

Sunday Readings

12th November 2017

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Wisdom 6:12-16

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

Psalm 62:2-8. R/. v.2

R/. For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

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/.**
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/.**
So I will bless you all my life,
in 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/.**
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

A reading from the first letter of St Paul
to the Thessalonians 4:13-18

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

Mt 24:42-44

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 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.

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.

Prayer after Communion

Nourished by this sacred gift, O Lord,
we give you 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.

The Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary Year A

The word of God

Saint of the Week

From a Homily of Pope Francis

Let us remember ... that, in the Ascension, the Son of God brought to the Father our humanity, which he had taken on, and that he wants to draw all to himself, to call the whole world to be welcomed in God's embrace so that at the end of history the whole of reality may be consigned to the Father. Yet there is this "immediate time" between the First and the Final Coming of Christ, and that is the very time in which we are living. The parable of the ten virgins fits into this context of "immediate" time. They are ten maidens who are awaiting the arrival of the Bridegroom, but he is late and they fall asleep. At the sudden announcement that the Bridegroom is arriving they prepare to welcome him, but while five of them, who are wise, have oil to burn in their lamps, the others, who are foolish, are left with lamps that have gone out because they have no oil for them. While they go to get some oil the Bridegroom arrives and the foolish virgins find that the door to the hall of the marriage feast is shut.

They knock on it again and again, but it is now too late, the Bridegroom answers: I do not know you. The Bridegroom is the Lord, and the time of waiting for his arrival is the time he gives to us, to all of us, before his Final Coming with mercy and patience; it is a time of watchfulness; a time in which we must keep alight the lamps of faith, hope and charity, a time in which to keep our heart open to goodness, beauty and truth. It is a time to live in accordance with God, because we do not know either the day or the hour of Christ's return. What he asks of us is to be ready for the encounter - ready for an encounter, for a beautiful encounter, the encounter with Jesus, which means being able to see the signs of his presence, keeping our faith alive with prayer, with the sacraments, and taking care not to fall asleep so as to not forget about God. The life of slumbering Christians is a sad life, it is not a happy life. Christians must be happy, with the joy of Jesus. Let us not fall asleep!

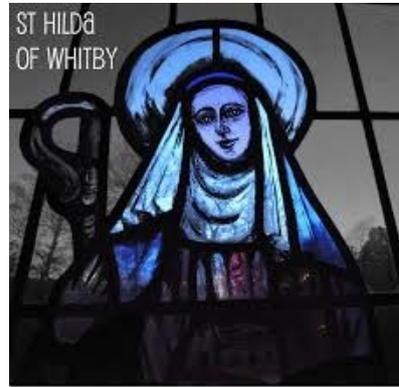
Prayer of the Week

A Prayer of St Aidan

Leave me alone with God as much as may be.
As the tide draws the waters close in upon the shore, make me an island, set apart,
alone with you, God, holy to you.
Then with the turning of the tide prepare me to carry your presence to the busy world beyond,
the world that rushes in on me till the waters come again and fold me back to you.
Amen.

Friday 17 November

St Hilda (614 - 680)



Saint Hilda (or Hild) was born in Northumbria in 614. She was the grandniece of King Edwin of Northumbria and was not baptised until the age of 13, when she was received into the Church by Paulinus at York, at the same

time as King Edwin and many of his nobles.

The first part of Hilda's life was spent in the ordinary secular pursuits of the day. But these were years of constant warfare and in 655, her sister Hereswith, the wife of the King of the East Angles, suffered the loss of her husband in battle and decided to withdraw from the world to the monastery of Cale in Paris where she entered religious life. At the age of 33, Hilda decided to follow her and was only prevented from doing so by the intervention of St Aidan who directed her first to establish a small religious house on the north bank of the Wear where she stayed for a year, and then to take charge of the monastery of Hieu at Hartlepool. She proved to be an able and wise superior and, after several years at Hartlepool, she set about establishing the famous double monastery at Whitby which she governed for the rest of her life.

Hilda was an extraordinary woman for her time. Her influence was widespread and her advice was valued by high and low alike. In her monastery she gave 'a great example of peace and charity', as Bede says 'all who knew her called her mother, such were her wonderful godliness and grace.' She laid emphasis on the study of the Scriptures and insisted on careful preparation for the priesthood, after the manner of St Aidan on Lindisfarne. Among her community was the first English poet, Caedmon, who had been the community's herdsman until his poetic genius was discovered. After the death of St Aidan, when the divisions between those who held the Celtic tradition and those who supported Roman ways became critical, it was at her monastery that the important Synod of Whitby was held in 644 to decide upon a common Church order among the rival parties.

Although her last seven years were a time of constant illness, she continued to lead her community to the end. Towards daybreak on 17 November 680 she asked for, and received, viaticum and died peacefully with her community around her or as St Bede says, 'she joyfully saw death approaching... and passed from death to life.'