ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction.
You will call upon me, and I will answer you,
and I will lead back your captives from every place.

COLLECT

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God,
the constant gladness of being devoted to you,
for it is full and lasting happiness
to serve with constancy
the author of all that is good.
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 Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

A reading from the Book of Proverbs.

An excellent wife who can find?
She is far more precious than jewels.
The heart of her husband trusts in her,
and he will have no lack of gain.
She does him good, and not harm,
all the days of her life.
She seeks wool and flax,
and works with willing hands.
She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her hands hold the spindle.
She opens her hand to the poor
and reaches out her hands to the needy.
Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
Give her of the fruit of her hands,
and let her works praise her in the gates.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 128(127):1-2. 3. 4-5. R. 1a

R: ***Blessed are all who fear the LORD.***

1. Blessed are all who fear the LORD,
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be blessed and prosper. **R.**

2. Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive
around your table. **R.**

3. Indeed thus shall be blessed
the husband who fears the LORD.
May the LORD bless you from Sion.
May you see Jerusalem prosper
all the days of your life! **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians.
Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers and sisters, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL John 15:4a, 5b

R: ***Alleluia, alleluia.***
Abide in me, and I in you, says the Lord.
Whoever abides in me bears much fruit.
R: ***Alleluia.***

GOSPEL Matthew 25:14-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
(for shorter form read between **>** **<**)

>At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, 'The kingdom of heaven will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.**<** He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. **>**'Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, "Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master."**<** And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, "Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master." He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, "Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours." But his master answered him, "You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."'

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant, O Lord, we pray,
that what we offer in the sight of your majesty
may obtain for us the grace of being devoted to you
and gain us the prize of everlasting happiness.
Through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

To be near God is my happiness,
to place my hope in God the Lord.
Or
Amen, I say to you: Whatever you ask in prayer,
believe that you will receive,
and it shall be given to you, says the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We have partaken of the gifts of this sacred mystery,
humbly imploring, O Lord,
that what your Son commanded us to do
in memory of him
may bring us growth in charity.
Through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

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The Parish of St Anselm, Hayes

November 15th, 2026
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's gospel is the famous parable of the talents. The elements of this parable that we remember best, and are most familiar with, may be neither the most important, nor related to the true point that Jesus was making. First, the word 'talent' has come to mean a special ability or ethusiasm that propels us in a certain direction. We may have a particular skill in a sport such as football or tennis. Or we might be musical and become proficient in playing the piano or in singing. It might be maths that is our special gift – although it's certainly not mine! But 'talents' in the bible have nothing to do with having some kind of super-power – a talent is simply an amount of money. Second, we often think of this parable as being about investment. The various servants are given different numbers of talents, and make greater or lesser returns on the capital. But the amount of additional money they make is not the real focus of Jesus's teaching. And third, because the servant who buries his talent has it taken from him and given to the servant who already has the most, sometimes the parable is used to suggest thast Jesus believes that 'the rich should get richer'. In today's homily, we'll look at some of these things, and suggest a different way of interpreting the parable's true meaning.

ST. ANSELM'S
Proclaiming Christ in Hayes
www.stanselm.co.uk

Entrance Hymn
580 Thou whose almighty word
Offertory Hymn
403 We hail thy presence glorious – omit verse 5
(During this hymn the collection is taken. Please give as generously as you can.)
Recessional
577 Thine for ever! God of love

.....

THIS WEEK (Year A[2]; Psalm week 1)

ALL MORNING PRAYER SERVICES EXCEPT ON THURSDAYS, AND ALL EVENING PRAYER SERVICES INCLUDING ON THURSDAYS, ARE NOW ONLINE. To attend these online services, visit www.stanselm.co.uk, select 'Services and events', then 'Online Morning Prayer' or 'Online Evening Prayer' as appropriate, and click on 'MORE INFO'.

16th: St Edmund of Abingdon. Morning Prayer 0900 online.
17th: Tuesday of 33rd week in Ordinary Time. Evening Prayer online 1700.
18th: Wednesday of 33rd week in Ordinary Time. Online Morning Prayer 0900. Online Evening Prayer 1700.
19th: Thursday of 33rd week in Ordinary Time. Morning Prayer 0945, Mass 1000 IN CHURCH. Evening Prayer online 1700.
20th: Friday of 33rd week in Ordinary Time. Morning Prayer 0900 online.
21st: The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

NEXT SUNDAY
22nd November: Solemnity of Christ the King. Mass at 1000 as usual.

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS
Eliz Asmar, Kathyan Fenton, Desiree Loderick, Mr & Mrs DeGale, Peter Wickham, Cora Freeman, and David Couling. (If you have a name for the list, please give the details to Fr Stephen.)

RECENTLY DEPARTED: Velsie Welch

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH
15th: James Jones, Betty Matthews, Valerie Jones
16th: Daphne Mildred Chandler
18th: Winifred Hellmuth, Sam Hackett, Yvonne D'Unienville
19th: Joan Robbins
20th: Reg Wheeler, Walter William George Wing
21st: Emma Lane

YOUNG CHILDREN IN CHURCH: Don't worry if they make a noise or move about! Young visitors to the sanctuary are always welcome, so no drama if they go for a walk! We'll have a look at the children's work at the end of mass...

FINANCIAL POSITION: During October 2026 our income was £1,277.90, and our outgoings were £1,206.40. Another better month, but it doesn't compensate for all those months where we spent more than we received! Could you help us by making a small increase in your contribution to St Anselm? Please flash this QR code to get started!

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