

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.

The Parable of the Talents

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!

Kathryn

Once again, in today's Gospel St. Matthew recounts a parable told by Jesus to help us understand his message for us. Today the Gospel is a parable about talents.

God has given us many gifts and talents as a sign of his great love for us. Today Jesus explains that we are expected to put such gifts to good use in our lives and not waste them.

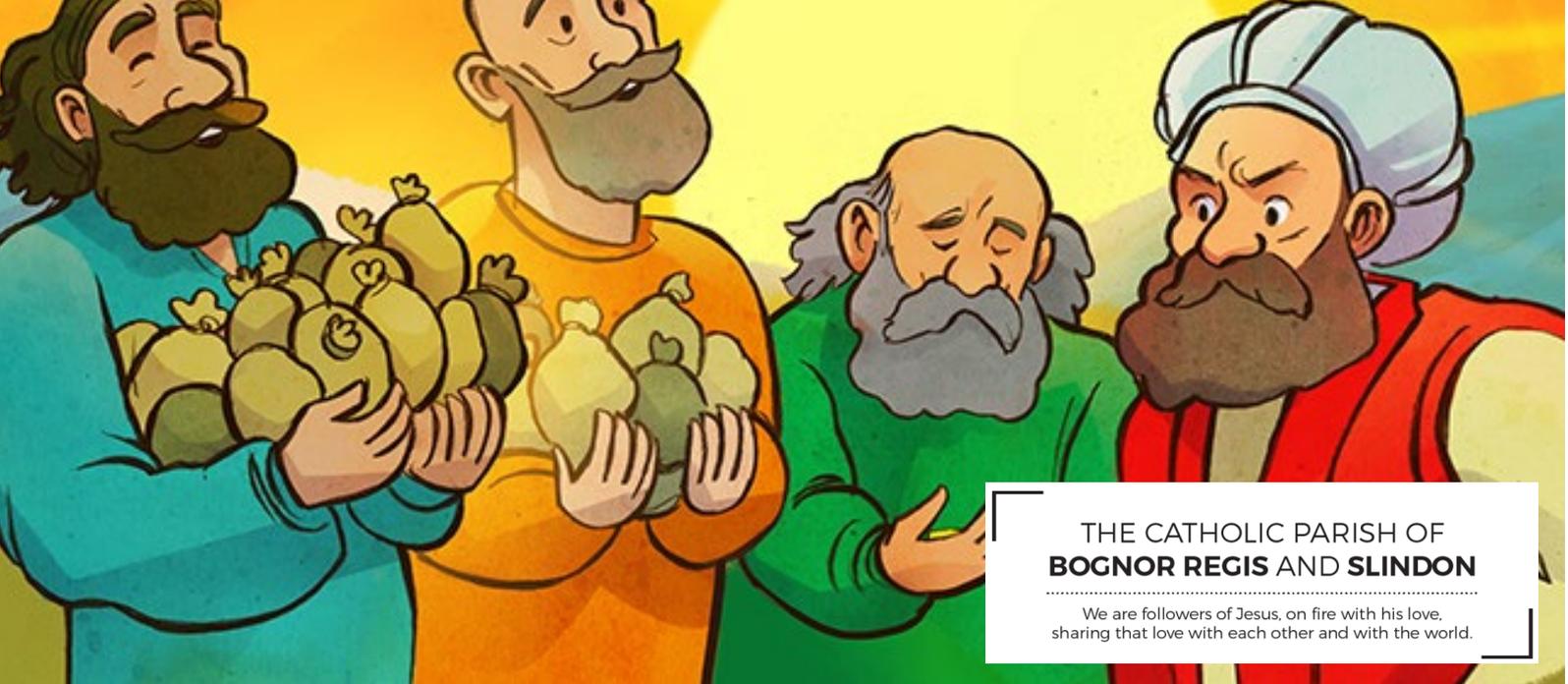
In the story you will hear about 'talents' or large amounts of money, a bit like a big bag of gold coins.

Before you listen to the Gospel take a moment to reflect on any times in the past week when you have not followed Jesus' way and have been unkind, or not thoughtful of others in your family and say sorry.

Gospel according to Matthew (25:14-30)

Jesus told the people a parable. "The master of a household was going abroad for some time, so he called for his servants and said to them, "I am splitting my property between you according to your skill for managing it." He gave each man a number of 'talents' or large amounts of money. To the first he gave five talents, to the second he gave two and the third man received one. The first two men used their talents wisely, and soon doubled the amount they had been given. The man who had received only one talent hid it away out of sight.

A long time later the master of the house returned from his travels and called for his servants to see how they had invested his money. The first two servants stepped forward and presented him with double the amount they had been given. 'Well done,' the master said. 'Now I know you can be trusted I shall certainly trust you with more. Come and celebrate with me!'



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Then the third servant stepped forward and returned to his master exactly what he had been given. His master was furious and said to him, 'You useless, lazy man! Even if you had simply put this amount in the bank, with interest it would have made more!' He took the talent from his servant and gave it to the other who already had ten. 'To everyone who has something, even more will be given,' he said. 'Those who have little, will have even that taken away.'

Then he had the lazy servant thrown out, while he celebrated with the other two."

We respond

Talk together about the story. What did you hear? Is there a particular bit that you liked, that confused you, or that you want to know more about?

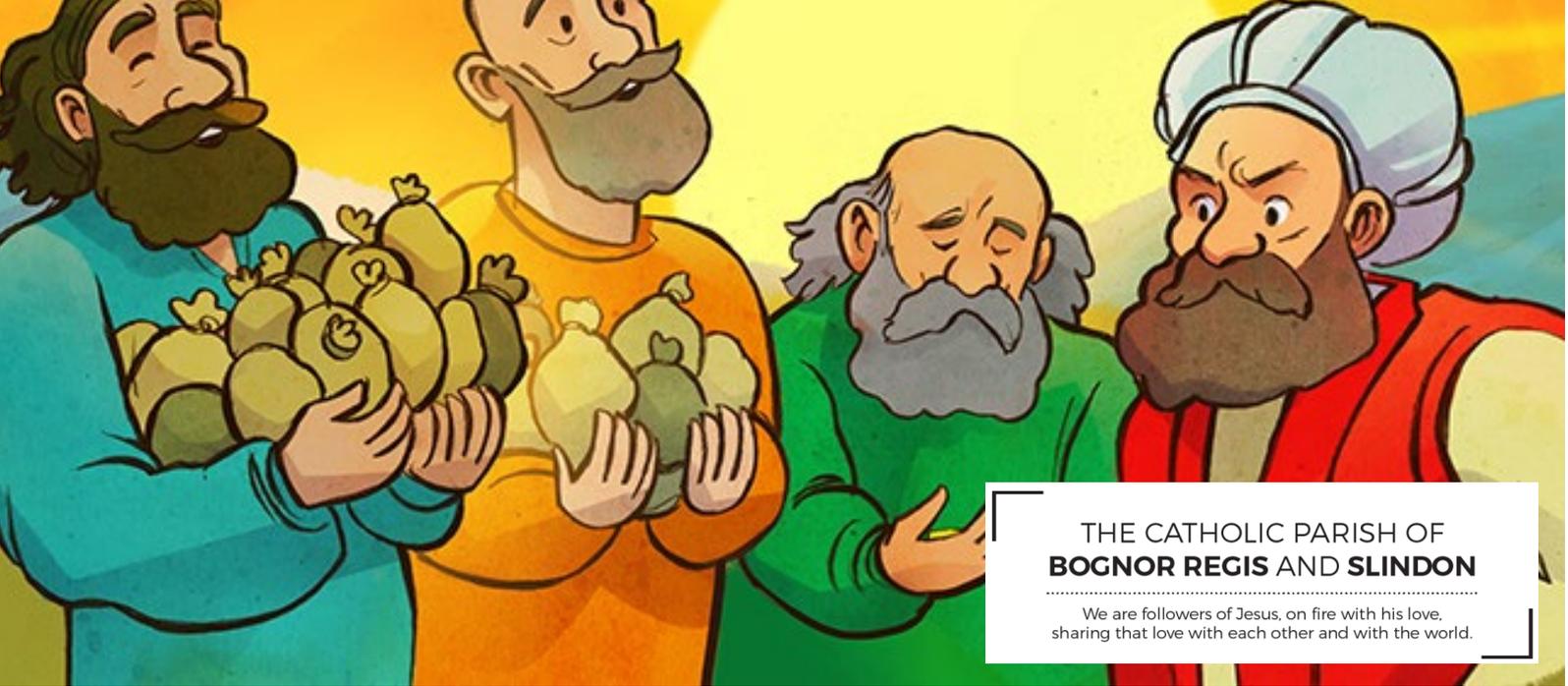
Have you even been given money as a gift for Christmas or your birthday? What did you do with it? If you put your money in a piggy bank how much will be there when you go back to it?

Jesus tells this story about a man who is about to go abroad and so he calls his servants to him and gives them each something to look after.

What did each of the servants do with the money they had been given?

What does this story teach us?

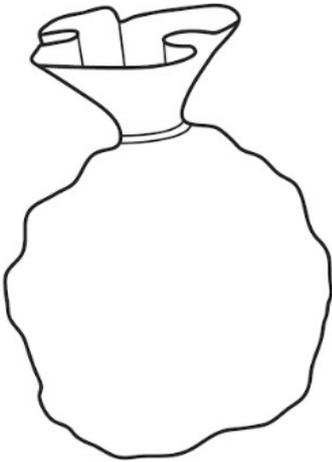
We are like servants who are expected by Jesus, our master, to make full use of any gifts he has given us so that his kingdom may grow on earth. We all have different gifts and talents. What are yours? Some of us are good at sport, some of us at singing or dancing, some of us are good at building things. Whatever your gift or talent, when Jesus returns at the end of time we will be expected to give an account of how wisely we have used the many gifts we have been given. Did we use them well, sharing them with others and allowing them to grow, or did we hide them away selfishly? Jesus is telling us to go out into the world, share our gifts and talents, and use our skills. By doing this we are serving God.



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We go forth



What could you do this week to share your gifts and talents with others, as God intended?

You could draw a 'talent' like the one below and write in it what you will do to share your gifts and talents this week. Who will you share them with? What will you do to share them? Is your talent being kind? Helpful? Is it dancing? Sport? Could you cheer someone up this week, make them happy, or do something for others using your talent?

Maybe you could write a prayer thanking God for your talents and asking for help in using them to serve others.