Religious Education:

Week Beginning 15th November 2026:

Thirty-third Sunday of the Year A:

Introduction: Gifts from God:
When we love someone, sometimes we give them a gift, something special for them to use and enjoy. God has given talents to each one of us as a sign of his love, these are gifts from God.
Sign of the Cross:
(Revelation 22:5): One day there will be no more darkness, no more night. No one will need lamps or the light from the sun. God will light up the darkness with glory and they will see clearly forever.
First Reading: *Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31*
The virtues of a good wife are extolled.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 128:1-2,3,4-5*
Blessed are those who walk in God's ways.

Second Reading: *1 Thessalonians 5:1-6*
Paul warns the Thessalonians to stay alert because the day of the Lord cannot be predicted.

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 25:14-30:*
Jesus tells the parable of the talents, in which he teaches about the importance of using the gifts that God has given to us in service to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Gospel Reading: (Matthew 25: 14-30)

Jesus tells another parable. This time a man is about to go abroad and so he calls his servants to him and gives them each something to look after.

He gives the first servant five talents ("talents" was a word for money in Jesus' time). He gives the second servant two talents. And the final servant one talent. What did the servants do with the talents they had been given?

The first one used the five talents he had been given and made five more. So he gave the master back ten talents all together. The second one used the two talents he had been given and made two more, giving the master back four talents all together. The final servant hid his talent in the ground. When his master came back, he dug it up and returned it to him.

Prayer:
Heavenly Father, we thank you for the talents which you have given to each of us. Whatever our gifts may be, teach us to use them wisely, and for the good of others. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel Reflection:

This week's Gospel speaks of how Jesus' disciples are to conduct themselves as they await the Kingdom of Heaven. In the preceding passages and in last week's Gospel, Jesus taught that there is no way to predict the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven. His disciples must, therefore, remain vigilant and ready to receive the Son of Man at any time.

Jesus' parable talks about Christian discipleship using economic metaphors. Before he leaves on a journey, the master entrusts to his servants a different number of talents, giving to each according to their abilities. A *talent* is a coin of great value. Upon the master's return, he finds that the first and second servants have doubled their money, and both are rewarded. The third servant, however, has only preserved what was given to him because he was afraid to lose the money. He has risked nothing; he did not even deposit the money in a bank to earn interest. This servant is punished by the master, and his talent is given to the one who brought the greatest return.

Read in light of last week's parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids, this parable teaches that God's judgment will be based on the service we render to God and to one another in accordance with the gifts that God has given to us. Our gifts, or talents, are given to us for the service of others. If we fail to use these gifts, God's judgment on us will be severe. On the other hand, if we make use of these gifts in service to the Kingdom of Heaven, we will be rewarded and entrusted with even more responsibilities.

This Gospel reminds us that Christian spirituality is not passive or inactive. Our life of prayer helps us to discern the gifts that have been given to us by God. This prayer and discernment ought to lead us to use our gifts in the service of God and our neighbour. God's grace allows us to share in the work of serving the Kingdom of Heaven.

What will we be asked at the end of time? – Like the men in the parable. God will ask us what we have done with the talents he gave us. Did we use them wisely, sharing them with others for the good of all; or did we hide them away selfishly, without allowing them to grow.

World Day of the Poor:

Date: Sunday, November 15th, 2026

Theme: "The Lord is the refuge of the poor" (Psalm 14:6)

Pope Leo XIV, in his message for the World Day of the Poor, invites the Church to an examination of conscience: "Are we a sign of a God who is a refuge for the poor?" How much more are we called to do – in our communities, in our nations – "on behalf of the poor and for their liberation." Echoing the words of his predecessor, Pope Francis, he reminds us that "we are the Lord's Church, a Church of the poor?" When we look at the Church in England and Wales, is this

the Church we see, a Church of the poor. He quotes from his first exhortation, with an even more direct challenge:

“God shows a preference for the poor: the Lord’s words of hope and liberation are addressed first of all to them. Therefore, even in their poverty or weakness, no one should feel abandoned. And the Church, if she wants to be Christ’s Church, must be a Church of the Beatitudes, one that makes room for the little ones and walks poor with the poor, a place where the poor have a privileged place”

Prayer:

Loving God, open our ears, eyes, and hearts to hear, see, and meet you in the cry, lives, and faces of those living in poverty, the oppressed, and others with mercy and compassion. Pour out your grace upon us to grow as your faithful people seeking your kingdom of Truth, Justice, and Peace, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

