



FAMILY PRAYER SHEET

33rd Sunday of the year

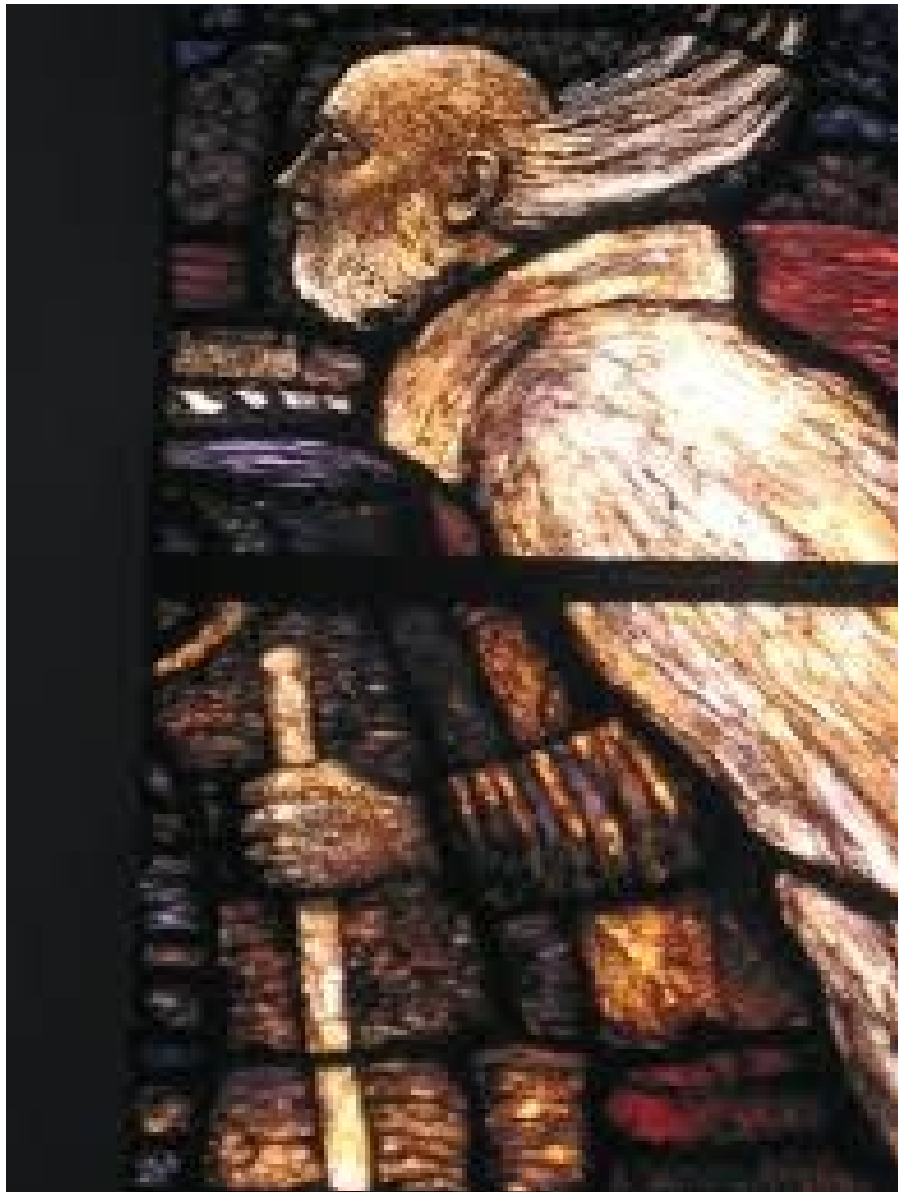


Dear NPCAT Families

This prayer sheet aims to help families pray together now that we cannot go to Mass. We hope that you will be able to use the activities to help our children and adults grow in faith at this time. We have tried to include activities that use resources that you might already have at home. If you don't have access to all of these resources, we hope that the activities give you inspiration to do something to explore the gospel and themes.

God Bless.

Angela O'Brien, Lead Lay Chaplain



Reading the Gospel from this Sunday's Mass

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 25:14-30

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."

Alternatives for Younger Children

A short retelling: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNH4IjGWI-8>

In song: "I am me" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9trvSn91s_s

Reflection

This story is to remind us that God has given each of us gifts that we are to use to help to build God's kingdom here on earth. Do we use our gifts and talents to make the world a better, brighter place? I'm sure that you can see in others their gifts and talents, do you see your own? If we use our gifts and talents to help do what God wants us to then we will be rewarded just as the servants in the story were rewarded by more. Or are we more like the last servant who hides their talents and gifts away? If we do that then we are wasting them and letting them rot away.

Discussion Points

- In the parable the master gave different amounts of talents to the three servants. What might this symbolise in life?
- Two of the servants invested their master's talents and returned more than was given. What are some ways people today use their talents to grow closer to God?
- One of the servants was fearful of his master and was lazy. Why might some people be reluctant to use their talents to help others or grow closer to God today?
- When the master saw that the first two servants returned more talents to help others or grow closer to God today?
- When the master saw that the first two servants returned more talents than were given, he said, *come, share your master's joy*. How might using our talents bring God's joy to us and to others?
- The master praised the first two servants for being *faithful in small matters*. What are some small, common, everyday ways that we can be faithful to God?
- What happened to the lazy servant who only returned the one talent to the master?
- What are some consequences people may face if they are lazy or fearful?
- What was meant when Jesus said to those who have, more will be given, but to those who have not, even the little they have will be taken away?
- What responsibilities have been entrusted to you?
- How can you show your faithfulness to God by the way you use your talents?

Reflection questions taken from "Exploring the Sunday Lectionary: a Teenagers guide to the readings cycle A" by Sandy Rigsby and Steve Mason.

Activities

Talent prayers

You will need: paper

Write a prayer to day thank you for the talents that God has given you. You might want to name them when you write the prayer.

Bottle top talents

You will need: Bottle tops (at least 3 per person) kitchen foil

Wrap bottle tops in foil to make the talent coins. On the top write a talent they have. Make a pouch either from paper or fabric if you have some to put the coins in. On the front write "thank you God for my talents". Take these out often to take to the children about their talents and to use them as part of their bedtime prayers.

What can you do for others?

- Say something nice to someone about a talent they have.
- Do something for someone this week using one of your talents.

Prayers

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.

Taken from: 'The complete children's liturgy book' by Katie Thompson

Generous God, you gave us a voice. Help us shout loud for what is right and fair. You gave us ears. Help us to listen to those in need. You gave us talents. Help us share and multiply them for the good of all your people. Amen.

Taken from: <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>

An Act of Spiritual Communion

Introduction

You might find it helpful to have a space as a focus for their prayer. This might include a crucifix, icon or other holy image, and a lighted candle.

Sign of the Cross: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Examen: Before listening to the Word of God take a moment to reflect.

For what am I grateful to God for today?

Where did I stray from God: through words, actions or things I did not do.

How might I do better tomorrow?

What grace do I ask from God in order to live more closely in his love?

You may wish to conclude by saying: Lord Jesus, you have revealed yourself as the way to the Father: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. You have poured out on your people the Spirit of truth: Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. You are the Good Shepherd, leading us to eternal life: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

The Word of God: The readings for the Mass of the Day can be found in a People's Missal or online Universalis [<https://universalis.com/mass.htm>]. Either read all the texts or choose just to read the Gospel of the Day. Or use the gospel reading that is on this sheet.

Silent reflection: Pause for a moment of silent reflection.

Prayers & Intercessions:

Pray for family and loved ones so that they may be held in God's compassionate care. Pray for other countries who are struggling with the effects of the COVID 19 virus. If the following intentions are said in a family or other group you may wish to conclude each one with the response: Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer

For those in authority: may they offer advice with care and integrity, may they seek to protect the poor and vulnerable.

For all who work in healthcare: give strength to all who look after the sick so that they may bring comfort and relief to the suffering.

For the Church: may she offer prayers and consolation for all those affected.

For our local community and all for those in need: may those who are isolated know the support and service of their neighbours.

Lord's Prayer: Our Father...

Spiritual Communion: Prayer of St Alphonsus

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now

receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

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

Additional Prayers

Pope Francis' prayer to the Virgin for protection

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. Your, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas — we who are put to the test — and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Prayer for the Household

Hear us, Lord, and send your angel from heaven to visit and protect, to comfort and defend all who live in this house. Amen

Taken from "When Mass cannot be celebrated publicly"

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/03/No-Mass-A4.pdf>

Blessed Nicholas Postgate, Pray For Us

