


The Parish of the Assumption

West Oxfordshire

Holy Trinity Chipping Norton

St Teresa's Charlbury

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The Assumption is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

Sunday 15th November 2026 – Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Readings: Year A Prov. 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 · Ps. 128(127) · 1 Thess. 5:1-6 · Matt. 25:14-30

Dear Friends,

We are now a week from *Christ the King*, and a fortnight from Advent and the start of a new liturgical year. The long green weeks of "Ordinary Time" are coming to an end, the spiritual pace will sharpen and soon it will be the final run-in to Christmas and those much -loved Carols that bring back childhood memories of excitement and anticipation.

Last week we were exhorted to be ready like the five wise virgins, not unready like the five foolish. This week Jesus tells another parable about the Kingdom of Heaven. The Master leaves on a journey and entrusts vast sums of money to three servants, in the form of silver Talents. One silver Talent weighed about 75 lbs/34 kg and was equivalent to 6,000 denarii. A single denarius was a workman's daily pay so one silver Talent was equivalent to about 20 years wages!

One servant is given five Talents to look after, one is given two and the last is given one. These are substantial sums and the Master is showing great faith and trust in his servants. On his return he asks for his money and is delighted that the first two servants have doubled their original sums. The third only returns what he was given, namely one Talent, and this infuriates the Master who orders that he be cast out into "*outer darkness... there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth"*. Not a pleasant outcome.

On the surface the moral of the story seems obvious. Use your God-given Talents (abilities, money, gifts, etc.) wisely so that the Master (God) is pleased with you when He returns at the end of time. However, there are some questions about this. The Mishnah (the Oral Torah) absolutely forbids the charging of interest on money in transactions between Jews but permits it with non-Jews. So presumably the servants who have done so well have been dealing with non-believers.
And things are even more confusing when the advice from some Rabbis was that money was best buried in the ground!

The real point of this parable is found in the reply of the scolded servant to the Master:

"Master, I knew you to be a hard man… so I was afraid and hid your talent in the ground."

This story is about our relationship with God. If we think of Him as a tyrannical "hard man" then we will not be fruitful in our relationship with Him. If we know that He trusts us as the Master did to his servants with such huge amounts, we will be open and generous… and reap the rewards. The third servant who buried the money is fundamentally out of tune with God and his mistaken view cramps and mars his life.

Where do we stand? Do we look upon the Lord as our trusted Master who accepts us exactly as we are, warts and all... or are we cowering away trying to keep out of trouble because we think He is an ogre? The realisation that He is "on our side" can be a breakthrough for our spiritual well-being and general mood.

P.S. Masses/Rosary as usual apart from Tuesday at Holy Trinity where there is no Mass.
Wednesday at St Teresa's: Red Wednesday, to support Aid to the Church in Need. Please come wearing red!

Next Sunday marks the end of Ordinary Time with the *Solemnity of Christ the King*.

God bless everyone,
Fr Clive

Masses & Rosary:

	Holy Trinity	**St Teresa's**
Monday	9.15am Mass	
Wednesday		9.15am Mass *Adoration & Benediction*
Thursday	9.15am Mass *Adoration & Benediction*	
Friday	9.15am Rosary for Peace	9.15am Mass
Saturday	6pm Vigil Mass	
Sunday	11am Mass	9.15am Mass

Following on from her recent BBC News article, listen out for Elena Piras's radio interview with Sophie Rumsby on BBC Radio Oxford, Thursday 19th November at 11.10am.

For St Teresa's parishioners who are currently paying into the St Teresa's account regularly, could please change over to the Parish of the Assumption's account, preferably before year end. Bank details can be obtained by emailing ga.holytrinity.chippingnorton@rcaob.org.uk or by speaking to Liz Canning (emcanning1@btinternet.com).

Holy Trinity's T4U Shoebox Appeal returns once again. There are a number of options as to what you can put in your shoebox, depending on whether you are sending it to a boy, girl, or a home including the usual stuff like toothpaste, gloves, scarves, toys, along with candles, cooking utensils, tea towels, etc. Please feel free to pick up a leaflet at the back of church.

From Johnny Hulme: I would like to thank all who came to my Mothers 100th birthday Mass on Tuesday, including all who were unable to to come and those who offered Prayers, it was a great celebration, my Mother was completely overwhelmed by it all, I estimate we had 80 in the congregation, a fantastic effort. Thank you again.

From Suze Mathews:

ACN XMAS CARD SALES AT ST TERESA'S AND HOLY TRINITY

I will be selling ACN Xmas cards and small gifts at both Holy Trinity and St Teresa's in November:

St Teresa's: After 09.15 Mass, Sunday 22 November
Holy Trinity: After Mass Saturday 21 Nov and after 11am Mass Sunday 22

Buying your Christmas cards and small gifts from Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is a great way to support all those Christians world-wide who have lost their homes, their churches and in some instances their freedom to practice their faith.

ACN RED WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2026 - HOLY MASS at ST TERESA'S 09.15am

Every year ACN highlights the worldwide persecution of Christians by encouraging us to wear red—the colour of martyrs—on Red Wednesday. St Teresa's makes a special effort to show our of support ACN and their work; so please, if you can, come to Holy Mass on Wednesday 18th November at 9.15 and wear red.



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

Please continue to pray for our sick, housebound and frail parishioners of our Parish, in particular Hilda and Anne Clifton of St Teresa's. In addition to your own daily prayers please remember: All those who mourn the loss of loved ones. The repose of the souls of those who have died. People whose anniversaries occur at this time. For the Middle-East, Ukraine, Europe.

T**he Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies and procedures at all times.** Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are **Tina Short** (sg.holytrinity.chippingnorton@rcaob.org.uk) and **Sharnalee Foster** (sg.stteresa.charlbury@rcaob.org.uk). Alternatively, the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING?

We all have a duty of care to ensure that children (under 18), as well as all adults, are safe from harm. This duty of care spans from ensuring that people are safe within our premises, to protecting those who may be at risk of abuse within their home, community or other settings.

Abuse can take many forms, from physical, mental, sexual, honour-based, discriminatory, organisational and spiritual abuse to self-neglect, human trafficking, modern slavery and grooming. Abuse can happen to anyone and in any family, and abusers can come from all walks of life, class or background, and can be male, female, young or old. The abuser may be in contact with the family, be it adult or child, and because of their role or profession, and being in a position of trust, may have more power over their victim, and be good at manipulating colleagues. Their normality can be the biggest barrier to recognition and to others reacting on their concerns.

We all share a responsibility to look out for the vulnerable in our community. If you hear or see something which could suggest someone is vulnerable or at risk, please contact your **Parish Safeguarding Rep** or the **Diocesan Safeguarding Team**. Their contact details are below and on the notice board in the church.

Parish Safeguarding Rep at Holy Trinity Church:

Christine Short (Tina) - sg.holytrinity.chippingnorton@rcaob.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Rep at St. Teresa's Church:

Sharnalee Foster - sg.stteresa.charlbury@rcaob.org.uk

Diocesan Safeguarding Team: 0121 230 6240 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk

If you are concerned about the welfare of a child or adult and believe them to be in **IMMEDIATE** danger, do not delay in contacting the police on **999.**

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY 2026 - LOVE PROTECTS

Safeguarding Sunday began in 2018, and each year, thousands of churches take part, in order to focus on the principles of safeguarding, and on how we, by being vigilant and engaging with vulnerable children and adults, can prevent something which could end in tragedy. It is a day for the Church community to think about safeguarding, to commit to its responsibilities, and to show vulnerable people that they are worthy of love, care, dignity and protection. Safeguarding Sunday is also an opportunity for the Church to show that these are not just values to be talked about, but practices that shape how we live and care for each other. When we reflect on some people's experience of the Church, we see that the Church has not always been a place of safety, and victims and survivors of abuse challenge us to humility and repentance, prompting us to "do better".

One small practical way you can help is to remember to fill in a **Volunteer Registration Form (**at the back of the church) and give it to your Safeguarding Rep, so that the parish has up to date records of everyone who does any kind of voluntary work, whether it be flower arranging, cleaning, locking up the church, reading, being a sacristan, singing in the choir (adults only), doing the teas or welcoming. Anyone who spends time with children or vulnerable adults may need a more advanced check – if this applies to you, please speak to your Safeguarding Rep for advice.

Perhaps also consider doing an online safeguarding course to get a better understanding of what safeguarding means and how to recognise abuse. This is freely available to any member of the parish via this link: **https://training.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/courses**

Finally, please pray for the Church and its commitment to protecting the weak and vulnerable, saying the Safeguarding Prayer below:

A PRAYER FOR SAFEGUARDING

God of Love, who loved us first,

and who in Jesus, showed us how to love others,

forgive us for the times we've looked away

or stayed silent when we should have spoken up.

Teach us how to love as you love.

God of Compassion, who sees the overlooked,

and draws in the hurting and exploited,

help us to see with your eyes, listen with your ears,

and give us courage to stand with those who are not heard.

Teach us to love as you love.

God of Truth, who shines light into darkness,

who reveals what is hidden and unspoken,

free us from our shame, our denial, and fear,

lead us in the way of honesty, openness and healing.

Teach us to love as you love.

God of Protection, our place of safety and refuge,

may your Church be a place where

power is used to serve,

people find belonging,

and love is made real in what we say and do**.**

Teach us to love as you love, with love that protects always.

Amen