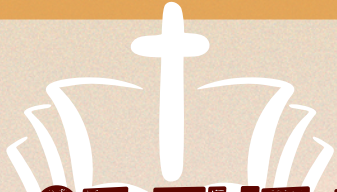


GIFTS AND TALENTS



WORD OF THE WEEK

Matthew 25: 14-30

“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’



PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

God of love and of life, let us take time to look within ourselves and discover the gifts you have blessed us with. May we take the time to direct our lives in a way that best uses our own unique combination of gifts. May our education help us discover where our strengths and interests lie. May our faith guide us in realizing our gifts. Give us, O Lord, the perception we need to look within ourselves and discover the beauty and gifts we possess. Give us the courage to show others the talents we have. Help us serve others in the community and in so doing build up your kingdom. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

WHAT MOTIVATED THE FIRST TWO SERVANTS TO INVEST THEIR TALENTS AND INCREASE THEM?

WHAT MIGHT HAVE CAUSED THE THIRD SERVANT TO BURY HIS TALENT INSTEAD OF USING IT?

HOW CAN FEAR HINDER US FROM USING OUR GOD-GIVEN GIFTS?

**DEAR YOUNG PEOPLE,
DO NOT BURY YOUR TALENTS,
THE GIFTS THAT GOD
HAS GIVEN YOU!
DO NOT BE AFRAID
TO DREAM OF GREAT THINGS!**
POPE FRANCIS



THIS WEEK'S WORD OF THE WEEK TELLS THE STORY OF PEOPLE WHO HIDE AWAY THE GIFTS THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN. THE GIFTS IN THIS PARABLE ARE GOLD COINS AND WHEN HIDDEN AWAY THEY DO NOTHING. HOWEVER JESUS TELLS THIS PARABLE TO ENCOURAGE US TO USE THE GIFTS WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN SO THAT THEY CAN GROW, BE IMPROVED AND MADE BETTER AND TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE.

- SO WHAT GIFTS AND TALENTS DO YOU HAVE?
- HOW CAN YOU INVEST YOUR GIFTS IN THE WORLD TO BECOME EVEN MORE GIFTED AND TO SERVE OTHERS?
- HAVE YOU BEEN GUILTY OF HIDING AWAY YOUR GIFTS AND TALENTS AND NOT PUT THEM TO GOOD USE? WHY DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE DONE THIS?

THE DIVERSITY OF GIFTS

God gives us many gifts. What we do with them is an opportunity to respond to God and thank Him for everything that He has given to us. God has created each of us with different gifts that make us who we are and enable us to help others. Those gifts are not given at random but with a purpose, a purpose and a mission that only we have the job to fulfil.

The bible constantly talks about the gifts that we have received from God and how they are unique to each person. It is very easy at times to compare ourselves to others and want other gifts to the ones we have got, and desire to be more like other people. But we are always reminded in the words of the bible that the gifts God has given to us are vital and very much needed to build God's kingdom. The church needs us just as we are!!

Pope Francis said: "My dear young people, the Church needs you: your enthusiasm, your creativity and the joy that is so characteristic of you!"



HERE ARE SOME BEAUTIFUL SONGS TO HELP WITH YOUR PRAYER AND REFLECTION THIS WEEK.

Chris Tomlin - Gifts From God (Lyric Video) ft. Chris Lane [CLICK HERE](#)

Generous Giver - Vintage Worship (Lyrics) [CLICK HERE](#)

Grateful | Official Lyric Video | Elevation Worship [CLICK HERE](#)

"God's gifts of grace come in many forms. Each of you has received a gift in order to serve others. You should use it faithfully."

(1 Peter 4:10)

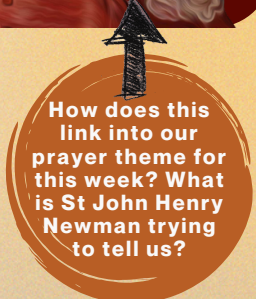
"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith"

(Romans 12:6)



"God has created me to do Him some definite service He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another I have my mission."

ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN



How does this link into our prayer theme for this week? What is St John Henry Newman trying to tell us?