# Our Weekly Prayers

| | |
|---|---|
| | 15th |
| Church | Pray for the Diocese of Melbourne |
| Diocese | Pray for all Synod Representatives |
| The World | For all countries involved in warfare and violence with each other |
| Our Ministry Unit | For the congregation at St Margaret's |
| Those in need | For those who support the sick through their prayers |
| Anniversary | |
| | 16th |
| Church | Pray for the Diocese of Newcastle |
| Diocese | Pray for all who serve on Ministry Unit Councils |
| The World | For the monarchs and presidents of the countries of the world |
| Our Ministry Unit | For those who serve as welcomers or provide our morning teas |
| Those in need | For all children who are in hospital |
| Anniversary | Laura Burdell |
| | 17th |
| Church | Pray for the Diocese of North Queensland |
| Diocese | Pray for all Hospital Chaplains |
| The World | For those who work to improve our standard of living and lifestyle |
| Our Ministry Unit | For those who provide music for our services |
| Those in need | For those suffering from types of dementia |
| Anniversary | |
| | 18th |
| Church | Pray for the Diocese of North West Australia |
| Diocese | Pray for the Principals, Staff and Students of the Diocesan Schools |
| The World | Give thanks for the work of the United Nations |
| Our Ministry Unit | For new members of our Ministry Unit family |
| Those in need | For those without enough food to survive |
| Anniversary | |
| | 19th |
| Church | Pray for the Diocese of Perth |
| Diocese | Pray for all School Chaplains |
| The World | Give thanks for the work of the environmental movement |
| Our Ministry Unit | For our Synod Reps, Philip Cole and Leigh Kennedy |
| Those in need | For those who are maimed and injured as a result of warfare |
| Anniversary | |
| | 20th |
| Church | Pray for the Diocese of Riverina |
| Diocese | Pray for all University Chaplains |
| The World | For all families, particularly those experiencing hardship |
| Our Ministry Unit | For the members of the Friends of the Cathedral |
| Those in need | For those who live without the necessities of life |
| Anniversary | |
| | 21st |
| Church | Pray for the Diocese of Rockhampton |
| Diocese | Pray for all undertaking theological education |
| The World | For the peoples and rulers of the countries of Asia |
| Our Ministry Unit | For our Pastoral Care Co-ordinator, Rev'd Shirley Thomson |
| Those in need | For those who are suffering with cancer |
| Anniversary | |

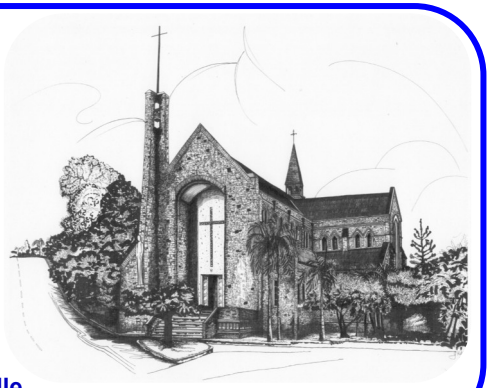


**TOWNSVILLE**
**ANGLICAN MINISTRY UNIT**
**Diocese of North Queensland**

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**Facebook: St James' Cathedral, Townsville**



# Twenthy-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost 15th November, 2026




**REGULAR SERVICE TIMES**

Sunday Eucharist:
9.00am St James' Cathedral

Wednesday Eucharist:
12 noon St James' Cathedral
5.30pm St James' Cathedral

**WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP.**

We hope that you enjoy worshipping with us this morning and we invite you to stay behind and join us for a cuppa.

We are a warm and welcoming church, accepting of all God's people; a diverse congregation in age and backgrounds; a place where everyone is valued for who they are now and not just what they might become; a place where everyone is encouraged to grow in faith, hope and love.

For more information about us, or enquiries about Baptisms, Weddings, and other activities please contact the Dean - Fr Jeffery Akoai or the Churchwardens Leigh Kennedy & Owen Stanley.

See contact details above.

*As a congregation we acknowledge the Bindal and Wulgurukaba peoples as original custodians of the land on which our churches are built. We pay respect to their elders past, present and future. We value the traditions, cultures and aspirations of the original stewards of this land and hold in great significance the valuable contribution that they have made and continue to make within the Townsville community.*

## MINISTRY UNIT DIRECTORY

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dean: | Fr Jeffery Akoai | Clergy: | Rev'd Canon Vic Hall<br>Fr Kevin Bourke<br>Fr Mitchell Porter<br>Rev'd Frances Maltby<br>Rev'd Christine Reedman<br>Rev'd Shirley Thomson<br>Deacon Dr Lynore Geia |
| Wardens: | Leigh Kennedy<br>0473 974 282<br>Owen Stanley | | |

## THANKSGIVING

Please consider direct deposit for your freewill offering to God's work in the Ministry Unit,

**Account Name: Church Wardens of St James Cathedral General Account**

**BSB: 034 222** **Account Number: 250713**

ANFIN also offers a direct giving option. There are brochures on the back table to complete. It is also possible to complete and lodge the application online.
If you wish to do this, please email the Cathedral and we will send you the link.

# WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sunday | 15th | **Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost** | |
| | | 9.00am | Eucharist at St James |
| | | 11.00am | Baptism |
| Monday | 16th | 8.30am | Morning Prayer |
| | | 1.30pm | Bolton Clarke |
| Tuesday | 17th | 8.30am | Morning Prayer |
| | | 12-4pm | Cathedral School Preparation |
| Wednesday | 18th | 8.30am | Morning Prayer |
| | | 12.00pm | Eucharist at St James |
| | | 7.00pm | Cathedral School Yr 12 Valedictory Service |
| Thursday | 19th | | Fr Jeffery: Charters Towers (All Day) |
| Friday | 20th | 8.30am | Morning Prayer |
| Saturday | 21st | 11am | Baptism |
| Sunday | 22nd | **The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost** | |
| | | 9.00am | Eucharist at St James |
| | | 9.45am | Baptism |
| | | 5.30pm | Melanesian Service in Ayr |



# More than a church - We are a family

**SHORT TERM PRAYER LIST:**

Mary Gallagher, Zoe, Carrie, Jennie Roberts, Tracey, Denise Rougier, Milliana Davey.



**LONG TERM PRAYER LIST:**

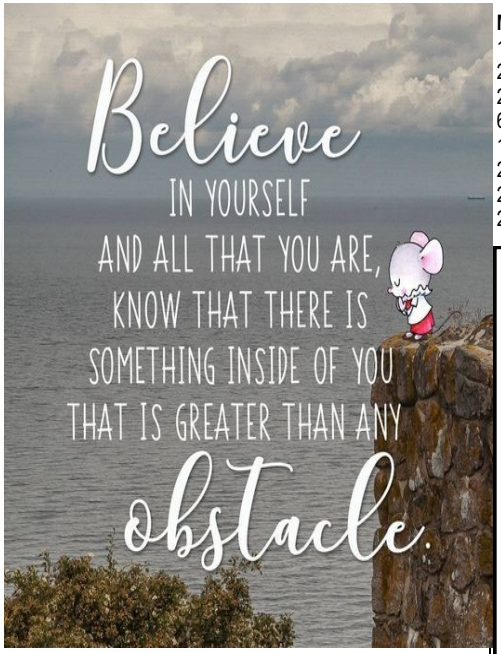
Robyn Gould, Colleen Malcolm, Betty Daly, Klaudia Pollard, Fr Alphonse Garimae, Dean Pointing.

*To add someone's name to this list, you must first get their permission, then let Rev'd Shirley or Churchwardens know.*

**MINISTRY UNIT MEETING:** Our next ministry unit meeting will be on Sunday 29th November. So if you have any important matters to raise, please talk to Fr Jeffery or the Wardens.

## Year 12s Valedictory Service:

The Cathedral School Valedictory Service will be on Wednesday 18th November at 7pm @ St James Cathedral. Therefore, 5.30pm communion will be postponed.




**Main services for November and December 2026**

18th November – Cathedral School Valedictory service
28th November – 10am – 16th Days of Activism service
29th November – 5.30pm – Christmas around the World
6th December – 6pm – Evensong
13 December – 6pm – Nine Lessons and Carols
20 December – 6pm – Blue Christmas Service
24 December – 6pm – Christmas Eve Family Service
25th December – 9am – Christmas Day Service

**ARE YOU VISITING?**

Thank you for sharing this worship with us this morning. If you would like to contribute to the funds of the Cathedral, you can use the QR code here, or place your offering on the offertory plate during the hymn. Your contribution supports the ministry of the churches in our Ministry Unit.

**MISSION OF THE MONTH - NOVEMBER**

This month, our parish is asked to support the 2026 Archbishop's November Appeal, organized in partnership with the Anglican Board of Mission (ABM). Archbishop Jeremy Greaves invites us all to look outward and stand in solidarity with our global church family. This year's appeal is dedicated to supporting the vital work of the Anglican Church of Melanesia in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Our neighbours in the Pacific are facing growing challenges from extreme weather and isolation. Funds raised through this appeal will directly help these Anglican communities build:

- Stronger, healthier, and safer environments for families.

Donations can be made through the envelopes or direct debit, marked with the name of Mission.

St James Cathedral transfer account

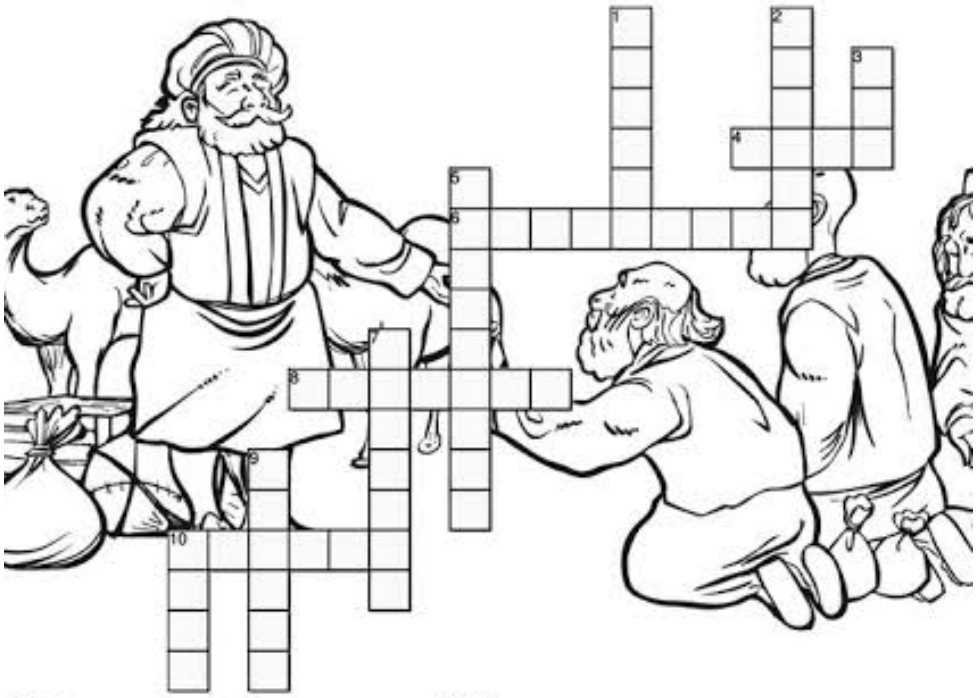
BSB: 034 222

Account Number: 251142

**Sexual Abuse contact line: 1800 242 544**

# THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

## Matthew 25:14–30



**Across**

4. The first servant was given ____ talents.
6. The master, angry with the third servant, cast him out of his _____ forever.
8. The third servant lost his talent to the _____ who gained five, because he had wasted it.
10. The wealthy man divided his wealth among his servants, based on their ability to _____ it.

**Down**

1. The first and second servants put their money to work, producing _____ the amount of talents they were given.
2. Fearing that he would lose his money, the third servant _____ his talent.
3. The third servant was given _____ talent.
5. Each talent was equal to _____ of dollars.
7. The wealthy man put his servants in charge of his wealth so that his estate would continue to _____.
9. Many days, weeks and _____ passed before the master returned.
10. Because the first two servants had been faithful with a few things, the master put them in charge of _____ things.




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## A GOSPEL REFLECTION

(Read Matthew 25:14-30)

In the Parable of the Talents, Jesus tells the story of a master who entrusts his wealth to three servants before setting out on a long journey. While a "talent" in the ancient world was a massive sum of money, the story speaks directly to everything God places into our care today—our time, our unique abilities, our resources, and our daily opportunities to love others.

Notice that the master does not distribute his wealth equally, nor does he demand identical results. Instead, he gives to each servant "according to his ability". God knows who we are, how He has shaped us, and what we can carry. Both the servant who received five talents and the one who received two are greeted with the exact same words of celebration upon the master's return: "Well done, good and trustworthy servant... enter into the joy of your master". God does not measure our faithfulness by comparing our gifts to someone else's, but by what we do with what is in our own hands.



The tragedy of the third servant is not that he lacked ability, but that he allowed fear to paralyse him. Seeing his master as harsh and unforgiving, he dug a hole and buried his gift just to play it safe. When we let fear of failure or a distorted view of God keep us on the sidelines, we miss out on the joy of participating in His work.

This week, take a quiet moment to look at what God has entrusted to you. Most of us may never do something the world considers grand, yet every day offers small, sacred chances to invest our lives—a kind word, a shared meal, a prayer for a struggling neighbour, or serving within our church family. Let us step out in faith rather than fear, trusting that when we offer our gifts back to God, He multiplies them for His glory.

Reflective questions for the week ahead: What specific gift, skill, or resource has God placed in your hands right now?

Where might fear or hesitation be holding you back from using that gift to bless someone else?

# DEFENCE FORCE SUNDAY 24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Year A)

**Sentence**
God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other
1 Thessalonians 5:9,11

**Collect**
Everliving God, before the earth was formed, and even after it shall cease to be, you are God. Break into our short span of life and show us those things that are eternal, that we may serve your purpose in all we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
**Amen**

**A reading from the book of Judges** (4:1-10)
The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.
At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, “The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, ‘Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin’s army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.’ ” Barak said to her, “If you will go with me, I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go.” And she said, “I will surely go with you; nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.” Then Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh. Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; and ten thousand warriors went up behind him; and Deborah went up with him.
Hear the word of the Lord,
**thanks be to God**

The response to the verses of Psalm 123 is:
Our eyes look to the Lord our God, until he shows us his mercy.
**Our eyes look to the Lord our God, until he shows us his mercy.**
To you I lift up my eyes, to you enthroned in the heavens. As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, So our eyes look to the Lord our God, until he show us his mercy.
**Our eyes look to the Lord our God, until he shows us his mercy.**
Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy, for we have had more than enough of contempt, Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, and of the derision of the proud.
**Our eyes look to the Lord our God, until he shows us his mercy.**

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians** (5:1-11)
Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.
Hear the word of the Lord,
**thanks be to God**

Alleluia, **Alleluia**
Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit.
**Alleluia**

The Lord be with you
**And also with you**
The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew, chapter 25,
beginning at the 14th verse (25:14-30)
**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

The kingdom of heaven is like a man going on a journey, who summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'
This is the gospel of the Lord
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

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