

# Formed in Prayer

For use in personal or staff prayer



## 1. Beginning

- Be still and ask the Holy Spirit to be with you.
- Give thanks to God for the blessings in your life.
- Ask for forgiveness and surrender worries to God.
- Pray the opening prayer.

## Opening Prayer

Dear Lord, I/we ask that you be present in this space. I/we pray that you speak to us through the words of scriptures, forming us through this prayer. I/we ask that the Holy Spirit guides us closer to your likeness.

## 2. Listening to the Gospel - Sunday 8 November

Matthew 25:1-13

Then shall the kingdom of heaven be like ten virgins, who taking their lamps went out to meet the bridegroom and the bride. And five of them were foolish, and five wise. But the five foolish, having taken their lamps, did not take oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with the lamps. And the bridegroom tarrying, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made: Behold the bridegroom cometh, go ye forth to meet him. Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise: Give us of your oil, for our lamps are gone out. The wise answered, saying: Lest perhaps there be not enough for us and for you, go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. Now whilst they went to buy, the bridegroom came: and they that were ready, went in with him to the marriage, and the door was shut. But at last come also the other virgins, saying: Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answering said: Amen I say to you, I know you not. Watch ye therefore, because you know not the day nor the hour.

## 3. Reflection and Quiet Time

This week's gospel can be a puzzling one and at the same time very clear. In our reading of this scripture today, we are not familiar with the nuances of the wedding ceremony. But the last sentence in the scripture makes clear what we need to know – “keep awake therefore, for you do not know the day nor the hour” . Our readiness for Christ is the priority. In our daily lives and in the busyness of the schooling day, are we mindful of this readiness, the anticipation of Christ's coming? Are we open and ready for the moments when Christ steps into our students' lives, knocks at their door and they come to us to help with opening that door? Or are we too caught up in the work? The duties of the day keeping us preoccupied so that we have been prepared for the longer wait and so allow those who are yearning for you to slip into the darkness? Are we the prepared bridesmaids or those who are turned away and in result, we turn others away from Christ for our lack of preparation? As those entrusted with this work in our communities, which of the bridesmaids are we? And which do we want to be?

## 4. Pray for Your Intentions

- Yourself, family and friends
- School or ministry
- Strength, courage or guidance
- Any other needs

## 5. Closing Prayer

Loving God, as the day and the hour is unknown, help us to keep the light of your presence alive for others, warming and inviting them into a relationship with you. Help us to be open to those moments to open the door for others so that they might also be welcome in your place. Amen.

“The Glory of God is man fully alive”.

St. Irenaeus