



ST ALBAN

Parish Newsletter – 15th November 2020

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

First reading: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-6
Gospel: Matthew 25: 14-30

Mass Times

No Public Mass until further notice.

Church open daily for prayer

Monday – Friday 9.30am-10am
Saturday and Sunday after Mass until 11.30am

Please note:

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended.

Contact Info

Parish Priest
Rev Dermot O'Neill

Parish Secretary
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Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9-1

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The 'talent' in today's Gospel was a huge sum of money back in Jesus' day. The numbers 1, 2, and 5 can be misleading, as if the risk was not that great, but even one talent was more like a mortgage than like petty cash.

These servants were being asked to invest more money than they would see in a lifetime. Therefore, we might sympathise with the fear of losing a sum so large that it could never be paid back. But the point of the parable is that failure to invest is worse than risking the investment.

Like many of Jesus' parables, the analogy is transparent. The master represents God, and the servants represent different types of responses to God. Specifically, in this parable, the three servants respond differently to the resources that their master (God) gave them. Notice that they were not all given the same resources. Presumably, they were given resources according to their ability, which means that we don't all get the same gifts from God, but we are given what is appropriate to our personalities and our individual vocations, or as Saint Paul said, "different gifts, one Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:4). But God gives us gifts to be used, not to be kept to ourselves (Matthew 5:13-15). Therefore (like the master in the parable), God would have us try and fail, and keep trying, rather than just give up and 'bury' our gifts.

If we are sincerely trying to use our gifts, God is not disappointed with failure. That's because as long as we don't give up, failure is learning. God is disappointed with giving up, or not trying to use our gifts. Failure will be forgiven, but the refusal to use the gift is a refusal of the gift-which is also a rejection of the giver. (God).

CHANGES DUE TO LOCKDOWN-MASS TIMES

During this period of lockdown, Mass will be celebrated behind closed doors. Monday – Friday, at 9am, Saturday and Sunday at 10am. Your intentions and the Souls in Purgatory will be prayed for. Mass will be live streamed each day. The church will be open for people to visit from 9.30-10am Monday to Friday
Saturday and Sunday – after Mass until 11.30am

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' COLLECTION

The annual collection for the sick and retired priests of our Diocese remains open. You can donate online at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations - there are some envelopes in the porch which feature a 'QR Code' that you can scan with a phone camera to give online. You can still send in your donation to this collection by posting the envelope through the presbytery door. Thank you. Please continue to pray for the wellbeing of all of our clergy: active, sick and retired

Parish QR code

For online donations



Sacraments

Under current COVID restrictions:

Baptisms: No more than 6 people at the ceremony. To arrange a baptism please contact Fr Dermot.

Funerals: It is the normal procedure to first contact your chosen Funeral Director. They will liaise with Fr Dermot. At present only 30 mourners can attend the church service.

Weddings: Preparation for marriage: Six months' notice is required. Please contact Fr Dermot.

Catechetics

We are currently making plans how to safely prepare for First Communion and Confirmation. Details and application forms will be made available shortly.

Newsletter

If you wish to receive a copy of our weekly newsletter by email, please sign up by using the website e-Alert or email the parish office to request.



DONATE TO THE CHURCH

Thank you to all who have converted their weekly contribution to Direct Debit. This has been a great asset to us. If you wish to join the planned giving scheme in our Parish, please contact the Parish office by email, if possible or visit our website for more information. The QR code is shown here on this newsletter. This will give you direct link to details of online giving.

NOVEMBER DEAD LIST ENVELOPES

Envelopes available from the porch of the church. Please put the list of names you wish to have prayed for together with your donation and return the envelopes to the presbytery or in the offertory baskets in the church.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OR THINKING OF BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

St Alban's Church, North Finchley has a group for adults which meets every Wednesday evening at 8pm in the Presbytery when we can and via Zoom when we can't. Just phone or email the Parish if you are interested and we can put you in touch with someone who can tell you what to expect and answer your questions. You will be made very welcome.

ST BARNABAS FOODBANK

St Barnabas Foodbank at 913 High Road North Finchley, accepts donations of food each Saturday between 9.30 & 12.30. They are open for those in need on Mondays 12.30 – 2pm.

ST ALBAN'S CENTERING PRAYER GROUP

Due to COVID-19 we are now running as a virtual Zoom group on the same dates and times until further notice. Please email Carole O'Reilly coreilly396@btinternet.com for more information as to how to join.

PARISH WEBSITE

Visit our parish.rcdow.org.uk/finchleynorth – for all weekly updates and Children's liturgy lesson.

Please remember in your prayers the sick:

Bridget Hennessey,
John McNicholas
Kevin Kerr,
Anne

all the recently departed and their loved ones

Richard Evans,
Jack Breen

and the faithful departed whose anniversaries occur at about this time:

Pietro Bazzinotti, Kevin Boyle
Peter & Sheila Wardley
Patrick McDonagh