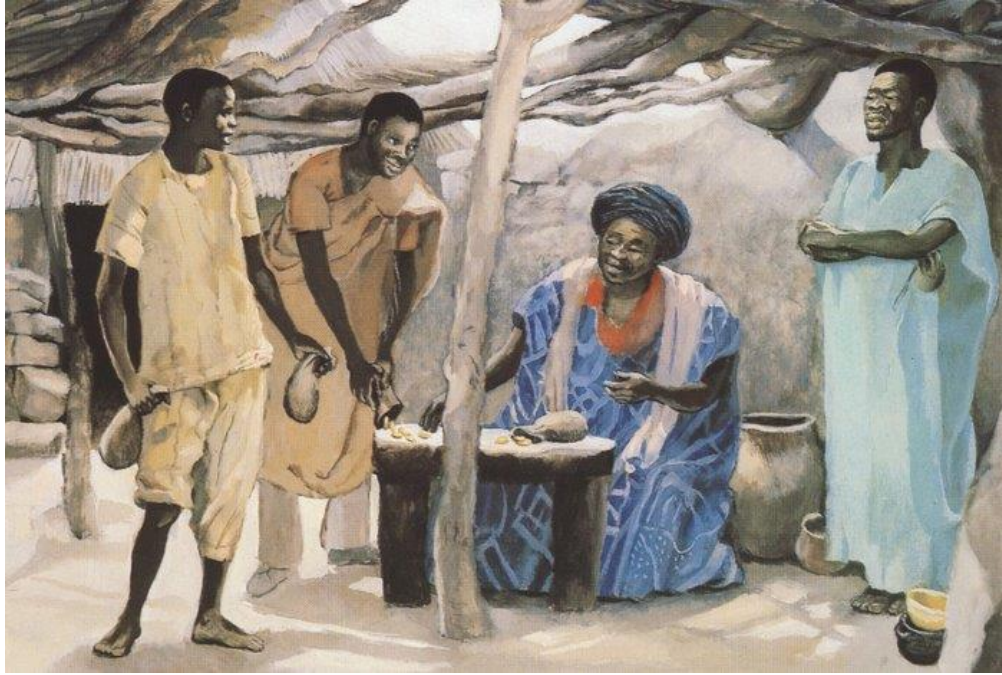
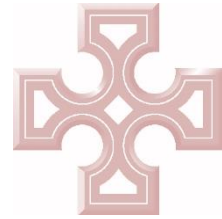




## SAINT JOHN'S MALONE

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*Parable of the Three Servants, or, The Talents*

*Notes: JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa*

## **The Second Sunday before Advent. Proper 28**

**Welcome to Saint John's** especially all who are visiting today.

An audio loop system is in operation for those with hearing aids. The order of service is available to download from the website and the 10.30am is livestreamed on St John's Malone YouTube channel. Those baptised in the name of the Holy Trinity and are communicant members of their own church are welcome to receive Holy Communion, according to conscience.

**Today | Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023**  
**9.00 a.m. Eucharist in the Side Chapel *said***  
**10.30 a.m. Family Eucharist**

**The Eucharist ~See service booklet for 10:30am if available or below for page references in the BCP 2004. 9am pg.201:**

<b>The Gathering</b>	<i>page 201/125</i>
Presiding	
Opening Hymn	6
Collect of the Day	
<b>Liturgy of the Word</b>	
First Reading	
Psalm	1 page 594 / LP 305
Second Reading	
Gradual Hymn	51
Gospel (stand)	
Sermon	
Peace (stand)	<i>page 207 / 131</i>
Offertory Hymn	643
<b>Liturgy of the Sacrament</b>	Great Thanksgiving (1) <i>page 209</i>
The Lord's Prayer	
Communion	
Motet	God be in my head – Walford davies
Great Silence	
Hymn	487
<b>Going Out</b>	
Post Communion Prayers	<i>page 220</i>
Blessing	
Dismissal	
Organ Voluntary	Andante (Organ Concerto no.1) - Handel
Office Setting	Davison / Ives



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**Collect**

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:  
Grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure;  
that when he shall appear in power and great glory,  
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;  
where he is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Second Reading

### 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11

5 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## Gospel Reading

*Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ according to Matthew chapter twenty five beginning at verse fourteen. **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ***

14 'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>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." <sup>21</sup>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.” <sup>22</sup>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.” <sup>23</sup>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.” <sup>24</sup>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; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” <sup>26</sup>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? <sup>27</sup>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. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>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.***

### **Post Communion Prayer**

God of all grace,  
your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry  
with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom.  
Renew your people with your heavenly grace,  
and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread,  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

**AUTUMN STUDY COURSE – began 7<sup>TH</sup> Nov 7:30pm Register:briandcrowe@aol.com**

**‘He is not far from each one of us’ A Christian view of other faiths.**

**NOTICES & ACTIVITIES |**

**Monday** Scouts from 6:30pm

**Tuesday** Toddler Café 10am-11:30am

*Laura Walker Ballet Class from 2-6:30pm laurawalker@hotmail.com*

*Evening: Guiding Organisations from 6:30pm*

**Wednesday Zoom Compline 7:30pm** details in the email Update. Please email the office if you'd like added to the email Update list [secstjohns@btconnect.com](mailto:secstjohns@btconnect.com)

**Wednesday 9:30am** Reader Ministry Prep. - Edward Darling Room.

*Scottish Country Dancing: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month 8-10pm Lynn Rankin 90812249*

**Thursday 10.30am Eucharist** with intercessions for those in need. A cup of coffee is available after this service.

*Laura Walker Ballet Class from 2-6:30pm laurawalker@hotmail.com*

Parish Choir: 7:30pm contact Mr Richard Campbell organist.stjohns.malone@gmail.com

*Pilates in Seaver Hall 7:30-8:30pm contact Catherine catbutler4@yahoo.com*

**Friday Tango 7:30-10pm petermacauley@talktalk.net** -not meeting until the new year.

### **Next Sunday: Sunday next before Advent. Christ the King. 26<sup>th</sup> November**

9:00 Eucharist; 10:30am Parish Eucharist; **No Choral Evensong at 6:30pm this week but the following Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December, there will be a special service of Readings & Music to mark the start of Advent on 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 6:30pm**

**For more information, sign up for the regular email Update at [secstjohns@btconnect.com](mailto:secstjohns@btconnect.com)**

- Bible Reading Fellowship BRF Notes are available each quarter for the year. Please consider taking some. Please speak to or email Rev. Brian Cadden if you are interested in having the quarterly BRF Notes.
- **Welcome** to all our visitors whether you're joining us in the building or online. If you need assistance with anything, please ask one of the Churchwardens.  
Under GDPR guidance we need to tell you that we will be recording the service and/or livestreaming today. The cameras will point towards the nave altar and pulpit and only on occasion, towards the entrance doors. Those coming to and from the side areas and exiting will be in the camera view for a short time.
- **Welcome** if you are disabled, unwell, have experiences of cognitive or mental health issues. There is a hearing loop installed in the church for those who need it. Step-free access to church is available through the north porch door and to the halls via the Seaver Hall main door.
- **Welcome** to babies, children and young people. We understand that young children make noise. If your baby becomes upset during the service, you are welcome to go to the back of the church if you need to settle – or to Sunday School in the halls where there is lots of space. Our toilets have baby change facilities.
- **Welcome** to all experiences of race, colour or language. At the Lord's Prayer all are invited to bring the gift of your first language to our worship. You are also welcome if you are LGBTQIA+
- **Welcome** if you are unsure about faith, **Welcome** if you are exploring, **Welcome** if you are here for someone else. We run study courses through the year. These are notified here, in the parish magazine or on Facebook or on our parish website.

- If you need to reach out to our **Safeguarding** team please contact Stephen, Patricia or Tony [malone@connor.anglican.org](mailto:malone@connor.anglican.org) (Rector's email) or see the info posters in the halls.
- We are collecting for **South Belfast Food Bank** again. Please leave your contributions in the vestibule on the way in.
- Prayers for the sick and all those in need are offered on Thursday morning at the Eucharist. You can send names for the list to the Rector via his email or add the name(s) on the list in the side chapel.
- If you're **new to the parish** please ask the Churchwardens or a member of the clergy about the following: GDPR, Free Will Offering Scheme, Gift Aid Magazine, organisations or wanting to know more about life at St John's. We'd be delighted to help and to get to know you.
- **Giving and Stewardship** in St Johns' much of our income received is through the Free Will Offering Scheme using either envelopes or increasingly, by Standing Order. Standing order forms are available by asking the Churchwardens or contacting the Office [secstjohns@btconnect.com](mailto:secstjohns@btconnect.com). Alternatively if you wish to make a donation then the account details for St John's are also available from the Wardens. Thank you. Your donations help us maintain our buildings and support ministry and outreach here in St John's and more widely.
- **Coffee/tea** will follow this service and all are welcome.
- **Parents & Toddlers** meets in Seaver Hall Tuesday 10am-11:30am. All are welcome.

## **READINGS:**

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18: A prophecy of judgement warning that the day of the Lord will come with fury, and that those who believe they are safe because of their wealth and influence will find their lives devastated.

Psalms 90:1-8, (9-11), 12: A song in praise of God's eternal nature as God, recognising that human beings are short lived and struggle through life, and pleading for wisdom in using our time well.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11: A reminder that Christ's coming will be like a thief in the night, and an encouragement for God's people to stay alert and live sober lives protected by love, salvation and faithfulness, in union with Christ.

Matthew 25:14-30: Jesus tells a story about a wealthy man who entrusts some of his wealth to his servants. Two of them increase the money, while one simply buries the money & gives it back when the master returns. The master is angry and rejects the third servant, giving his small amount of money to the servant who made the most.

## **REFLECTIONS ON THEME:**

This week we are still reflecting on the coming of God's reign through Christ. In



the letter to the Thessalonians, the believers are encouraged to stay alert and live Christ-like lives in order to know union with God both now and in eternity. In the Gospel, the parable of the talents is a difficult challenge for us to reflect on how we are making a contribution to the coming of God's reign into the world. In the Old Testament readings this call to alertness and to utilising the resources God has given is emphasised still further by Deborah story in which she challenges Barak to be the military commander Israel needs, and in which (in Zephaniah) the wealthy and powerful are challenged not to trust in their wealth and power to save them from the coming of God's reign. Finally in the Psalms, faith and devotion go along with the recognition of our human frailty and the need for us to use our time and our lives wisely. The word to us this week, then, is for us to use our resources – time, talents and treasures – mindfully in service of God's purpose in order to share in the coming of God's reign into our world. In addition, we are to recognise that whatever wealth or influence we may have does not “protect” us from the confrontation of God's new order, but rather must be used in service of God's reign.

*Citations from the Revised Common Lectionary, used and adapted for use in the Church of Ireland with permission, copyrighted © 1992. Consultation on Common Texts.*

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The Parish Office for administrative matters, or for information about organisations connected with St John's (90667861) e-mail: [secstjohns@btconnect.com](mailto:secstjohns@btconnect.com)

The Rector, Rev. Canon Stephen Fielding can be contacted on pastoral matters (90666644) e-mail : [malone@connor.anglican.org](mailto:malone@connor.anglican.org)



***Please take this booklet home with you for the readings, notices and reference during the week and recycle.***



You can either pop the items directly into the basket at Tesco Newtownbreda or donate directly to the foodbank. *Or please place in the baskets in the entrance vestibule/porch.* We are open for donations every Wednesday 1-3pm and every Thursday 10am-12pm. Our warehouse is Unit 4, 23 Sunwich Street, Belfast, BT6 8HR. Any questions regarding donating please call us on 07743332489 or email us on [info@southbelfast.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@southbelfast.foodbank.org.uk)



### URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD ITEMS

**LONG LIFE JUICE LONG LIFE MILK TINNED FISHTINNED SPAGHETTI TINNED FRUIT  
JARS OF JAM TINNED POTATOES OR SMASH NAPPIES SIZE 5 OR ABOVE ONLY TOILETRIES -  
SOAP, SHAMPOO, SHOWER GEL, TOOTHPASTE ET HOUSEHOLD CLEANING ITEMS -  
WASHING UP LIQUID, WASHING POWDER**

St John's Malone  
@malonestjohns



stjohnsmalone



[www.malone.connor.anglican.org](http://www.malone.connor.anglican.org)

**N.B. THERE WILL BE NO CHORAL EVENSONG ON THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF NOVEMBER  
WE WILL BE HAVING A SERVICE OF READINGS & MUSIC TO MARK THE BEGINNING OF  
ADVENT ON SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER AT 6:30PM**