

The Living Word

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

12 November 2023

First Reading Wis 6:12-16

Wisdom is found by those who look for it.

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.
By those who love her she is readily seen,
and found by those who look for her.
Quick to anticipate those who desire her,
she makes herself known to them.
Watch for her early and you will have no
trouble;
you will find her sitting at your gates.
Even to think about her is understanding
fully grown;
be on the alert for her and anxiety will
quickly leave you.
She herself walks about looking for those
who are worthy of her
and graciously shows herself to them as
they go,
in every thought of theirs coming to meet
them.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 62:2-8. R. v.2

**(R.) My soul is thirsting for you,
O Lord my God.**

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. (R.)
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary.
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. (R.)
3. So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. (R.)
4. On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Thes 4:13-18

Those who died as Christians, God will bring to life with Jesus.

We want you to be quite certain, brothers,
about those who have died, to make sure
that you do not grieve about them, like the
other people who have no hope. We believe
that Jesus died and rose again, and that it
will be the same for those who have died in
Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can
tell you this from the Lord's own teaching,

that any of us who are left alive until the
Lord's coming will not have any advantage
over those who have died. At the trumpet
of God, the voice of the archangel will call
out the command and the Lord himself will
come down from heaven; those who have
died in Christ will be the first to rise, and
then those of us who are still alive will be
taken up in the clouds, together with them,
to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay
with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts
as these you should comfort one another.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 24:42. 44

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready:

**you know not when the Son of Man
is coming.**

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 25:1-13

Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: '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 of them were sensible: the
foolish ones did take their lamps, but they
brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones
took flasks of oil as well as their lamps.
The bridegroom was late, and they all grew
drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight
there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here!
Go out and meet him." At this, all those
bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their
lamps, and the foolish ones said to the
sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil:
our lamps are going out." But they replied,
"There may not be enough for us and for
you; you had better go to those who sell
it and buy some for yourselves." They had
gone off to buy it when the bridegroom
arrived. Those who were ready went in with
him to the wedding hall and the door was
closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later.
"Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for
us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do
not know you." So stay awake, because you
do not know either the day or the hour.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Israel was often portrayed as a
bride in Jewish scriptures. So, the
question was: 'When would the
Bridegroom – the Anointed One of
God, the Christ – appear?' Jesus'
warning is to the attendants of the
bride: 'Be alert, be vigilant, be
prepared.' Some (the five foolish
attendants) did miss the moment:
the earthly ministry of Jesus of
Nazareth.

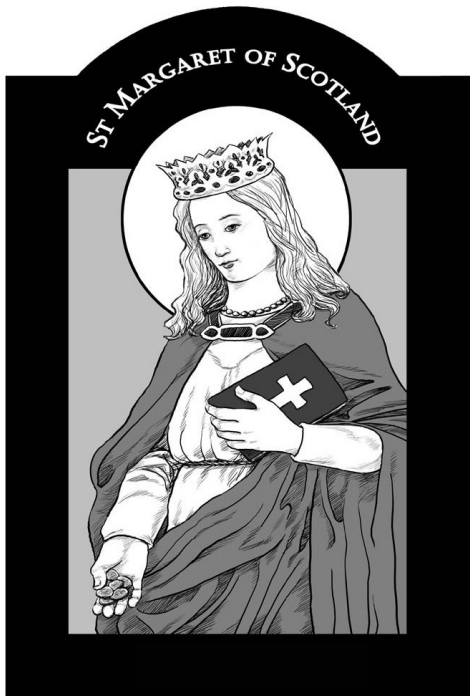
But his warning is also for the
Catholic Church which is the new
Bride of Christ. We are the
attendants to the Bride and the
imperative applies to us also: Be
alert, be vigilant. Be prepared for
the eruption, the intervention of
Our Lord Jesus Christ, the
Bridegroom, into *our* history, into
our moment of time.

For example, is Christ coming to
meet us in the modern movements
which demand to hold authority
accountable, or which press for
just recognition of women? We can
foolishly remain in the dark or we
can wisely try to throw light on
these questions. Only then we will
be able to discern whether indeed
it is the Lord who is approaching.

We could pause to pray that we be
ready when the Bridegroom
responds to the ancient prayer:
'Come, Lord Jesus!'

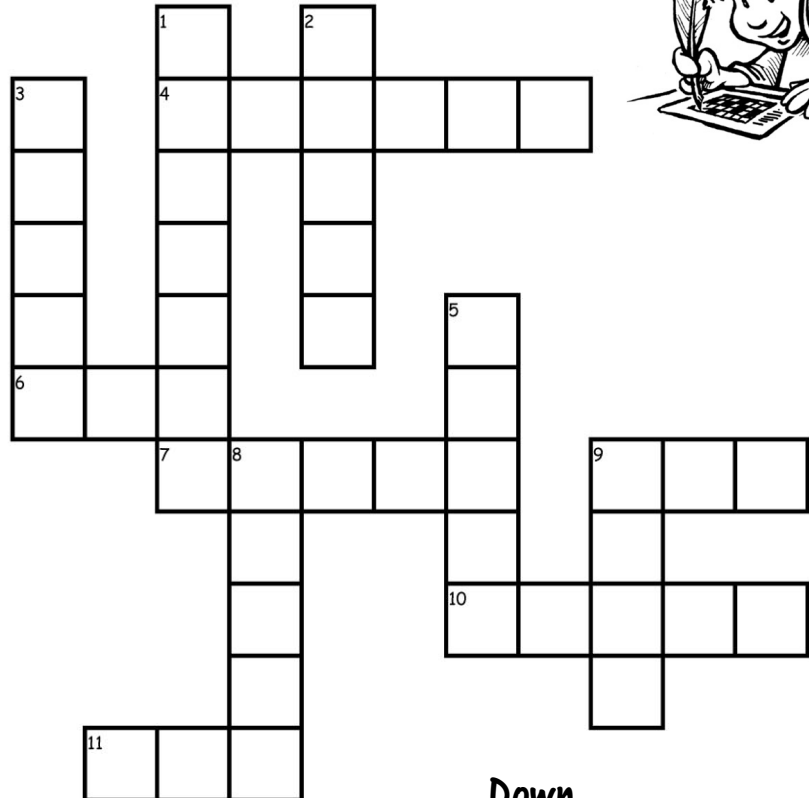
mtate@bigpond.com

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the Lectionary for the Mass © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts, from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963 by The Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc. and used by permission of the publishers.
© 2017 Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd
All use must be in accordance with your user licensing agreement.



St Margaret of Scotland was in fact thought to be born in Hungary and was brought to England as a young girl in 1057. She fled to Scotland after the Norman conquest of England and in 1070 married King Malcolm III. Margaret was a deeply religious woman and as queen she was able to bring about necessary reforms to the Scottish church and in doing so, brought it into line with the Western church. She also used her influence to help ordinary people by establishing schools, hospitals and orphanages.

CROSSWORD



Across

- 4: there wasn't e _ _ _ _ h oil for all of the lamps
6: this many girls went to meet the groom
7: a bride's husband-to-be
9: the liquid that was needed for the lamps
10: you do this when you get tired
11: to purchase

Down

- 1: when people get married they have one of these
2: these were closed when the foolish girls returned
3: the time when the sky is dark
5: the ten girls used these to see in the dark
8: prepared
9: to enter a room first you must do this to the door

What words would you use to describe the wise girls and the foolish girls?

The wise girls



The foolish girls
