

CELEBRATING AT HOME

# 33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*Growing the Kingdom* *(Matthew 25:14-30)*

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## Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
**Amen.**

The Lord is here, present among us.
**We are gathered with the whole Church**
**in this moment of prayer.**

## Preparing to hear the Word

We have been called by God
to be the Church,
**the Body of Christ and the Kingdom of God**
**in this world.**

Lord, keep us watchful and ready
**as we wait for your coming.**

## Scripture Reading *(Matthew 25:14-30, short form)*

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 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 that you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness.'

## Reflection - *Growing the Kingdom*

Continuing the theme of last week's parable about the wise and the foolish women, this parable also concentrates on wisdom. The wise servants fulfil the bond of trust placed in them by the master by are being productive with an enormous amount of money entrusted to them. Like the perfect wife in the first reading, they are industrious in contrast to the third servant who uses fear as an excuse for doing nothing.

Like last Sunday, today's Gospel is another 'meantime' parable - how do we live as disciples of Christ in the meantime as we wait for his return?

The master entrusts his property to his servants and goes away. On his return, he asks for an accounting of what they have done with his property. The servants who have been industrious and productive are praised.

Christ has entrusted us with the Kingdom of God. We are called to work industriously and productively with the Spirit so that the Kingdom, the Reign of God's grace, may be seen and experienced through us, and that others also may come to believe. The Kingdom gifts of love, justice, mercy, compassion and forgiveness are multiplied. The Kingdom grows.

Both the first reading and the Gospel today praise busy, energetic people - those who produce much from what has been given to them. In these readings we find an image of how to wait in this 'in between time' for the final coming of Christ. The Christian disciple is called to watch and wait, not in a lazy or self-indulgent way, but eagerly doing the work of the Kingdom and producing its fruits of justice, mercy, peace, hope and love as we go about our daily tasks.

It is the ideal of responsible stewardship which is proclaimed in the Gospel. We have been entrusted with the very life of God. What are we doing/will we do with it?

## Prayers of Intercession

Fill us with courage
**as we carry the Kingdom into our world.**

You are the centre and source of our lives.
**Help us be the reign of your life.**

God of hope,
**through your life at work in us we can redeem and renew our times.**

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## Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus, we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**
**hallowed be thy name.**
**Thy kingdom come.**
**Thy will be done on earth**
**as it is in heaven.**
**Give us this day our daily bread**
**and forgive us our trespasses,**
**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**
**And lead us not into temptation,**
**but deliver us from evil.**

## Closing Prayer

In every moment of our lives, O God,
**may we feel you near to us.**
**Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Blessing

Stay with us on our journey, O Lord,
**for we place all our trust in you.**



# Journey into the Light

This resource is presented by the Carmelites for use by individuals, families and small groups as a prayerful celebration of the Word of God to help prepare us to celebrate the Eucharist with our worshipping communities. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. We are also conscious of the many people who, for various reasons including sickness and infirmity, cannot physically attend the Eucharist. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

As you use this prayer know that the Carmelites will be remembering in our prayer all the members of our family.

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