



focus on sunday

(World Day for the Poor)

We find today an invitation from the gospel to put all our talents at the service of God and of his kingdom.



Another parable about the generosity of God. Even the one talent was a huge amount of money to give – the equivalent of twenty years' wages. God gives a lot to everyone – life, grace, love. We do our best to share what he has given. He raises the people who invested their money well and made more.

Our man who kept the talent hidden was a fearful man – afraid of his master. Many people have some sort of fear of God. He gives much and expects more, they feel. They fear that he will punish them with poverty or bad luck or misery in many ways for not living a good life. God does not punish. For our sins, often it is life which punishes us. What we do for good or evil comes back on us. God believes in each of us – so much that this huge talent is given to us. God's belief in us gives us the energy to do the best with what we are given.

The gift of love is for sharing; gifts of personality, prosperity; all not to be hidden but to be given in a return of love. The language is exaggerated, and even the end is figurative. The meaning is to do the best we can with what we are given in life. God will see in each of us the good and faithful servant we are or try to be. Then there is an offer of more of his gift of love and forgiveness.

Lord may we do the best we can with what you have given us.

Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger

Jesus' Story Fr. Liam Hickey St. Ciaran's D.15

I liked the colours in The Church Window. All were different and held together in light, like a happy family. Every person is a colour of God, and is like a talent, to let the light of God's Love shine through us. We let the love of God shine through us when we smile, offer to help, say please and thanks and respect our mother Nature.



I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters,
 May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant, O Lord, we pray, that what we offer in the sight of your majesty may obtain for us the grace of being devoted to you and gain us the prize of everlasting happiness. Through Christ our Lord.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.
 And with your spirit.
 Lift up your hearts.
 We lift them up to the Lord.
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 It is right and just.

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
 Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.
 We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
 Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

To be near God is my happiness,
 to place my hope in God the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We have partaken of the gifts of this sacred mystery, humbly imploring, O Lord, that what your Son commanded us to do in memory of him may bring us growth in charity. Through Christ our Lord.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

GREETING

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
 The Lord be with you.
 And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
 You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
 You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
 May almighty God have mercy on us....
 Amen.

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.



OPENING PRAYER

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God, the constant gladness of being devoted to you, for it is full and lasting happiness to serve with constancy the author of all that is good. Through our Lord Jesus Christ....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Proverbs 31: 10-13.19-20. 30-31.

A reading from the Book of Proverbs. 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 spindle. 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.
 Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 127: 1 - 3

R. O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

- 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 prosper. [R]
- Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. [R]
- 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 Thessalonians 5: 1-6

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians.

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.
 Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
 Even if you have to die, says the Lord, keep faithful, and I will give you the crown of life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 25: 14 - 30

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew. (Shorter from in italics)

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 deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."

The Gospel of the Lord.
 Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, All bow for following three lines: and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

