

Scripture 1:

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten girls who went to wait for the bridegroom. They took their lamps with them. Five of the girls were foolish and five were wise. The five foolish girls took their lamps, but they did not take more oil for the lamps to burn. The wise girls took their lamps and more oil in jars. The bridegroom was very late. All the girls became sleepy and went to sleep.

“At midnight someone cried out, ‘The bridegroom is coming! Come and meet him!’ Then all the girls woke up and got their lamps ready. But the foolish girls said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil. Our lamps are going out.’ The wise girls answered, ‘No! The oil we have might not be enough for all of us. Go to the people who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

“So the five foolish girls went to buy oil. While they were gone, the bridegroom came. The girls who were ready went in with the bridegroom to the wedding feast. Then the door was closed and locked.

“Later the others came back. They called, ‘Sir, sir, open the door to let us in.’ But the bridegroom answered, ‘I tell you the truth, I don’t know you.’

“So always be ready. You don’t know the day or the time the Son of Man will come.

Theme: Be Wise ...

Scripture 2:

Wisdom is bright and unfading. She readily appears to those who love her. She's found by those who keep seeking after her. She makes herself known even in advance to those who desire her with all their hearts.

Someone who awakens before dawn to look for her will find her already sitting at the door. Taking wisdom to heart is the way to bring your thinking to maturity. The one who can't sleep at night because he's consumed with thinking about her will soon be free from worry.

She herself goes about looking for those who are worthy of her. She graciously makes herself known to them as they travel. She comes to them in each of the ideas that they think.

Reflections on Scripture:

What is it to be wise?

How does wisdom differ from intelligence?

Do we always make wise decisions in life?

How can God help us make better decisions?

Why is it important to ready ourselves for anything in life?

How can we make sure we are ready to welcome Christ into our lives?

If Christ arrived today, would we be ready for Him?

How do Christ's teachings (perhaps think back to the Beatitudes) help us to be wise and ready?

How do you keep ourselves spiritually ready?

Are there things in life that we regret / would do differently?



Reflective Music

Theme: Be Wise ...

Saint of the Week: St Frances Xavier Cabrini



How did St Frances' show that she was spiritually wise and ready?

What do we learn from her life about making wise choices and being spiritually ready?

What could we do to imitate the example that St Frances' has set us?

Prayer:

Lord, our God, help us to be wise and prepare for the coming of Christ your Son.

May he find us waiting, eager in joyful prayer, to receive Christ when he comes in glory and to share in the banquet of heaven,

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen

Pope Francis:

'One day will be the last. If it was today, am I prepared? Here, therefore, is the meaning of being wise and prudent: it is not to wait for the last moment of our life to cooperate with the grace of God, but to do it already, from now ... If we are vigilant and try to do good, with gestures of love, sharing, service to our neighbour in difficulty, we can remain calm while we wait for the bridegroom's coming'

The World Today:

How we ready ourselves for Christ's return?



Is the world wise and ready?

What sort of world has Christ promised us?

Is this new world worth a small sacrifice now?