Being ungenerous is not selfishness because it highlights a truth that we must recognise. In the matter of "preparation", that is, in the way of virtuous living, nobody can live virtue in our stead. In other words, no matter how "good" it feels that heaven should be less calculative in regard to the foolish virgins, the truth is simply that sanctifying grace cannot be shared. **If we live as if preparations were not important, believing that the Lord will somehow, since He is merciful, open the door for us, then we are mistaken.** He is not waiting on the other side to open the door for us or to shut the door on us. Instead, we, through our lack of preparation, have shut the door ourselves. Hence, time for us here is not forever. It is limited even though it feels as if we have been waiting forever for Him to come. *(Extract from the Homilies of a Jesuit dated 7 November 2020)*

This parable focuses on the attitude we should have towards the future. The questions we need to ask ourselves are... Are we ready to receive Jesus? Will we be prepared to receive him?

Once someone was confronted with this question when she was diagnosed with blood cancer. Her twin sister who accompanied her to the doctor broke down upon hearing about her condition. She asked her later when they were on their way home if she was prepared – to meet her maker. She told her twin sister, that she believes, Jesus holds her tomorrow. Whatever happens, she trusts it is her destiny. This story tells us that our destiny and mission are not complete.

With the earth calling for our attention, how should we account for the way we live our daily lives? Have our attitude and actions changed from a life of discarding to one of conservation?

SCRIPTURE *of the* **DAY**

Wisdom 6: 12-16
Psalm 62: 2-8
1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18
(or 4: 13-14)
Matthew 25: 1-13

"Consumerism and the throwaway culture have forced us to become accustomed to the waste and excess of resources."

Pope Francis

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WALKING TOGETHER TOWARDS A SYNODAL AND PROPHETIC CHURCH

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MONTHLY FOCUS: **ECOLOGY: The Cry Of The Earth Is The Cry Of The Poor**



Are we Prepared?

Today we are told to stay awake and stand ready, because we do not know the hour when the Son of Man is coming.

Salvation is our personal responsibility. As the Groom arrives, the virgins who did not have enough oil pleaded with those who had adequate to share. What often comes across is how selfish the wise virgins appear to be for they did not want to share.