

**November 19<sup>th</sup> 2023 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year A – Matthew 25:14-30**

<sup>25-14</sup>For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them;<sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.<sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents.<sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents.<sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.<sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.<sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents."<sup>21</sup>His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."<sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents."<sup>23</sup>His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."<sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed;<sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours."<sup>26</sup>But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?"<sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.<sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.<sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.<sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Read and re-read</b> – out loud and slowly the Gospel.</li> <li>➤ <b>Meditate</b> - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Pray</b> - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition</li> <li>➤ <b>Action</b> – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do</li> </ul>
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The "thing" that when people 'have it' they are given more and when they 'don't have it' even the little they have is taken away is trust. people who have no trust in themselves, others or in life, end up losing 'even what they have'. Jesus assures those who trust, will end up gaining more. The basis of a good relationship with ourselves, God and others is trust. Jesus tells us there is no need to be afraid but to allow the light of God's love to shine on us all.

When are the times that you have hidden your talents because of fear or lack of trust in yourself and God's presence in you?

**Prayer:**

**Thank you Lord** for Pope Francis and for all those who have made humanity more free, urging us to see life in positive terms and appreciate the gifts we have.

**Lord forgive us** as church people for giving the wrong impression of you making them believe you are a hard man. They are afraid to trust in you and do not recognise the talents you have given them but bury them in a big hole.

**Lord trust is** the most precious of your gifts which enables us to have good relationships with ourselves, God and others. Help each of us to pass this gift on to all in Your name.

