

*We Respond*

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**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** (or a hymn) Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** (Ps 62)

**ANTIPHON:** My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

**RESPONSE: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.**

**LECTOR:** 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.**

**LECTOR:** 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.**

**LECTOR:** 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.**

**LECTOR:** 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. **R.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Alleluia, alleluia! Be watchful and ready; you know not when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia!

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** (or a hymn) 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.

**(Or)**

The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

**TODAY'S READINGS** Wisdom 6:12-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25: 1-13

**NEXT WEEK** (33rd Sunday Year A) Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; Psalm 127, 1 Thess 5:1-6;

*Brighten up  
your day with  
The Majellan*

### Majellan Christmas Cards

We still have some Christmas cards left but you will need to hurry. They are only \$7.50 per packet of 10, including postage. Call us at **03 9592 2777** or go on line now to order: [majellan.media/product/christmas-cards-2020/](http://majellan.media/product/christmas-cards-2020/)

Due to delays with Australia Post, last Christmas orders will need to be placed with Majellan Publications by COB on **Friday, November 27.**

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*Doing what  
needs to be  
done*



**8 November 2020 32nd Sunday Year A**

One of the many things we've learnt this year is that people we often take for granted – firefighters, nurses, teachers, supermarket workers, amongst them – are significant people in our lives. We heard these significant others saying things like, "We just did what we had to do. We are not heroes." They say they're doing what they have to do and what they've learnt to do. But, as they know, unless you've done the preparation you'll be found wanting. You won't be ready and able to do what you have to do.

That's the situation the foolish bridesmaids find themselves in. They hadn't prepared for the 'what if he turns up late' situation and, when the bridegroom finally arrives, they make haste to find a shopkeeper who can supply them with oil. But, the oil they're after is made from the good works of their lives, so that, as one writer says: "The real decisive moment came along before the bridegroom arrived."

What then do we make of someone else saying, "this parable just doesn't feel like the gospel," excluding us arbitrarily from the marriage feast because we weren't prepared for the Lord's late arrival? We might be puzzled too, but the parable isn't meant to be a harsh judging of us. It urges one thing: the need to 'stay awake' for his coming, which is what Jesus says at the gospel's end; in other words, 'be prepared', or 'be vigilant'. All ten

bridesmaids fall asleep; what's at issue is the preparation.

Where do we learn this and go on learning this, because the preparation is going to be crucial when the decisive moment inevitably arrives, asking of us a response. When the stranger appears, when someone is hungry, thirsty, homeless, sick, or imprisoned, what then? How will we respond? Because this will be the basis of a final judgment. Our 'deeds of faith, justice and mercy' will speak for us; they will tell whether we loved one another.

This is what the kingdom of heaven will be like, as Jesus says at the beginning of the gospel. And once again, where do we learn this? For most of us, it's in our families and in our parishes. In the parish, principally at Mass, but also through our other parish involvements, we learn how to be forgiven, to receive, to give thanks, so that gradually we're able to be this way with one another and with others.

Being vigilant, as the first reading suggests, is a keeping vigil, waiting on wisdom to appear. In the gospel, wisdom is being alert to the presence of Christ among us; and if we were to ask, when did we meet you Lord, he will tell us. Are we prepared to meet him? Will we be ready and able to do what we have to?

**Damian Coleridge**  
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