



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF
BOGNOR REGIS AND SLINDON

We are followers of Jesus, on fire with his love,
sharing that love with each other and with the world.

Be Prepared

All the content below is for you to make your own, please do read through it, pick what would work best for your children and would best engage them.

Rest assured of my prayers for your family and you this coming week!

Katharine

In the Gospel, St. Matthew recounts a parable told by Jesus to help us understand his message for us.

Today the Gospel is a parable about ten bridesmaids waiting for the bridegroom to arrive.

Perhaps you have been to wedding

There is always lots to get ready.

In the parable, the bridesmaids have oil lamps. They would have looked something like this:



At a Jewish wedding, bridesmaids would light the way with their lamps for the bride and bridegroom.



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Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus said: “At that time the Kingdom of heaven will be like this. Once there were ten young women who took their oil lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and the other five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any extra oil with them, while the wise ones took containers full of oil for their lamps. The bridegroom was late in coming, so the women began to nod and fall asleep.

“It was already midnight when the cry rang out, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come and meet him!’ The ten women woke up and trimmed their lamps. Then the foolish ones said to the wise ones, ‘Let us have some of your oil, because our lamps are going out.’ ‘No, indeed,’ the wise ones answered, ‘there is not enough for you and for us. Go to the shop and buy some for yourselves.’ So, the foolish women went off to buy some oil; and while they were gone, the bridegroom arrived. The five who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast, and the door was closed.

“Later the other women arrived. ‘Sir, sir! Let us in!’ they cried out. ‘Certainly not! I don’t know you,’ the bridegroom answered.”

And Jesus concluded, “Be on your guard, then, because you do not know the day or the hour.”

We reflect

Why do you think Jesus tells us stories or parables rather than just saying exactly what God’s Kingdom is like, or exactly what it is he wants us to do?

Jesus tells a story about ten women who are waiting at a wedding for the bridegroom to arrive. It is dark and so they all have lamps with them to light the way. But what did five of them have that the other five did not?

Five of them were sensible and took extra oil with them, so that if the bridegroom was late, they would still be able to light his way. They were prepared. What happened next?

The bridegroom was very late. It was after midnight before the women were asked to go out and meet him and five of them no longer had enough oil for their lamps. They were not prepared and ended up being left outside the wedding. How do you think they felt about being left outside?



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Can you think of a time when you were ready and well prepared for something? E.g. Grandma visiting your house, getting your school bag ready the night before school

Can you think of a time when you were not ready for something? E.g. you did not practice your spellings for a test, you did not pack away your toys when you were asked to before dinner

Who do you think the bridegroom represents in the story?

What do you think Jesus is asking of us in this story?

We respond

Jesus asks us to be prepared—we may not get everything right trying to follow Jesus, but we must be watchful to see how we can share God’s love with others in all situations.

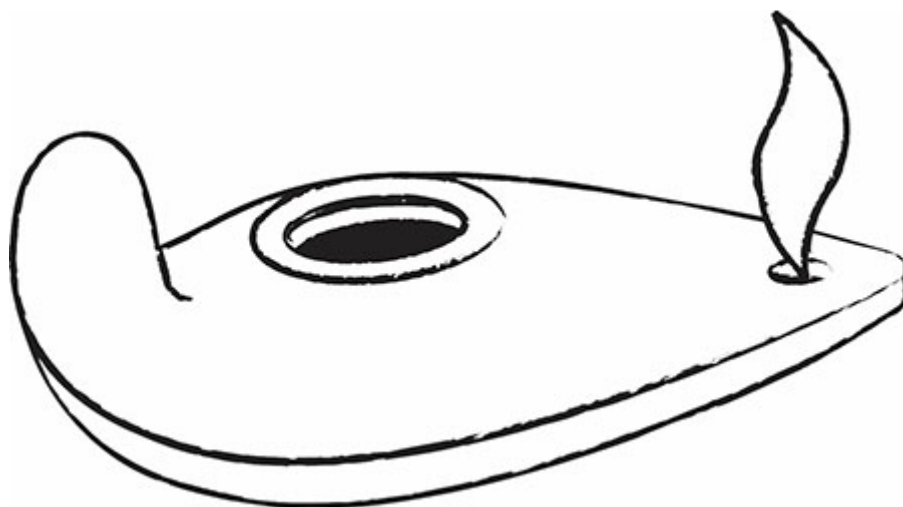
How can we make sure that we are always shining like lamps in the darkness, ready to behave as Jesus wants us to?

Perhaps you can- share, be kind, pray, show love to children who are sad at school

What other things could you do?

Draw a picture of a lamp –

write on the lamp what you will do to be ready for Jesus... colour the flame brightly



Finish your time together focusing on this piece of scripture with prayer