ENTRANCE ANTIPHON *Cf Ps 87:3*

**Let my prayer come into your presence.
Incline your ear to my cry for help,
O Lord.**

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 *Wis 6:12-16*

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.
By those who love her she is readily seen,
and found by those who look for her.
Quick to anticipate those who desire her,
she makes herself known to them.
Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates. Even to think about her is understanding fully grown; be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you.
She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 62*

Response:
**For you my soul is thirsting,
O God, my God.**

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. ***(R)***

2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. ***(R)***

3. So I will bless you all my life,
into your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. ***(R)***

4. On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. ***(R)***

SECOND READING *Thess 4:13-18*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!
Stay awake and stand ready,
because you do not know the hour
when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL *Matt 25:1-13*

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus told this parable to his disciples:
'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of
the Virgin Mary, and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look with favour, we pray, O Lord,
upon the sacrificial gifts offered here,
that, celebrating in mystery the
Passion of your Son,
we may honour it with loving devotion.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

My Lord and my God

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful water he leads me.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by this sacred gift, O Lord,
we give thanks and beseech your mercy,
that, by the pouring forth of your Spirit,
the grace of integrity may endure in those
your heavenly power has entered.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen

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New website currently under construction.
More details next week.

Facebook:www.facebook.com/SeapatrickParish-

PARISH OFFICE: PARISH CENTRE, EDENDERRY ROAD, BANBRIDGE BT32 3AF

Please contact the Parish Office for the arranging of Anniversary & Month's Mind Masses, applications for Baptism & Marriage, bookings of the Parish Centre & other Parish-related enquiries

OFFICE HOURS: **Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday: 9am - 1pm**

TEL: 028 406 62136 - *Voice Messages can be left at this number outside Office Hours*

Email: seapatrickparish@dromorediocese.org

Cemetery Enquiries: seapatrickcemetery@dromorediocese.org

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Andrew McMahon 028 406 29551

PARISH DEACON: Rev. Michael Rooney 028 406 71401

MASS TIMES

St Thérèse's Church, *Scarva Road*	
Saturday Vigil	**5.30pm**
Sunday	**11am**
St Patrick's Church, *Dromore Street*	
Sunday	**9am**
Tues - Fri	**10am**
Our Lady Queen of Peace, *Drumnavaddy*	
10am – today, Sunday 1st November	

THE ROSARY - St Patrick's Church
9.35am Tuesday - Friday

St Therese's Church - Weekday Opening

St Therese's Church is open for individual visits and personal prayer on **Tuesdays & Wednesdays 10.45am - 12.45pm.**
Access Church by door closest to the Parish Centre

SACRAMENT of RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 4.20pm - 5.20pm in St Therese's Church

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION TIMES

St Patrick's Church	
Tuesday & Friday	**5 - 8pm**
Wednesday	**10.30am - 12 noon**
Saturday	**9 - 11am**

Children's Liturgy

11am Sunday Mass
for children from P1 and upwards
Parents ***must*** register all children/young people who wish to take part either by scanning the QR code or emailing:
seapatrickyouthministry@dromorediocese.org

Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults
Diocesan Designated Person:
Mr Stephen Sherry ***[t]*** *07301246329*
[e]safeguardingdirector@dromorediocese.org
Local Safeguarding Contact:
Mrs Cathy Devine ***[t]*** *07714214702*

NOVEMBER LISTS FOR THE DEAD

November is dedicated to praying for the souls of all those who have died. November Dead Lists, and envelopes accompanying them, are in our churches. *Please return these to the boxes marked for them in the sanctuaries of St Therese's and St Patrick's Churches, or into the church sacristies or to the Parish Office.*

Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for Bereaved Parents

On behalf of the Southern Health and Social Care Trust you are warmly invited to a Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for parents and families who have been bereaved through pregnancy loss or the death of a baby, child or young person in Daisy Hill Hospital or the wider community.

Date: Sunday 15th November 2026
Time: 3pm
Venue: Warrenpoint Town Hall. BT34

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible

Meeting Rooms, Dromore Street
A seven-week Bible study course continues ***this*** **Monday, 9th November** and finishes on **Monday 23rd November**
7pm - 9pm each week
Delivered using online materials, followed by group discussion. All warmly welcome.

DAY RETREAT in honour of Jesus the Divine Mercy
Saturday 21st November
Cuan Mhuire, 200 Dublin Road, Newry
Registration 9.30am - Cost £20
Concluding with Mass at 4.15pm
Booking details: Eileen 02830268751/07936900925
Elizabeth 02830265279/07594233847
Please bring a packed lunch

SOCIETY of ST VINCENT de PAUL
Helpline: 07821296076
Vincent's **Charity Shop:** *Jingler's Court*

Abide in His Love

Women's Weekend Conference 20th - 22nd November

The Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran

This conference offers women the opportunity to come together to celebrate the Catholic faith and encounter the transforming love of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament. It includes Eucharistic Adoration, Holy Mass, Healing Services and talks centred upon the Word of God.

Keynote Speaker: Sarah Swafford speaks internationally on a variety of topics including faith, relationships and interior confidence. She is co-author of *Gift and Grit*: *How Heroic Virtue can change your life and relationships.*

For more details please visit **Abide in His Love** at eventbrite.ieRegistration
https://abideinhislove.eventbrite.com

Adore - Online Advent Retreat

Adore is an invitation to rediscover the deep longing and joyful hope at the heart of Advent. Popular author and speaker Fr John Burns, together with illustrator Valerie Delgado of Pax, leads us through four themes that unfold across the season: vigilance, preparation, nearness and Emmanuel.

Each retreat week provides a gentle rhythm for prayer and reflection, combining a scripture and liturgy-based meditation with beautiful artwork. Reflection questions, a prayer and space for journalling help you to linger with the week's theme and make Advent a time of deeper encounter with the Lord.

Adore offers a simple and beautiful way to journey through Advent, preparing our hearts to welcome Emmanuel - God with us.
For more details and to sign up please use the following link: https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/ Cost: £20 per person



Online Reflections for the Sundays of Advent led by the Carmelites (UK Province)

Long before Christ's birth generations of men and women carried a burning expectation. They lived through heartbreak, exile, vulnerability and long silence - and still they held to God's promise that a Deliverer was coming.

Over each of the four Sundays in Advent you are invited to listen to eight of these voices, a woman and a man each week, and discover that their ancient waiting speaks with startling directness to our own.

Sunday 29th Nov - Sunday 20th Dec 7pm - 8:15pm

There is no charge to take part. However, a donation is welcome - as it goes to support Carmelite ministry.

More information & to register:
www.carmelite.uk.net/voices-of-hope/

PARISH DRAW WINNER ~ 5th November

£100 Winning No: **3415**

Winner: **Stephen & Mary Doyle, Drone Hill Road**

Remembering the Faithful Departed

'It is a holy and wholesome thought
to pray for the dead.'

ANNIVERSARIES

Sunday 8th November

Johnny Byrne, *Spelga House*
Margaret Tumilty, *Mountview Park*
Darran Campbell, *Ardreys Lane*
Jack Ross Murray, *Brookfield Road*
William & Mary Ellen Carragher, *Tullyear*
Patrick & Sarah Downey, *Moorefield*
Vernon Campbell, *Edenderry Park*
John & Mary McCartan, *Ballycross*
Joe McMullan, *Brooke Gardens*
M.M. Mary Cull, *Mountview Park*
M.M. Adele Doherty, *Victoria Park*

Tuesday 10th November

Sandra McCourt, *Anderson Court*
Arthur McElevey, *Downshire Gardens*

Wednesday 11th November

Anthony Doherty, *Thornwood*
Margaret & Cecil McKnight, *Seapatrick*

Thursday 12th November

James Gordon, *Lisnaree Road*
Damian Johnson, *Ballycross Road*

Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine

Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th December

18 years+, parents, grandparents, and others.

Prepare for Christmas through, prayer, song, Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Sacrament of the Sick, and the shared experience of travelling with others and sharing your time with them through conversation, shared food, and prayer together.

Your Pilgrimage will include B & B and an evening meal at St Mary's Hotel in Knock. On route we will stop for tea/coffee and scones and on route home we will stop for our dinner, approx. 4.30 pm. Cost: £170

To book email ***youthdirector@dromorediocese.org*** or phone 028 30833898 for more information.
To hold your place **£50 deposit** is **due on or before Thursday 12th November.**
Final balance due 27th November.

Pope Leo's prayer intention for November:

for Mental Health ministry

Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service of the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

"Pray with the Pope," an app bringing the Pope's monthly prayer intentions to the Church throughout the world: *www.popesprayer.va/praywiththepope/*

The wise bridesmaids are far less likeable characters than the foolish. If you were in trouble, you would be more likely to get help from one of those foolish bridesmaids than from any of the wise ones. Why are these being described as 'wise'?

We should remember that a parable is not an allegory. An allegory is a story that has many points of reference to human experience – many punch-lines, so to speak – but a parable has only one. In a parable the detail of the story itself has only one purpose: to add strength to that one point. For that reason, the refusal of the wise to help the foolish is not being held up as model behaviour for us. Jesus himself had a partiality for "the weak, the sick, the wounded, the strayed, the lost" (See Ezekiel 34, as the model for his 'lost sheep' parable). The one point of this parable of the bridesmaids is readiness. Jesus was continuously telling people to wake up and stay awake.

But why do the sensible bridesmaids seem so boring? Why is goodness often seen as boring? The reason may be this: goodness was obligatory at home and in school, and so from earliest childhood we may have seen it as 'what other people want'. Evil then became identified with what we wanted ourselves. We may never really have interiorised goodness. We may then feel that it must be the same with everyone else: that goodness is always false. That would be the final caricature of Christian education.



We often hear it stressed that education has to be more than the imparting of information. Information can be lots of things: it can be plain false, it can be inaccurate, it can be out of date.... The same can be true of intellectual knowledge. But wisdom has to be now; it is for living now; it is practical. Wisdom is to the soul what health is to the body. It is of no use unless it is yours. Information and knowledge can be anybody's: you can even get them on the internet. But wisdom has to be your own. The Latin word for wisdom is 'sapientia'. It comes from 'sapor', which means 'taste'. Wisdom is 'sapida scientia', tasted knowledge. Not knowledge in a book or in someone else's head, but in me: in my mouth, so to speak, in my heart, living through me. I heard someone say, "English is only our second language. What we are is our first language!"

What encouragement are we to get from today's gospel passage? It has to be the punch-line of the parable itself: be awake, be alert, be ready. Don't rely fully on the information you have, or even on the general understanding you have. The situations around us – in the family, the parish, the Church, the country – may have changed while we were not paying attention. We can only be alert in the present moment.

Fr Donagh O'Shea, O.P.,
www.goodnews.ie

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