

## Reflection - The Foolish

In the Gospel parable, there are ten women waiting for the Lord. But when the Lord comes, half of these women are rejected. As the parable explains it, the problem is that five of the women are off shopping for oil when the Lord comes, and so they're left out. They are the foolish ones. The other five women are the wise ones, welcomed by the Lord.

How are we to understand this parable?

Well, notice that when the ten women originally arrived at the place where they were to wait for their Lord, the five foolish women did notice that the wise women had brought extra oil with them. But humility doesn't seem to have been one of the virtues of the foolish women. When they saw that the wise women had brought extra oil for their lamps, the foolish ones apparently just felt they knew better than the wise: the oil in their lamps would not run out.

And maybe, after all, it didn't seem very important to the foolish women whether the oil in their lamps would last. When the foolish discovered that they were wrong and were short on oil, they didn't lament their mistake. Their first thought was just to demand some of the oil of the wise.

The foolish didn't care if the wise suffered in consequence. The foolish were willing to risk the welfare of the wise, provided only that the foolish had a chance of getting something for themselves. Love for others isn't one of the virtues of the foolish either.

What would have happened if the foolish women had not risked missing the Lord by going after the oil they wanted but had just waited for him instead, without oil? What would have happened if their Lord had found them in darkness but also in humility, not trying to climb to safety on the backs of others, but just acknowledging their mistakes and hoping in the Lord? Does anyone really think that their Lord would have cast them out?

Their folly lies in their insistence on having just what they want when they want it, no matter what the risk or the cost to anyone else. And that is why they are cast out.

*Eleonore Stump  
Professor of Philosophy  
Saint Louis University*

### November

**Be present**

**Let the day flow with grace.**

**Expect joy. Be positive.**

**Serve with compassion.**

**Speak with kindness.**

## St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin

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**Parish Website:** [www.stachurchspringwood.org.au](http://www.stachurchspringwood.org.au)  
**Parish Facebook Page:** St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood  
**Parish Priest:** Fr Paul Slyney - 4754 1052 *Emergency ONLY:* 0418 461 316  
**Assistant Priest:** Fr Michael Gathuku - 4754 1052 *Emergency ONLY:* 0474 272 605  
**Parish Pastoral Council:** Email - [springwoodppc@gmail.com](mailto:springwoodppc@gmail.com)  
**Parish Office Hours:** Tuesday to Friday 8.30 am - 3.30 pm

**Weekend Masses:** Saturday Vigil Mass 5.00 pm, Sunday 8.00 am and 9.30 am

**Weekday Mass:** Tuesday - Saturday 9.30 am

**Rosary & Devotions:** Tuesday - Saturday 9.00 am

**Adoration, Rosary & Chapelet:** 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 7.30 - 8.30 pm

**Intercession & Adoration:** None until further notice

**Baptisms:** 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month - 10.30am and by appointment

**Reconciliation:** By appointment

**Weddings:** By appointment - restricted numbers

**Funerals:** By appointment - restricted numbers

*THE GOSPEL - Matthew 25:1-13*

*At midnight there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom!  
Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps.*

Lord,  
we trust you  
to be present for us.

Until then we try to catch  
just a glimpse  
of you:

in  
midnight stars, and geese in flight;  
planets on path, a child's face;  
each sorrow and all joy.

We look for you in  
the homeless, hungry, in immigrants and  
victims of bias, in caretakers of  
the environment and the sick.

Please bless our searching for you,  
flasks full and lamps trimmed.  
Let us find you in  
all things.

**Today's Readings:** Wis 6:12-16; 1 Thess 4:13-18; Mt 25:1-13

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

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 62:2-8

**R. 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!

**Communion Antiphon:** The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.

**Next Week:** Prov 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1 Thess 5:1-6; Mt 25:14-30



**Recently Deceased:** Janice Teresa Brown, Grisel Rambukkana (Theresa)

**Sick:** Victor Gresser (aged 2), Kay Bonomini, Michael Mercieca, Diana Donnelly, Pamela Pereira, Melissa Baxter, Mary Ellen Schell, Sue Downes, Joan Eastwood, Gwen Daly, Kerry Aitken, Anthony O'Connell, Wal & Anne Knoke, Angela Brown, Lea Dardenne, Francisco Robles, Teresita Robles, Susie Ziino, Patricia Duffy, Sarah Walke, Jackie Davies, Kimberly Cusack, Margaret Healy, Colleen Lusty, Lorna Lyons, Christopher Coombs, Lucinda Goodwin, Angela Coombs, Leila Baker, Mary Coombs, Slawcia Pisarska, Luca Hurley, Joan Lohrey, Sarah & Thomas McGoram, Frances Hinder, Shirley Anderson, Peter Doherty, Val Hardy, Carmel Chetcuti, Emile Amine, Janice Glassington, Helen Meville, Susan Solomon, Thomas Glavas,  
**and all Private Intentions.**

*Due to the strict privacy laws, names of the deceased and sick can only be included in the Bulletin with the express permission of the immediate family. Thank you.*

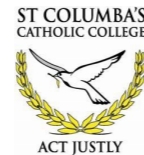
*To plant a garden  
is to believe in  
tomorrow.*

Audrey Hepburn

**SCHOOLS IN OUR PARISH**



**St Thomas Aquinas Primary School**  
Principal - Ms Marina Hardy 4723 3800



**St Columba's Catholic College**  
Principal - Mr Paul Ryan 4754 8900

**Assistant Priest  
Springwood/Lawson Parish**

We would like to welcome **Rev Fr Shinto Francis** to the Springwood/Lawson Parish from the 30th November 2020. Fr Shinto comes to us from St Bernadette's Parish, Castle Hill. Please help us in welcoming him into our wonderful mountains community.

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2020:**

	<i>Springwood</i>	<i>Lawson (OLN)</i>
Christmas Eve, Thurs 24th Dec	5.00pm Children's Mass 8.00pm VIGIL	5.00pm Children's Mass 8.00pm VIGIL
Christmas Day, Fri 25th Dec	9.30am	8.30am
Boxing Day, Sat 26 Dec	No Mass	No Mass
Sun 27th December	8.30am, 9.30am	8.30am
Tues 29th, Wed 30th Dec	9.30am	5.00pm
Thurs 31st Dec	9.30am	9.00am
Fri 1st January	9.30am	

**DECEASED FAMILY and FRIENDS ANNUAL MASS - 18th November, 7.00pm**

**Remembering our Loved Ones**

*"May perpetual light shine upon them."*

**NOVEMBER - Remembering the Dead:**

November is the month of the year that we remember the dead. During this time we continue to pray for those who have gone before us in faith and that they will be embraced by God.

If you would like to place the name of your loved one in to the BOOK OF SAINTS please print their name clearly on to an envelope and place in to the collection box at the back of the church.

**Deceased Family and Friends Annual Mass - Wednesday, 18th November:**

All parishioners are invited to attend a Mass which will be celebrated to the **Repose of the Souls** of family members commencing at 7.00pm on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> November.

A candle ceremony will be part of the celebration of the Mass so if you would like your loved one remembered by lighting a candle, which your family member will place on the sanctuary, please contact the Parish centre by the week ending, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020. **(Please contact the Parish office asap if you would like to be part of this celebration).**

A framed photo of your loved one could be placed on the sanctuary before the commencement of Mass (prior to 7pm). *If any parishioner requires transport, please contact Molly Hurley on 4751 2167 or Liz Farrer on 4751 7096.*



**St Vincent de Paul Society NSW**  
*Support Services* *good works*

This is the time of year when the **St. Vincent de Paul Society** members ask Parishioners to support families in need by providing Christmas Hampers or cash to purchase fruit and vegetable vouchers. We are aware that our Mass attendee numbers are well down, and that everyone has in some way been affected by COVID-19, so conference members have decided that this year our main area of support will be **vouchers for food, fruit, vegetables and meat or fish**. Envelopes for your donations are available on the table near Our Lady's statue at the entrance to our church and conference members will be at all Masses on the weekends of 28<sup>th</sup> / 29<sup>th</sup> November, 5<sup>th</sup> / 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> / 13<sup>th</sup> December to accept all donations.

***If your family feels able to provide a hamper that would be wonderful.*** Please make it suitable for a family of 2 adults and 2 children. We have a priority list of families which, with your support, we will endeavour to fill.

Many thanks for your ongoing support to Vinnies and the people we support. Any inquiries may be made to Margaret on 4753 1031.