God lives
3. Made a sound like a bell
5. To arrive at a particular place; the opposite of go
6. 12 o'clock at night
9. Not awake
11. A swinging or sliding cover over the place where someone usually enters a room



Remembrance Day - November 11

Remembrance Day is a memorial day observed throughout the Commonwealth since the end of the First World War. On this day, we remember the members of our armed forces who have died in the line of duty. Following a tradition inaugurated by King George V in 1919, Remembrance Day is observed on 11 November in most countries to recall the end of hostilities of World War I on that date in 1918. Hostilities formally ended "at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month", in accordance with the armistice signed by representatives of Germany and the Entente between 5:12 and 5:20 that morning.
("At the 11th hour" refers to the passing of the 11th hour, or 11:00 am.) The First World War officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on 28 June 1919. The first official Armistice Day was subsequently held on the grounds of Buckingham Palace the following morning.
The red remembrance poppy has become a familiar emblem of Remembrance Day due to the poem "In Flanders Fields" written by Canadian physician Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae. Poppies were first worn in 1921.
In Newfoundland and Labrador, the first commemorative flower was the forget-me-not, which is traditionally worn on July 1, the day on which we remember the fateful battle of Beaumont-Hamel in 1916.

LITANY OF PEACE

God, so many people are suffering, and are in pain, and live in fear from violence and oppression: Teach us the way to bring compassion, healing and peace to our world.

When people live with intolerance, fear and suspicion: O God, teach us to listen and understand with respect. When we see people getting hurt by injustice, greed and abuse of power: O God, teach us to speak up for them.

When we see people treated badly because of their skin color, or language, or religious beliefs: O God, teach us to be witnesses of love, tolerance and acceptance.

When we see war and conflict cause pain and suffering: O God, teach us how to make a difference and seek peace.

When we see the vulnerable and defenseless suffer in the midst of conflict: O God, teach us to pray for peace and offer practical help.

O God, make us instruments of your peace: O God, where there is hatred, let us show love. Where there is despair, let us bring hope, and where there is darkness, let us bring your light.

SAINTS AND BLESSED OF CANADA

Blessed Vasil Velychkovsky, CSsR



The twentieth century is known as a century of martyrs. Millions of people gave up their lives for Christ. In the Soviet Union under the atheistic regime many Christians, especially Ukrainian Catholics laid down their lives rather than deny Jesus Christ and His Church.

Honoring this sacrifice, Pope John Paul II beatified a number of martyrs for the Ukrainian Catholic Church on June 27, 2001. Among the martyrs was Bishop Vasyl Velychkovsky, C.Ss.R.

Blessed Vasyl was born into a priestly family in Stanislaviv, on June 1, 1903. His father was an assistant at the Cathedral where Vasyl was baptized. His family soon moved to the village of Shuparka, where Vasyl was raised and educated, mainly by home schooling. The First World War interrupted his studies. After the War Blessed Vasyl completed his high school and entered the Major Seminary in Lviv.

He entered the Redemptorist novitiate in Holosko in 1924. On October 9, 1925 he was ordained to the priesthood. The following two years he taught at the minor seminary, but his heart was in preaching missions. Recognizing his gift of preaching, he was soon assigned to the missions. He was a tireless, brave and devoted preacher and had a special love for the poor and the suffering.

On August 7, 1945, the Soviets arrested him. He was given a chance to deny his faith, leave the Catholic Church and serve as a Russian Orthodox priest. He quickly responded with "No, Never."

After one year of interrogations and tortures, he was finally sentenced on June 26, 1946 to die by firing squad. He was on death row for three months. While in the cell with others on death row, he catechized them and prepared them through the sacraments for their coming death. When his name was called, he left the cell ready to die for Christ, but at that moment, his death sentence was commuted to ten years in Soviet labour camps.

He spent most of his years working in coal mines above the Arctic Circle. Accused of inciting a strike among the prisoners in the fall of 1953, he was transferred to a most severe prison in near Moscow.

When his prison sentence was completed, he became instrumental in organizing the underground church. His apartment became the centre of church activity: Divine Liturgies, administering the sacraments, catechesis, preparing seminarians, counseling and the like. He also began to organize religious sisters, even though the monasteries were official closed, and taught them a new way of living out their monastic and religious life. Many a vocation was fostered by Father Vasyl's guidance and care. In 1959 Rome appointed Fr. Vasyl to be bishop of this underground church. He was secretly ordained a bishop in a hotel room in Moscow.

On January 27 of 1969, Bishop Vasyl was again arrested. He was accused of anti-Soviet agitation in a book he wrote on The Icon of the Mother of perpetual Help, for listening to Vatican radio and for baptizing people. He was sentenced to a three year prison term in Komunarsk in Eastern Ukraine. There he underwent chemical, physical and mental torture. The Soviets attempted to extract information from him about the underground church but were unsuccessful. Near death in 1972, he was released from prison and was exiled from Ukraine. Metropolitan Maxim Hermaniuk invited Bishop Vasyl to come to Winnipeg, Canada in June, 1972. Overcome by the tortures and death causing drugs he received while in prison, he died a martyr's death on June 30, 1973.

Blessed Bishop and Martyr Vasyl Velychkovsky, C.Ss.R. was beatified in 2001 by St. Pope John Paul II. His body is enshrined in a shrine chapel at St. Joseph's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. This is Canada's Second Martyr's Shrine. A museum is also attached depicting his holy life.