

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 25th - 26th July 2020

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5.7-12

You have asked for wisdom.

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its number cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this', the Lord said, 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 118:57.72.76-77.127-130. R. v.97

R/ Lord, I love your commands.

Second Reading: Romans 8:28-30

He predestined us to become true images of his son.

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: See Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time; the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

The first two brief parables encapsulate the essence of Christian spirituality. Christian life requires a measure of detachment. It requires freedom from being completely absorbed and immersed in the attractions, pleasures and concerns of this world – not because these are bad in themselves but because we have been 'captured' by a sense of God's love and God's future for us that relativises all these things and puts them in their place. We do not yet possess the treasure but the prospect of it, unseen but grasped in faith, is already working transformation.

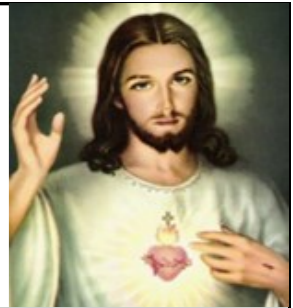


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17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 25th - 26th July 2020

A Treasure Waiting to be Discovered

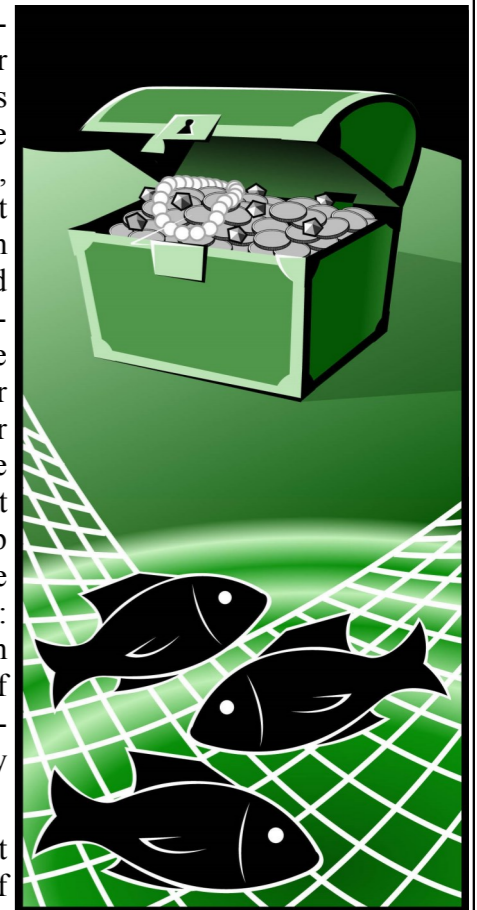
Actually, what is the kingdom of heaven? There is no doubt that Jesus had a passion for the kingdom which was a central feature of his teaching and hospitality to all without exception. But it can be baffling like the parables he tells, challenging us, as they did the religious leaders and people of his time, to look deeper at the values and priorities that currently guide our living.

Today's Gospel presents us with yet more of the parables of Jesus. Two call for decisive action while a third counsels patience. Faced with such different demands, we might well pray as Solomon did for wisdom and discernment.

Jesus explains that God's kingdom is like a priceless treasure for which people would give their most precious possessions. Again the kingdom is like a perfect pearl purchased at great cost. These parables are telling us that the kingdom of God, expressed through the mission of Jesus, is not some remote state apart from this world, but is in our midst, a relationship to be lived, shared and when we come to discover it, we should do everything to embrace it as our way of living. The treasure in life is whatever helps us to discover God's love for us: scripture, tradition, liturgy, our awareness of being loved, causes that motivate empathetic justice and compassion, the comfort and gifts of friends and family. If our relationship with God is of supreme value in our lives then we should be making strenuous efforts to cultivate it: spending time listening with open hearts to Him speaking through the generosity and the needs of others, discovering His will through the challenges we face in life, loving as He loves, especially those most vulnerable.

A third parable addresses a different issue. What should the faith community do about the mix of saints and sinners that it finds in its midst? Even though we are nowhere near perfection and there is good and bad in the world, like a huge net the kingdom stretches over everyone. All are invited in. It is not for us to make final sorting of good and bad. Ultimately God's values lived will be the criterion for judgement; and this will be sorted out by God at the end of time.

To be 'of the kingdom' is to live it now with the mind and heart of Jesus and to welcome others to share the treasure we have found. Sometimes our efforts might seem to have minimal impact, but St Paul reminds us that our lives are in good hands and God works in all things for the good of all who love him.



Office Hours:
Tues to Fri: 10.00am - 12.30pm

Parish Priest:
Fr Jan Szweda, SVD
Assistant Priest:
Fr Aloysius Nato, SVD
Priest in Residence:
Fr Ennio Mantovani, SVD
Deacon:
Yousef Meda, SVD

Parish Office: Cristina Agius
School Principal: Mark Tierney
School Phone: 9487 1001

Sacrament Co-ordinator:
Ylenia Useli
shpcatechists@gmail.com

Child Safety Officers:
Kay Dufty: 0431 376 212 and
Robert Dullard: 0433 401 958

Child Safety Committee:
Robert Dullard (Chair)

Parish Council Members:
Catherine Zanatta (chairperson),
Kay Dufty (secretary), Tony Eley,
Gerard Grant, Ophelia Swai,
Anisasio (Pauline) Veamatahau,
Mark Tierney, Ben Fortuna and
Natalie Baran

Parish Finance Committee:
Peter Constable (Chair)
0425 779 831

St. Vincent de Paul Society:
Pauline O'Day (President)
Ph: 9484 2445

Parish Mass Schedule

No Masses
until
further notice

Please see
Online Mass
Schedule
on the next page

**#12 Update: General Guidelines
COVID-19 Implications for the
Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne**

Face Coverings – as of 11.59pm Wednesday 22nd July 2020

All people who live within metropolitan Melbourne or Mitchell Shire must wear a face covering whenever they leave their home, unless an exception applies.

This means that for any permissible activity within a Parish location face coverings must be worn.

If you live in metropolitan Melbourne or Mitchell Shire and must travel outside of these

areas, for necessary goods and services, medical care and caregiving, or study or work,

you must continue to wear a face covering. This will include those attending funerals

outside the metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire areas.

Similarly, if you live outside metropolitan Melbourne or Mitchell Shire and must travel

inside these areas, for necessary goods and services, medical care and caregiving, or study

or work, you must wear a face covering.

A face covering needs to cover both your nose and mouth, and can be a face mask or

shield. There are exemptions, notably for children and those with specific medical

conditions. These are outlined in the following:

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/updates/coronavirus-covid-19/face-coverings-1159pmwednesday-22-july>

Mission Assignment for Deacon Yosef

Deacon Yosef Meda, SVD has recently received his first mission assignment to Ghana, Africa. After his pastoral practice in our parish, Yosef will be ordained to the priesthood in November and then return to his Island of Flores in Indonesia to celebrate his First Mass with his family and friends, take some holidays and early next year (if flying will be possible), he will travel to Africa. Let us support him with our prayers at this stage of final preparation for his mission.

**CatholicCare Sunday Appeal
Sunday 9th August**

You can break barriers

As our parish's social service agency, CatholicCare delivers family and relationship counselling, refugee and settlement support, education and school programs, and pastoral services. Donations from our parish community will help care for the most vulnerable families in our community.

Please donate to CatholicCare Sunday Appeal. Your support and generosity will help break barriers to social inclusion and strengthen families and communities to live life to the full.

You can donate online at www.ccam.org.au/SundayAppeal or call (03) 9287 5513.

All gifts of \$2 and above are tax deductible



Sacred Heart Parish Prayer

Loving God, we honour the heart of Jesus,
your beloved Son. We remember how he
opened his heart in love to all people. Open
our own heart to receive the gifts that continue
to flow so richly from the heart of Christ,
who lives with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.
Amen.

Sacred Heart Bulletin

The Sacred Heart Bulletin is available
online and if you would like to have a
copy emailed to you, please send an
email to sacredheart3072@gmail.com
or call the office on 94803398 to be
added to the email list.

Resources for the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Please share these online resources with your families.

The first resource contains the [Sunday readings](#). It is suggested that families gather to read the Scriptures aloud together.

The [family resource](#) is designed for families with young children.

Online Masses

St. Patrick's Cathedral - Live Streaming at:

<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

Monday- Friday: 1pm, Saturday: 8am, Sunday: 11am

Recorded masses can also be viewed at:

www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass

Or: <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>

TV Masses

Channel 44 (31): Live telecast from St. Patrick's Cathedral, Sunday at 11am

Channel 10: Mass for you at home, Sunday at 6am.

RAI: Italian Mass from the Vatican, Sunday at 8:30am

Enjoy weekly Catholic Radio Reflections:



Visit www.jcr.org.au or
<https://podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/journey-catholic-radio/id970818039>
where you can listen anytime

Collections

1st Collection: \$488.85

2nd Collection: \$289.00

Thank you for your kind generosity!



May our prayer lead us to act:

World Day Against Human trafficking in Persons

melbournecatholic.org.au

Thursday 30th July marks World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. Despite progress made against the global slave trade, human trafficking still exists in the world. And it occurs all over the world, including in our own country. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that there are more than 40 million people in our world today who are victims of human trafficking. Some are women and men trafficked into forced labour in factories, agricultural fields, hospitality and domestic servitude.

Some are children trafficked to pick our coffee or to work in dangerous mines for minerals to make our mobile phones, other electronic goods and cosmetics. Some are young girls, boys and women trafficked into sexual exploitation in brothels, dance bars and the pornography industry.

The United Nations affirms that trafficking in persons is a serious crime and a grave violation of human rights, which threatens national security and undermines sustainable development and the rule of law. ‘

Pope Francis says that human trafficking is, without doubt, a crime against humanity for its unjustifiable violation of human dignity and freedom of victims. Trafficking seriously damages humanity as a whole, tearing apart the human family and the Body of Christ.

On 30th July, during World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, take a moment to reflect that you personally are able to make choices that will put a stop to human trafficking.

Visit the following website to further educate yourself:

<https://acrath.org.au/>



A Prayer to St Joseph

You were receptive to God working in your life.
Help us by your prayers at this time of trial.

You kept Jesus and Mary under your watchful care:
may your prayers assist our local Church to respond to those in need.

You taught the Christ Child your trade and prayers:
help us to follow his example of love.

You were part of God's plan for all humanity:
assist us to be vigilant and responsible this day.

You spent your life in service:
May we be mindful of others, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, caring for them in these difficult days.

You trusted in the clear primacy of God over all history and every situation: help us grow in faith and pray to the Father, *thy will be done.*

Amen



WE PRAY FOR:

The elderly and the sick
*Anthony, Lopisoni Amato,
Peter Bourke, Maria Crocco,
Nicola D'Orazio, Charlie Fragiaco,
Anthony Joseph, Stephen Meese,
Valerie Maguire & Bronislawa Slobodzian*

We Commemorate

Margaret Sievers & Olive Sievers

O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen.



Laudato Si (2015) 218



... a healthy relationship with creation is one dimension of overall personal conversion, which entails the recognition of our errors, sins, faults and failures, and leads to heartfelt repentance and desire to change...

“we must examine our lives and acknowledge the ways in which we have harmed God's creation through our actions and our failure to act. We need to experience a conversion, or change of heart.”

**Why is the Church missionary?
What does 'mission' mean?**

The Church is missionary because that was the way of Christ. We are told in the Bible that “God so loved the world that he sent his only Son” (John 3:16).



Jesus was sent into the world to reveal God's love. In turn, Jesus said to his apostles, “As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (John 20:21). “You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). The mission of Jesus to proclaim the Kingdom of God to all people has been handed onto the Church and individual believers, guided by the Holy Spirit.

The Sacrament of Baptism initiates believers into the life and mission of Christ. All members of the Church are called to share their gifts in faith to build up the Body of Christ and to make the name of Jesus known and loved in our time. The Church continues Jesus' mission of “bringing good news to the poor, liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind, freedom for those who are oppressed and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord” (Luke 4:18-19).

Missionary discipleship:

What it means and why it matters

[Click here to read more](#)

or visit: <https://bit.ly/39ezbkT>