



Gospel Mt 13:44-52
(or shorter form Mt 13:44-46)

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.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

A burning rubbish tip in Jerusalem (Gehenna) provided Jesus with one image of Hell. Here is John Henry Newman's image.

Have you travelled to a foreign country and can't speak the language? There is lots of weeping and gnashing of teeth.

What if you were born with a good ear for languages, but had deliberately never learnt the language of that other place? You would only have yourself to blame. It would be a living hell.

That is what happens at death. The soul is suddenly transported to a different dimension of existence, and it can be either heavenly or hellish depending on the choices and actions of a lifetime.

So, our lifetime project is to 'learn the language of heaven'. We can mainly do this by following the story of Jesus, the Word of God, the perfect conversation between humanity and God.

We could pause for a moment to move from incommunicado to communion by learning and practising the language of Heaven.

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The Living Word

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

26 July 2020

First Reading 1 Kgs 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 numbers 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.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 118:57. 72. 76-77. 127-130. R. v.97

(R.) Lord, I love your commands.

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord, is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more to me than silver and gold. (R.)
2. Let your love be ready to console me by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come to me and I shall live for your law is my delight. (R.)

3. That is why I love your commands more than finest gold.
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:
I hate false ways. (R.)
4. Your will is wonderful indeed; therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light and teaches the simple. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 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.

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!



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Under the care of the Congregation of St. Michael the Archangel
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SUNDAY MASS: Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 8:30am, 10:00am & 5:00pm

WEEKDAY MASS: Mon 8:30am, Tues 7:00pm, Wed 8:30am, Thur 8:30am, Fri 7:00am,
Sat 8:30am. Public Holidays 8:30am

Reconciliation: Saturday after morning Mass or by appointment.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00am to 3:00pm Mon – Fri

ST VINCENT DE PAUL REGIONAL HELP CENTRE: 9809 2757

Next Week: 18th Ordinary (A) Isaiah 55:1-3; Romans 8:35, 37-39; Matthew 14:13-21.

Fr Stan writes ...

Like the person, in today's Gospel who found the buried treasure and the merchant who acquired the pearl of great price, we seek to find the signs of the kingdom of heaven in our lives. In fact, we even work to bring about God's kingdom in our actions and in our words. Let us pray this weekend that our family values reflect our pursuit of the kingdom of heaven. As Jesus' disciples, let us continue to place everything we value in the service of the pursuit of the Kingdom of God.

Again, due to the COVID-19 restrictions, we have changes to the number of people that can attend Mass at any one time. 100 are now allowed whilst maintaining the required physical distancing. Each must register their name and contact details clearly as well following the hygiene requirements by sanitising hands. Also, it is very important that when congregating outside after Mass that you maintain the physical distancing. We continue to pray for an end to this pandemic!

Our Flame Gift Shop is OPEN! Check out the great selection of cards and gifts for all occasions. Come in and visit us and see our range of sacramental and general gifts. There is something for everyone. All proceeds benefit our parish!



Congratulations to Saverio and Caterina Raccosta as they celebrate their 30th Wedding Anniversary. May you two be together and God be with you for many more anniversaries to come!

Thank you to all who collected their Planned Giving Envelopes. Still quite a number left to be collected. If you wish to join the Planned Giving Program or for any changes to your details, please call Nadia at the parish office 9888 2569 or 0419 269 692. **Parish Finance Team.**



Feast of Our Lady of Terzito

This year, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Terzito will not be open to the public. It will be live streamed from Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Gladesville with Mass at 1.30pm on Sunday 26th July. This will be followed by the Rosary and Benediction. Link: <https://youtu.be/eDPK0nklKXk>

Mary MacKillop Feast on Saturday 8th August 2020, Mary MacKillop Place will be **CLOSED**. Mass in the Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel will be **livestreamed at 10:00am 8th August** followed by a time of prayer at the tomb. The details will be posted on the website www.marymackillopplace.org.au

Are you struggling in this time of crisis?



Depression. Anxiety. Loneliness. Conflict. Stress.

CCareline 13 18 19 is a free and confidential helpline for counselling, relationships, parenting, ageing, disabilities, addictions and mental health. **For help finding help, call CCareline on 13 18 19**



Prayer to St Michael the Archangel

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil, may God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do you, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING: Dorota Gorzkowski.

PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF: Ekaterini Limperopoulos, Gina Rubino, Tom Gaha, Clarence (Tony) Furtado, Donato Mallari recently deceased.

Also, Frank & Edgar Falzon, Ignazio (Jim) Torrisi, Walter Gaspari, Charlie & Melina Bietola, Dr Raphael Panetta, Rosina & Michele Panetta, Rosa & Raffaele Fazzolari, Vincenzo & Caterina Cincotta, Mary & Sam Bietola, Frank Ientile, Maria Ientile, John, Annarita, Antonio Ientile, Natale Papandrea, Papandrea, Ientile, Cessario families, Angelo Fazzolari & Fazzolari family, Fortunato & Rosa Galluzzo & Galluzzo family, Rosina, Giuseppe, Salvatore & Bruno Panetta, Luigi, Rosina, Pasquale & Santa Genova, Mario & Dirce Gualdi, Antonino & Tindara Caravello, Alberto Tanzini, Angelina & Antonino Rando, Giuseppe & Maria Caterina Pupo, Baby Cove Rose Pupo, Emmanuela Delia, Angelo, Carmela & Paul Scicluna, Gregory Zammit, Christopher Cissie, Pauline Zahra, Lina Maria & Joe Mallia, Anna, Franjo, Lovro Stubljari, Neville Anderson and the deceased members of the Zammit and Zahra families.

COVID-19 Update: Under eased COVID-19 restrictions to be implemented from Friday 24 July, church attendance numbers are limited to a maximum of 100 people, providing there is a four square metre space around each person, with the exception of people from the same household. All parishes must ensure that their churches are not left unattended when their doors are open and must keep written records with names and contact details of everyone who comes into the church at any time and these records must be kept for at least 4 weeks.