

SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE 8th November 2026

Let us sit and watch Songs of Praise together on the ABC and then set the table for our Parish meal.



Prayerful and intentional preparation for a meal

Sometimes we eat, in front of the TV either together or alone; we eat on the run; we eat out in in restaurants or even in our car; but today we sit at a table that we have set for our Sunday lunch meal. It is our everyday altar of life-giving food.

As we worship at home today let us define the occasion by adding something special to our table. Give some thought to the presentation of our meal as a meditation on the importance of the time we are setting aside for worship. If you are celebrating this meal without people physically present, please be aware that **God Is With You.**





What if you had to walk to a place each night and needed a torch. Wouldn't it be wise to carry spare batteries? Jesus' parable talks about not taking our relationship with God for granted. We live where there is darkness all around and we need Jesus' light with us always. That light is the way of life he shows us to live. The more we live it, the more sustained His light is in us. Therefore, we live out our salvation daily. Without a torch in the dark we can easily get lost, or fall into trouble with no way of seeing our way through.

Be still and silent. Visualise in your mind, those whom you invited to share with you. Pray:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
Here, and throughout the world,
We adore you O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Amen
Bless this food, both physical and spiritual.
Bless all who gather at your table, both seen and unseen, In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Let us read and reflect on our cycle of readings.

A reading from the prophet Joshua 24 1-3a 14-25
Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors – Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor – lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. "Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." to serve other gods;



for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God." But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.
Hear the word of the Lord. T**hanks be to God.**

Psalm 78:1-7 — A.P.B.A. page 301
1 Give heed to my teaching O my people:
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
2 For I will open my mouth in a parable:
and expound the mysteries of former times.
3 What we have heard and known:
what our forbears have told us,
4 We will not hide from their children
but declare to a generation yet to come:
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord
his mighty and wonderful works.
5 He established a law in Jacob
and made a decree in Israel:
which he commanded our ancestors
to teach their children.
6 That future generations might know
and those yet unborn:
that they in turn might teach it to their children;
7 So that they might put their confidence in God:
and not forget his works but keep his commandments.



A reading from the First Letter to the Thessalonians 4 9-18
Now concerning love of the brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anyone write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another; and indeed you do love all the brothers and sisters throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, beloved, to do so more and more, to aspire to live quietly, to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we directed you, so that you may behave properly toward outsiders and be dependent on no one. But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's



call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.
Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 25 1-13
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ



Jesus told this parable to his disciples: "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.
The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sentence Watch and be ready, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. Matthew 24.42,44

Let us now engage in some quiet reflection, or conversation and sharing, responding to the passages of scripture. We may like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection.

Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.
The wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.

In the parable the brides had oil lamps. Having the oil is pointed out as just as important as the light. Like batteries, the oil fuels the light. God knows that in life the light we have needs His fuel. In other words to live a life for God, and we need Him to fill us up with something so that our light keeps shining. He knows we cannot do it on our own. God puts His own spirit in us, and when we pray, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." We are asking God to come and be evident in our hearts and souls wherever we are; Little lights of heaven on earth, until He comes and takes us to be at home with Him.



prayer-time Now let us continue to offer our prayers and thanksgiving. We pray for healing of the world; n. 🙏God of peace, be with all those who live in fear and danger. Heal those wounded by hate and conflict. Teach us to love our enemies and live together with understanding and compassion. Amen.



We pray for family; for members of the parish and wider community, for the life and ministry of the Church, for encouragement in our journey of faith. We continue to pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer: Georgia, Sunanra and family, for Nicholas and his two daughters, for Chris G , Bob and family, Lyn H Joy I, Cathy M, Sue Mack, Peter G, Morgan, Rev Beck and family, Trish, Suzi, Nicole, Richard and family, Rachel, David B, Lorraine, Margaret P, Kay & Chris DeVries Jean T, , Stephen, Anne, Ken, Neville B, Lisa W, Jan Y, Michael, Andrew, Pratibha K, Jeanette B, Barbara A, Jo M, Griselda, Patrusca, Rachel, Steve, Ebony, Nicole, David, Takoohi , Glenda, Margaret, Wendy, Gweneth, Jo and Ginne , Matthew, Kathryn and Keiran, Ruth, Jean N, Georgia, Pat V, Brenda, Joanie, Jan, Jac B; Eileen, Ursula P, Nicholas & Ben; Sue & Frank G, Emily and her family; Christina and any others we wish to remember, either silently or aloud. .Let us say the Lord's Prayer Together.

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Our Father ……

Prayer of the Day

Eternal God,
you have taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand:
keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom,
so that when Christ, the bridegroom, comes
we may go out joyfully to meet him,
and with him enter into the marriage feast
that you have prepared for all who truly love you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Conclude the meal with the following prayer together.



May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be amongst us
and remain with us always.
Amen.

intentional connection beyond your home

After the Table Service, take the time to contact other people you know, especially those on their own, who maybe unwell, or recovering. Ask how they are or see if they would appreciate a visit. Let the Holy Spirit guide you to the person or persons with whom you should connect. Pray for them. Contact them. Start a conversation. How have you been keeping, what about this lovely spring weather, are you OK, or hope you are keeping well, was just thinking of you and decided to call. …….


CONNECT