



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

30 July 2023

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!



St Anthony of Padua Church

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Office hours: Mondays & Fridays: 9am-4pm

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil: 5pm Sundays: 8am & 10am

Weekdays: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 9 am

Reconciliation: Saturdays 4 to 4.30pm or by appointment

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 30 July 2023

Sacrament of Confirmation

There will be a **meeting** for parents/carers of children in year 6 or older if they wish their children to receive Confirmation on **28th October** this year.

6.15pm on 9th August in school library.

Attendance at this meeting and proper preparation are essential.

Parish Meeting 11am Sunday 13th August in the library.

All parishioners are warmly welcome to attend this meeting.
Please come along and show your support for the future of our parish.

Covid-19

Covid is still around. Please use hand sanitiser when you attend mass.

Change of Sunday Mass Times

Due to serious lack of numbers at our Sunday masses as well as great difficulty in securing supply priests when needed, we will be reducing Sunday morning masses to **one mass** which will be at **9am**.

Our weekend masses will be: **5pm on Saturday and 9am on Sunday.**

This will start on: **Sunday 27 August 2023**

Entrance Antiphon: God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

Communion Antiphon: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

Feast of Saint Mary MacKillop

8 August 2023

This August let's walk in the footsteps of Australia's most loved Saint.

Let's be fierce in the face of adversity.

Let's be fair and act when we see injustice.

Let's give love to those we encounter each day.

Character is doing the right thing even when no one is watching.

21 Days Back to God - After Years of Running Away

Journalist Bob Cameron has written a deeply personal account of his return to the Church. With the above title his book is an inspiring step-by-step guide for others considering the pilgrimage of return. It is \$18.95 per copy. Can be ordered from Catholic bookstores.

Fr Laurie has a few copies if you wish to purchase from him.

orders@paulinebooks.com.au

bookshop@mustardseed.org.au

A short prayer before every meal is a great sign of gratitude.

Musicians/singers needed for our weekend masses.

COMMUNION FOR THE SICK OR ELDERLY

If you know someone who would like to receive Communion but is unable to come to Mass please notify the priest.

Do we want children to learn about Jesus?

become a parish catechist for Catholic children at Clovelly Public School.

READERS NEXT WEEKEND: Please see new roster.

Please remember in your prayers:

Recently deceased: Nola Dooley (ne Vaughan), Lisa Targa, Gaye Zammit, Janice Peterson, Karen Menzies, Kathy Steele, Brian Fitzgerald, Henry Moloney.

Anniversary: Shirley Hassett, Anna Wong, Roy & Elaine Rahme, Frank & Mattea Muzic, John MacNally, Peggy O'Connell.

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney: Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, has been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support & guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.