

33rd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

God-given talents.

The Lord gives talents to each one of us and asks us to use them in his name. We are not to relax our efforts; rather we are continually to do all in our power to work as children of the light. We are all called to be a blessing in the family of God.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God,
graciously keep from us all adversity, so that, unhindered in mind and body alike,
we may pursue in freedom of heart the things that are yours.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING: The Book of Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31.
A perfect wife – who can find her?

PSALM: Ps. 128
RESPONSE: **O blessèd are those who fear the Lord.**

SECOND READING: The first letter of S. Paul to the Thessalonians 5:1-6.
Let not the Day of the Lord overtake you like a thief.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30.
The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.

Preacher: Deacon Jennifer Wood
North Cheltenham Team Deacon

MASS INTENTIONS

The response in the prayers to: Christ will come again: **make us ready to meet him.**

Holy God, if we are presuming on your mercy, alert us and shatter our complacency;
if we are doubting you
mercy, affirm in us the reality of your forgiveness. r
May we, as the Church, encourage and warn, but never condemn; acknowledge sin, but never judge.

Silence Christ will come again: **make us ready to meet him.**

Holy God, raise up prophets to speak out your truth,
and draw attention to whatever needs changing in our world, our expectations and assumptions,
our management of resources and finances, our systems of government and our attitudes.
May all peoples come to recognise your truth.

Silence Christ will come again: **make us ready to meet him.**

Holy God, fill our homes and places of work with so much love that tensions and barriers melt away,
conflicts are resolved and troubles lightened by being lovingly shared.
Open our hearts to hope again where we had given up.

Silence Christ will come again: **make us ready to meet him.**

Holy God, may all in misery and despair turn to find you close beside them in their heartache,
not condemning but loving them in their pain. May all who are locked in terror or guilt be set free,
and may those whom long-term illness wearies be strengthened to persevere, freed from resentment.

We pray in particular for the sick known to us:

Christine	Peter	Enzo	Ezekeiel
Margaret	Sue	Joan	Guy
Frank	Herta	Jean	

We pray for all those who are suffering from the Covid-19 virus, particularly those in our hospitals
and in intensive care, and ask the Lord that we, our families and our community may be brought safely
through this pandemic.

Silence Christ will come again: **make us ready to meet him.**

Holy God, Lord of the living and the dead, we commend to your mercy all who have died, and thank you for that eternal healing which frees us from all pain and suffering.

In particular we pray for the members of our own families, the recently departed: and for all those whose anniversary falls at this time, namely:

15th Frank William Ovell, Joyce Christine Doris Richards.

16th Ronald R. Sargison (Priest).

17th Amy Lilian Smith, Amy Halpin.

19th Paul Graham Davies, Samuel Douglas Britton.

20th Ada Caroline Wiseman.

+ Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord;
May they rest in peace;

**and may light perpetual shine upon them.
and rise in glory.**

We bow our heads and remember in silence our own personal intentions and the intentions of those who have asked for our prayers.

Silence Christ will come again: **make us ready to meet him.**

We are all reliant on the intercessions and prayers of others.

Therefore we join our prayers with those of your saints;

S. Philip and S. James and Mary, the Mother of God, as we say together:

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Blessèd art thou amongst women

and blessèd is the fruit of thy womb Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Holy God, we thank you for the gifts and talents you have given us. Give us the courage to use them for the good of the world.

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.