

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

30 JULY 2023

FINDING OUR TREASURE

As a young king, Solomon knew that he had much to learn to be the ruler the people of Israel needed him to be. When God invited him to ask for whatever he needed he asked for the gift of discernment between good and evil. Wealth might come and go, but the treasure he needed most of all was the gift of wisdom.

Matthew concludes the parabolic discourse with four parables that emphasise the wisdom that is required to not only recognise what is of lasting value but to hold on to it when we find it. It can be that what is of value is often hidden like the treasure in the field, or needs to be discovered like the pearl, or sorted like the catch that the dragnet brings in. While Jesus spoke of the treasure of the kingdom of God, Matthew has come to see that the pearl of great price is Jesus himself who is the source of our hope and the wisdom we need to live life to the full.

Throughout the eighth chapter of the letter to the Romans, Paul encourages his readers to take heart during the struggles and difficulties that they face as Christians. Our faith itself is a pearl of great price, a gift and treasure that gives us the strength to deal with the struggles and complexities of our lives. God can transform even the darkest moments and our faith helps us to live with hope in the future glory God has prepared for us.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

A reading from the first book of the Kings

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.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP 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

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

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

cf. 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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Sacred Heart School Matraville: 9311 2995



Our Parishes acknowledge and honour the Bidjigal and Gadigal People as traditional custodians of this land, that we stand on.



17TH SUNDAY IN ODINARY TIME

Go Make Disciples, The Mission Plan for the Archdiocese of Sydney



Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently Deceased: Baby Chloe O'Gorman, Iris Evans, Zosia (Sophia) Sitakonski, Andree Mena, Sean McConville, Josephine Micallef, and all those who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.



Deceased: Agnes Brisbane. All the souls in Purgatory.

Anniversary: Kevin Roberts , Stephen Kennedy, Tony O'Donnell, Rita Rombo, Kate Johnson, Ledor Gelsomina Mariotti, Aldo Saliba, Jenny Moy, Terry Hennesey, Chinnappa Kandur, John Reverdo, Vincent & Lilian Hinks, Catherine Eugene & Mario Torchia, Fay Davis, Anthony Moore, Jim Tomlinson, Marie Stromboli, Maria Rodrigues, Anne Baker, Rebecca Soriano, Agnes Pinto, Suk Oi Wong, Rita Ciappara, Julie Laporte, Sue Melia, Jenny Moy,

The Sick: Wilfred Tsen, Mario Assini, Beatrice Bossinc, Sam Strano, Josephie Regan, Mary Vella, Robert 'Bob' Spanswick, Beatriz Visperas, Michael Victor, Marcus O'Dean, Mick Hall Angela Beveridge, Marie Cullen, Merley Nate Fien, Patrick Sargent, John Sarniak Thomson, Pam O'Grady, Heracleo & Mamerta Dela Torre, Santa Viselli and Ernie Ross. Pray for the sick, the dying, the poor and homeless in our parishes, and those suffering from Covid.

Prayers for: Christian people of Manipure India, and for the care of the World Environment.

Where will Fr. John be celebrating Mass next weekend?

Saturday - 5 August 2023 - 5.00 St Andrew's (Livestreamed)
Sunday - 6 August 2023 - 10.00 am St. Agnes' Supply Priest



Greetings to all parishioners and visitors of St Andrew & St Ages Twinned Catholic Parishes of Malabar-Matraville.

Last Tuesday our First Eucharist (1st Holy Communion) Program

commenced with the Parent/Carer Information evening. The next couple of weekends our Sacrament of Eucharist Commitment Masses will take place. Please keep our First Eucharist candidates and their families in your prayers. Just a reminder that on First Holy Communion Sundays there will be extra Parish Masses in celebrating this most important moment of grace for our candidates and our parish.

Many thanks to those who have already placed their names in the sacristy to be part of a hospitality committee. I am wishing this group to coordinate a welcoming ministry group, who would welcome people at the beginning of Masses each Sunday.

Next Sunday is first Charitable Works Fund Appeal for our new financial year. Your generosity assists in many agencies in the Archdiocese such as Vocations and Educations of Seminarians, those studying to be tomorrow's Priests of our Parishes and Catechists, and those who teach Christian Doctrine in our State Schools. Your giving goes to assist in so many ways. You may wish to take home an envelope today and bring it back next week.

This weekend and next weekend I will be involved in Air Force activities (as I am an Air Force Chaplain) and will not be at all my Masses. Some of you may know that I will be taking holidays in August and the MSC Priests and other Priests will be covering Masses while I am on holidays and I appreciate their ministry with us. **ALL Sunday (Weekend) Masses together with the Assumption Masses will be covered,** but not all weekday Masses will be celebrated, there will be some Communion Services. Each week the weekday Mass schedule will be advised in the bulletin. I am sure you do realise the reality that we have a priest shortage in covering our parishes and when priests have their annual vacation. Please continue to pray that many will take up the call to become priests. Also please keep in your prayers those pilgrims from the Archdioceses around the world on World Youth Day 2023, Lisbon, Portugal.

God Bless

Fr John



CWF AUGUST PARISH APPEAL—Next weekend. The CWF support, social, charitable and pastoral works that the Church in Sydney attends to, throughout the year. **CWF Donations are 100% Tax Deductible.**

We would like to thank Joseph Medcalf Funerals for their continuing kind sponsorship to our Parishes through the sponsorship of printing our Planned Giving Envelopes over the last 12 months. If you are wishing to use Joseph Medcalf Funerals who is Australian owned and family operated. They can be contacted on 9694 9494 (Operating 24 hours). Please note Medcalf's can provide an all ladies funeral crew if preferred.

Funeral for the Late Iris Evans — St Andrew's, Wednesday 2 August, 10.30am.