33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR A
16th November 2014

First Reading:
Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31

Responsorial Psalm:
Happy are those who fear the Lord.

Second Reading:
Thessalonians 5:1-6

Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
My branches bear much fruit.
Alleluia!

Gospel:
Matthew 25:14-30

Words of Wisdom

“When you happen to be entirely unoccupied with created things so that you seem to be thinking of nothing and desiring nothing, you should know that then your soul in unconsciously occupied with God and in God.”

Father de Caussade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MASS TIMES &amp; SERVICES THIS WEEK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Every first Wednesday of the month Mass will be at Woodend Community Aged Care at 11.00am
- The Cellgroup meets on Sunday 3pm—4.30 each week for bible study, prayer and warm fellowship, all are welcome. **Where:** 247 Central Rd, Tylden. **Contact:** Simone Liebergreen 54248459, David Mercer.
**St Ambrose Parish Woodend**

**COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND**

This service is available to sick, elderly and housebound members of our parish community and there are many special ministers of the Eucharist who would deem it an honour to provide this service to such people. If you know of any parishioners who would like someone to call for this purpose contact the office on 5427 2690 and we will make the necessary arrangements.

**WE PRAY FOR...**

Please keep in your prayers all the members of this community who are sick especially Sr Virginia Mahony, Bernard Mahony, John Bartels, Sam Barker and Niamh Inkster and all the sick of the Parish. God bring them peace of mind and a recovery to good health and guide those who care for them. We pray today for all those who have died recently, and for all whose anniversaries are at this time and for all those who have gone before us from this world to the fullness of life with God. May God have mercy on them all and help us to be faithful to their memory.

**PRIVACY LEGISLATION**

In 2001, the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments introduced legislation that deals with the manner in which public and private sector organisations may record, use, store and disclose information, including health information, collected from individuals. The Parish of St. Ambrose is committed to upholding and implementing the Privacy Principles set out in the legislation. A copy of the Parish’s Privacy Policy is available to any Parishioner by contacting Bernadette at the Parish Office.

**CHURCH ROSTERS**

| Readers       | Nov 15th     | John Keating            |
|              | Nov 16th     | Chris Knauf & Dorothy Carmichael |
|              | Nov 22nd     | Any reader present.     |
|              | Nov 23rd     | Ann-Marie McKinnon & Mary Welch |

| Special Ministers | Nov 15th | Guy or Jo Hall or Pat McHenry |
|                  | Nov 16th | Mary Welch and Chris Knauf or Dorothy Carmichael |
|                  | Nov 22nd | Paul Quinn & Angela Grinton |
|                  | Nov 23rd | Patty McKibbin, Eileen French & David Mercer |

| Church Cleaning | Nov 17th | Bernadette Petrucchini |
|                | Nov 24th | Debbie Bourke          |

| Church Flowers | Nov 21st | Bruna Bombig |
|               | Nov 28th | Rhonda Loret |

**COLLECTIONS**

Presbytery Collection (1st collection) [This collection covers running costs of Presbytery and Priest’s stipend.$378

Church (envelope) collection [This collection covers the Church capital costs, and ongoing maintenance.$754

**GOSPEL REFLECTION**

On hearing the parable of the ‘Talents’ we can jump to the conclusion that the master was unjust in his dealings with the servants. We have all been given gifts. If we use them for God’s glory and do the best we can, we will fulfil God’s desire for us. If we don’t use our gifts we are not being true to ourselves, and we will feel unfulfilled.

**ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP QUOTES**

These quotes explore the spirituality and personality of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. She had wisdom and insight and her words will help us to live the Gospel in TODAY’S world. May God reward you, one and all. He will bless you for patiently trying to make the best of the trials he sent. 1884.

**VOCATION VIEW**

Don’t just bury your talents. Dream your best dream about your life and then live it to the full. God calls you to live in happiness.

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION**

God expects us to nurture and develop the gifts He has given us. He doesn’t want us to waste or hoard the gifts He has given us; He expects us to grow our gifts, use them wisely and be generous with them.

**MONDAY AT THE MANOR**

Call in at John & Judy Wills house at Lot 6 Adam Close, Woodend at midday each Monday for a sandwich and a chat. All welcome. Anyone needing transport can call John & Judy Wills on 5427 2827.

**MEDITATION**

Our meditation group meets in the church at 11am to 12 noon each Saturday morning. All welcome.
LECTIO DIVINA—Starting Tuesday 25th Nov
A contemplative reading of scripture. The season of Advent is an opportunity to prepare anew for the coming of the Son of God into the world and into our hearts. You are invited to reconnect with the meaning of Christmas this year by joining each Tuesday evening throughout Advent for the experience of Lectio Divina.

Lectio Divina (Latin for Sacred Reading) is an ancient monastic practice designed to enable a prayerful personal engagement with the deeper meaning of scripture. Each week we will take as our focus the Gospel reading for the coming Sunday. Dates: Tue 25th Nov, Tue 2nd Dec, Tue 9th Dec & Wed 17th Dec.

Times: 7.30pm Location: St Ambrose Church. Enquiries: Chris Knauf 54271527 or chrisknauf@bigpond.com

CUPPA AFTER MASS
There will be a cuppa available after the 10am Mass on Sunday to say thanks to Fr McCarthy for being with us again this year. All welcome to stay.

LADIES LUNCHEON
You are invited to join with the “Cuppa” girls for lunch on Thursday 20th November at 12.30pm at Zarby’s. Friends welcome.

RSVP: Veronica Sullivan 54272654 or Pauline Johnson pauline@johnsonwoodend.com.au or Brenda Cavallaro brenca@hotmail.com

Cost: $18.00 (Zarby's lunch special)

COLUMBAN CALENDAR
The 2015 Columban Art Calendars are now available for purchase after the 10am Mass on Sunday.

Cost: $7

In purchasing a calendar you are assisting the Columbans in meeting the needs of the poor.

ADVENT RETREAT DAY—Wednesday 10th December, 9.30—3.00pm
As Christmas approaches let us prepare for this graced time by making time to review our year and reflect on where God has been present in our lives.

Facilitator: Mr John Stuart, musician, spiritual director who spent all of 2013 living and working in Jerusalem.

Location: St Mary's Lancefield, Presbytery. Cost: $10 plus bring a plate of food to share for lunch.

Contact: Joanne Reuther on 54292130 or email jreuther@smlancefield.catholic.edu.au RSVP: 28th November.

SOLO CATHOLICS

7 Dec, 10.30 Mass, 12 Lunch
St Cecilia’s Church, 37 Hillside Pde, Glen Iris. Lunch at Caulfield Glasshouse, Station St, Caulfield.

Join other solo Catholics for an end-of-year Mass celebrated by Fr Gerard Dowling followed by lunch.

Contact: John on 0411 483 314

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN MEDITATION COMMUNITY PRESENTS
FR LAURENCE FREEMAN - Monday 8 Dec, 7pm-9pm
Catholic Leadership Centre, 576 Victoria Pde, East Melbourne

Hear Fr Laurence Freeman, the Director of the World Community for Christian Meditation, speak about the ancient art of meditation. Meditation is for every Christian who wants to find out more about himself or herself and about what Jesus was offering when he said, ‘I have come that you may have life and have it to the full.’ It is advisable to use the online booking form to ensure a place at this event. Bookings and more info: www.christianmeditationaustralia.org (click on ‘Booking form and Melbourne Brochure’)

Contact: Mirella Pace or Kathy Gillespie on 0437 514 148

LOURDES DAY MASS 2014
Saturday 6 Dec, 10.30am St Patrick’s Cathedral, East Melbourne

The Order of Malta Australia and the Development Office of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne invite you to the Lourdes Day Mass, a mass for the sick and fragile in our community. To be celebrated by Most Reverend Denis Hart DD, Archbishop of Melbourne. A blessing of the sick will follow the celebration of the Liturgy with water brought from the spring at the Shrine of Lourdes. Gift bags for all attendees including a bottle of Lourdes water, Rosary beads and more. Wheelchair access by the side door of Albert St - vehicles can approach this entrance.

Contact: 9926 5731

POSITIONS VACANT
Applications are invited for the following positions:
- Parish Secretary, St Mary’s Lancefield
- Parish Secretary St Monica’s Moonee Ponds
- Bookkeeper St Monica’s Moonee Ponds
- Pastoral Associate St John the Baptist, Clifton Hill & St Joseph’s Collingwood
- Pastoral Associate Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Sunbury
- Project Officer, Office for Justice & Peace, East Melbourne
- Early Childhood Educator, St Scholastica’s, Burwood
- Administrative Assistant, St Patrick’s Cathedral, East Melbourne

First Reading
Prv 31:10-13.19-20.30-31
A reading from the book of Proverbs
Give her a share in what she has worked for.
A perfect wife – who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband’s heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the distindle. She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 127:1-5. R. v.1
(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord.
1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways! By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosperous. (R.)
2. Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. (R.)
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion in a happy Jerusalem all the days of your life. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Thes 5:1-6
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians
The day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about ‘times and seasons’, since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, ‘How quiet and peaceful it is’ that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it. But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 15:4. 5
Alleluia, alleluia! Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit. Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 25:14-30
or shorter form Mt 25:14-15. 19-21
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Because you have been faithful over a few things, enter into the joy of the Lord.
Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. “Sir,” he said “you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master’s happiness.” Next the man with the two talents came forward. “Sir,” he said “you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master’s happiness.” Last came forward the man who had the one talent. “Sir,” said he “I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back.” But his master answered him, “You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have been faithful with what was given to you. But as it is, you will have it back.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection by Greg Sunter
This week’s gospel is a very familiar parable and one that is often used with students and young people. It is generally used as an encouragement to make the most of the gifts and skills that the listeners possess. It is rarely, however, placed in its context as part of the full Chapter 25 lesson about the time of waiting and preparation for the coming of the Lord and the Christian life.
Again, the story is presented as a parable of the Kingdom – a glimpse into the right order of things in the realised Kingdom. A very wealthy master entrusts his considerable assets to his servants to manage in his absence. The three servants were allocated money, ‘each in proportion to his ability’. The emphasis of the parable is on what each servant did with the funds they were allotted. They were charged with managing the money in the place of their master; acting in their master’s place to further develop his wealth.
Like all of Jesus’ parables, this one has a sting in the tail. Although the third servant has done nothing illegal or corrupt, he is very harshly dealt with. His crime is laziness! He was given a great opportunity to demonstrate his abilities and yet he shied away and returned to his master what was already entrusted to him, unimproved. The author of Matthew’s gospel uses this parable to shock the audience out of complacency. They cannot rely solely on the promised return of the Lord, they must continue to act on Jesus’ message and work to bring about the Kingdom in their own lives. Those who fail to act, leaving everything to the work of God, are as bad as the lazy servant who failed to grasp an extraordinary opportunity.
St Elizabeth of Hungary was the daughter of King Andrew II of Hungary. In 1221 she married Prince Louis of Thuringa at the age of thirteen. She built a hospital and cared for the sick herself, despite opposition from her family and the royal court. A legend arose that once when she was taking food to the poor, her husband stopped her and looked under her mantle to see what she was carrying, only to find that the food had miraculously been changed to roses. After the death of her husband, St Elizabeth was driven from the court by her brother-in-law after she refused to marry again. In 1228 she became a Franciscan tertiary and continued her work with the poor and sick, but after only a few years of austere living, she died at the early age of twenty-four.