# ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, PARRAMATTA

Cathedral Office: 1 Marist Place, Parramatta NSW 2150 (02) 8839 8400 Emergency: 0407 289 360 www.stpatscathedral.com.au Bishop of Parramatta: Most Rev. Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD

# 30 July 2023 - 17th Sunday (Year A)

### Mass Schedule

#### SUNDAY

6:00pm Saturday Vigil Mass 7:30am Morning Prayer 8:00am Mass 9:30am Mass 11:00am Solemn Mass *with Cathedral Choir* 6:00pm Mass

### MONDAY TO FRIDAY

6:10am Morning Prayer 6:30am Mass 11:15am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 11:15am Reconciliation (till 12:15pm) Rosary after Angelus at 12:00 noon 12:30pm Mass

### SATURDAY

7:30am Morning Prayer 8:00am Mass 8:30am Reconciliation (till 9:00am) 9:30am Mass (Old Rite)

5:00pm Sacrament of Penance (till 5:30pm)

### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Mass at 8:00am (No Adoration or Confession)

### WEEKLY PRAYER GROUPS

Tuesday 9:30am - Christian Meditation Tuesday 6:30pm - Legion of Mary Tuesday 7:30pm - RCIA (September - April) Friday 1:00pm - Cenacle Prayers

MONTHLY PRAYER First Friday Devotions: 6:30pm

### OTHER CONNECT GROUPS

Playgroup: Wednesdays 10:00am - 12:00pm Facebook: Parramatta St Pat's Playgroup

Credo Youth Ministries Contact Fr Chris or find information on Facebook: credo.stpats Email: credo@stpatscathedral.com.au





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### "The kingdom of heaven is like..."

OVER THE PAST TWO SUNDAYS we have heard from the third of Jesus' five great discourses in Matthew's Gospel, the first being the great Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5-7), the second being his preparation of the disciples for mission (chapter 10), and this third (chapter 13) being various parables regarding what Matthew, sensitive to his Jewish audience, refers to as the "kingdom of heaven", synonymous with what we would usually refer to as the kingdom of God. Two Sundays ago, we heard



the famous parable of the sower and last Sunday we heard three parables: the wheat and the darnel, the mustard seed, and the yeast.

This Sunday we again hear three parables, all of them being short but profound. We hear Jesus compare the kingdom of God to treasure hidden in a field, to a merchant finding a fine pearl and to a dragnet hauling up from the sea a wide variety of fish.

Before we try to understand what Jesus is trying to convey to us in these wonderful little stories, we must first ensure that we grasp what Jesus is referring to when he speaks of the "kingdom of heaven." There is no point in trying to understand what someone is explaining to us if our understanding of the subject matter is different. If my understanding of X differs from someone explaining to me their understanding of X, only confusion will ensue.

For many people of Christian faith, the phrase "kingdom of heaven" or "kingdom of God" refers to the "place" (actually a state of being) we all aspire to after our death, characterised by light and love, being in the eternal presence of God. This is not incorrect, but Jesus uses the phrase differently. A better word for kingdom would be "reign" or "dominion." Understood thus, we can see that Jesus is talking about bringing about God's reign on earth. What does God's dominion on earth look like? Quite simply, it is made clear in Jesus himself, the one who embodies God's kingdom. God's reign is evident when people strive to build a society that is just, compassionate, merciful, unified, egalitarian and fair.

But how does this understanding of the kingdom of God relate to the parables put before us by Jesus? What do treasures, pearls and fish have to do with God's reign on earth?

When we begin to see the effects of living like Jesus, living out his values actively, we are encouraged in our efforts and our faith is strengthened and deepened, meaning that our efforts to institute God's reign become something we hold to be precious and a key part of or Christian identity. This only spurs us on in our efforts, motivated by the Holy Spirit, making God's reign a little more of a reality as more people, many perhaps not even Christians, are inspired to cooperate in these efforts. And so, our faith, which informs our efforts, is held to be more precious than anything else we possess.

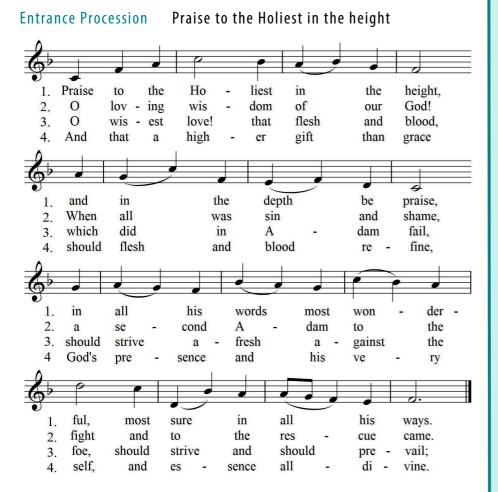
Of course, like the fish that are discarded in the third of today's parables, those who possess faith but choose not to live that actively, risk not being granted admission into the eternal heavenly kingdom which we all hope for...

Wishing you a blessed week ahead,

Fr Robert

# LITURGY GUIDE

# **INTRODUCTORY RITE**



Text: John Henry Newman, 1801-1890 (Selected verses).

Tune: RICHMOND 86.86; Later form of melody by Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820, adapted by Samuel Webbe, c.1770-1843

# PENITENTIAL ACT

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, (all strike their breast, three times) through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God. Cel: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **R. Amen.** 

### 17 Ordinary Year A - Focusing the Gospel

#### Key words and phrases

- 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.
- The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls.
- The kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds.
- 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.
- Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil.
- We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him.

#### **⊺o the point**

This gospel about 'the kingdom of heaven' presents us with three parables of discovery.

What is the 'kingdom of heaven'? Jesus does not really say. Then how will we recognise it when we find it? Jesus does tell us: we'll know the kingdom when we see it.

### **Connecting the Gospel**

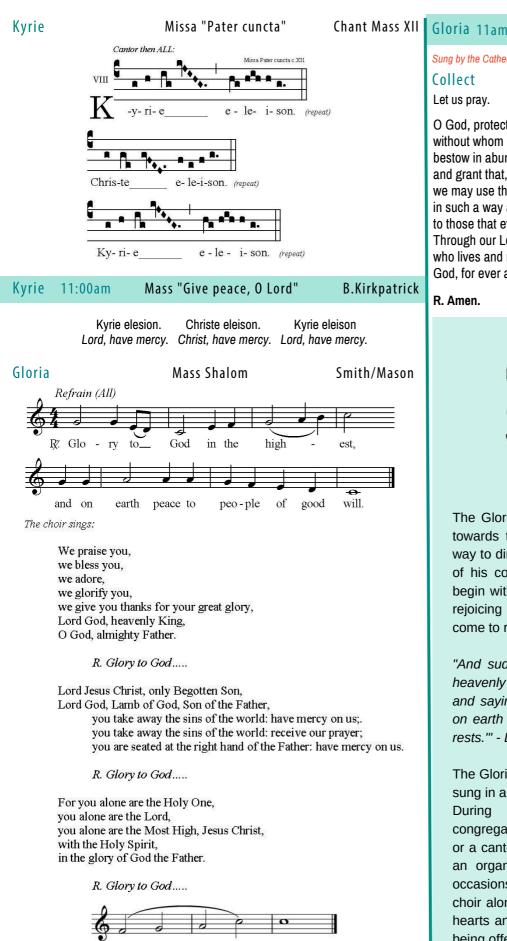
#### • to the first reading

The scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is modelled by Solomon in the first reading. The wisdom that Solomon requested and received is required in order for us to know the kingdom when we see it.

#### • to baptism and confirmation

The very understanding (wisdom) that we need to recognise the kingdom, we already have: it is a gift of the Spirit first given us in the sacraments of initiation.

# LITURGY GUIDE



### Gloria 11am Mass "Give peace, O Lord" B.Kirkpatrick

Sung by the Cathedral Choir. All SIT

O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God. for ever and ever.



The Gloria is a beautiful prayer that we sing towards the beginning of Mass, meant as a way to direct our praises to God in celebration of his coming as man 2000 years ago. We begin with the words of the angels in Luke 2, rejoicing that our Saviour is born and has come to redeem us.

"And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."' - Luke 2:13-14 | NABRE

The Gloria, being a hymn of praise, is typically sung in a joyful and celebratory manner.

а Catholic Mass, the entire congregation may participate, led by the priest or a cantor with musical accompaniment from an organ or other instruments. On some occasions, the Gloria may be sung by the choir alone with the congregation joining their hearts and minds in the praise and adoration being offered to God.

men.

# LITURGY OF THE WORD

### First Reading

A reading from the first book of the 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 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. Thanks be to God.

### **Responsorial Psalm**

(Ps 64:10-14 )



### Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the 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. Thanks be to God.



### Gospel Acclamation Chant Mode VII

The cantor, alone, intones the Alleluia. All repeat



#### Cantor

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

R. Alleluia.

### Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to 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.

'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. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

# LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

I believe in one God,

all how

Amen.

**Universal Prayer** 

thou me in thy way.

without end. Amen.

and became man.

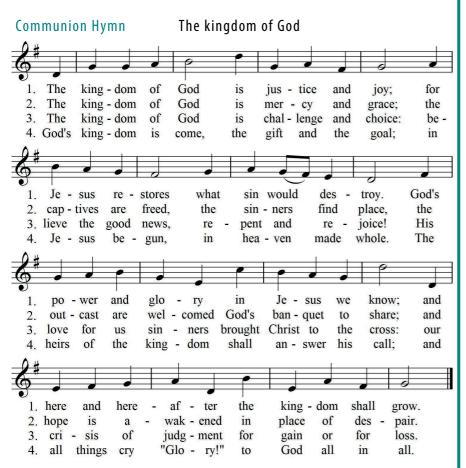


#### 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 30 JULY 2023

# LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

#### Communion Antiphon Simile est regnum ceolorum Chant

The kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant seeking fine pearls; having found one of great worth, he went and sold all that he had, and he bought it. Mt I3: 45, 46



Text: Bryn Rees, 1911-83; © M.E. Rees

Tune: HANOVER 55.55.65.65; Melody & bass by William Croft 1678-1727

#### **Prayer after Communion**

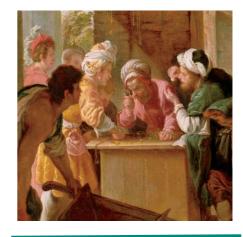
#### Let us pray.

We have consumed, O Lord, this divine Sacrament, the perpetual memorial of the Passion of your Son; grant, we pray, that this gift, which he himself gave us with love beyond all telling, may profit us for salvation. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

### Next Week is the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

# Liturgical Colour: White Readings:

Dan 7:9-10, 13-14: His raiment was as white as snow. Ps 96:1-2, 5-6, 9: R. The Lord is king, the most high over all the earth. 2 Pet 1:16-19: We heard this voice from out of heaven. Alleluia, alleluia! This is my Son, my beloved, in whom is all my delight: listen to him. Alleluia! (Mt 17:5) Mt 17:1-9: His face was shining like the sun.



# 8:00am Mass Propers 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.

### **Responsorial Psalm**

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(Ps 119:57,72,76-77,127-130)
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R. Lord, I love your commands.

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.

Let your love be ready to console me by your promise to your servant. Let your love come and I shall live for your law is my delight. R.

That is why I love your commands more than finest gold, why I rule my life by your precepts, and hate false ways. R.

Your will is wonderful indeed; therefore I obey it. The unfolding of your word gives light and teaches the simple. R.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

R. Alleluia.

### **Communion Antiphon**

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.

# THE BULLETIN

### STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

Dean and Administrator Very Rev Fr Robert Riedling 8839 8420 or frrobert@stpatscathedral.com.au

Assistant Priest Rev Fr Chris del Rosario 8839 8423 or frchris@stpatscathedral.com.au

Deacon Rev Mr David Dowling 8839 8415 or deacon@stpatscathedral.com.au

**Priest in Residence** Rev Fr Van Xua (Joseph) Nguyen Vietnamese Community Chaplain

#### Office Hours: 9:00am - 4:00pm weekdays

Receptionist: Donna Missio (Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri) 8839 8400 or enquiry@stpatscathedral.com.au

Parish Secretary: Pat Preca (Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri) 8839 8412 or secretary@stpatscathedral.com.au

**Cathedral Parish Manager:** Mili Lee (Tue - Fri) 8839 8419 or admin@stpatscathedral.com.au

Sacramental Coordinator: Parish Team 8839 8400 or secretary@stpatscathedral.com.au

**Director of Music:** Bernard Kirkpatrick KSS 8839 8400 or music@stpatscathedral.com.au

Liturgy Coordinator/Sacristan: Fr Chris del Rosario 8839 8423 or frchris@stpatscathedral.com.au

Youth Coordinator: Parish Team 8839 8400 or credo@stpatscathedral.com.au

**Gift Shop Manager:** Minnie Harb 8839 8400 or giftshop@stpatscathedral.com.au

### SACRAMENTS

**Baptisms** are celebrated in the Cathedral on most Sundays. Check for exceptions. Family members and guests are requested to be present at the Cathedral at least fifteen minutes before the usual commencement time of 12:45pm.

Weddings are by appointment only.

At least six months' notice is necessary. Contact the Parish Secretary on 8839 8412.

First Eucharist and Confirmation Please contact the Parish Secretary.

### **HIRING of ROOMS**

For hire of Cloister Function rooms, call the office on 8839 8400 or enquiry@stpatscathedral.com.au

### Material for Bulletin

If you have something that you would like published in the bulletin, please ensure that it is conveyed to our Parish Secretary, Pat, by **12:00noon on Thursday.** Please note that material must relate to the parish and its mission. Don't forget that businesses can advertise on the rear page of the bulletin too!

# **Sacrament of Confirmation 2023**

The calendar of remaining mandatory preparation sessions is as follows:

**Confirmation 3:** Saturday 05 August, 4:30pm - Parent and Children Session

**Confirmation 4:** Saturday 12 August, 4.30pm - Parent and Children Session

**Practice for Confirmation:** Saturday 19 August, 4:30pm followed by the 6:00pm Vigil Mass - Parents and Children

# **CONFIRMATION:** Saturday 26 August at 11:00am

# LAST CHANCE TO SUBMIT YOUR VIEWS!

A reminder that if your wish to either make a submission to the Parramatta Diocesan Synod AND/OR wish to apply to be a member of the Synod in October, all applications and submissions are due by **Monday 31 July.** Submissions and applications can be made through the diocesan website.



# **PARISH & DIOCESAN NOTICES**

## **First Friday Devotions**

Join us on **Friday 04 August** for our monthly First Friday holy hour, beginning in the chapel at 7:00pm.

## **New Mass Setting Premiere!**

Next Sunday, 06 August, we celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord with a musical treat!



The readings at Mass tell us the Jesus' face "shone like the sun" and "his clothing was as white as snow".

To celebrate the feast, a new Mass Setting "Missa Lucis" (Mass of Light) and an Organ Toccata composed by one of our own cathedral choristers, Adriel Sukumar, will be premiered at the 11:00am Solemn Mass. Adriel is a second-year composition student at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, and a winner of the Horace Keats Memorial Prize for Composition. His works have been performed and recorded by the Sydney Youth Orchestra, and the Organ Society of Victoria. We give thanks for the gifts of Adriel's musical talents shared with us in the praise of God.

## **Assumption Masses**

An early notification of Mass times for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on **Tuesday 15 August.** 

A reminder that the Assumption is one of two Holy Days of Obligation in the Latin Church in Australia (apart from Sundays, of course!) The other Holy Day of Obligation is Christmas Day.

Mass times on the day will be 6:30am, 12:30pm and 7:30pm.

## **Potential Scams**

It has been brought to my attention that a few people in the parish have received text messages and emails purporting to be from me, asking them to make contact via return email or message, clicking on a link or something similar. Please **do not** respond to any message without checking that it is from a parish email address or parish/personal phone. If you are unsure, delete the message without opening any link and make contact with the parish office or with me personally. *Fr Robert* 

### **Cloister Cafe**

On most Sundays after the 9:30am and 11:00am Masses, a cuppa and a smile is waiting for you at the Cloister Cafe. So nice to enjoy the sunshine and company of fellow parishioners. If you are new to the parish, please come over and make yourself known.

Also, many thanks to the person or persons who left donations for everyone to enjoy. They are always much appreciated. If you would like to join the hospitality team, contact Marian on balmap5@stpatscathedral.com.au

## **Diary Claimer - Parish AGM**

### Parish Annual General Meeting

Advance notice of the next Annual General Meeting AGM) which will take place in the Parish Hall on **Sunday 20 August at 12.30pm.** 

### Parramatta pilgrims shine at Lourdes

During their visit to Lourdes, France, the Diocese of Parramatta pilgrims were asked to participate in a number of high profile events in front of thousands of others from around the world.

In the beautiful setting of the grotto where St Bernadette saw the apparition of Our Lady, Bishop Vincent concelebrated Mass with dozens of priests, several bishops and Cardinal Vincent Nichols of Westminster.

Also on the altar was Fr Andrew Rooney, Fr Greg Jacobs, Fr Chris del Rosario and Fr Piotr Kruk. Deacon Tom Green also assisted at the Mass, flanked by Deacons from around the world.

Fr Chris told Catholic Outlook after the Mass that "God has a good sense of humour." "I was sitting in the same spot as I touched when I was a pilgrim twelve years ago and my vocation was beginning to stir," he said.

For Fr Andrew, only ordained last year, it was a totally unexpected "experience of a lifetime" especially as he admitted "I'm a bit of a fan of Cardinal Nichols." Source: CatholicOutlook - see full article @ catholicoutlook.info/WYD23News

Our young pilgrims thank you for your prayerful support of their pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Lisbon Portugal. You can follow their journey. Sign up to receive updates on the pilgrimage from the Diocese of Parramatta at catholicoutlook.info/WYD23News



# Vinnies Winter Appeal

### S Vinnies

# Help end the Homelessness Crisis Devastating Older Women

Your generosity will provide shelter, food, clothing and long-term support to older women in crisis - our mothers, grandmothers and aunts - and help rebuild their lives.

www.vinnies.org.au/nswwinterwarmthappeal or 13 18 12 LIVES CAN CHANGE WHEN YOU CHOOSE TO HELP. PLEASE MAKE A DONATION TODAY.

# **Prayer Intentions**

## We pray for our beloved dead...

### "Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them..."

**Recently Deceased:** Terry Gorman, Roselyn Mudliar, Flor Ocampo, Fr Carl Ashton, Milagros Bobier, Terry Gorman, Michael Judowikrama, Cecilia Jung, Robert Hanssen, Aurea Halasan, Rolando Mercado, Edward Ngu Lia Ting

**Deceased:** Trinidad Llanillo, Sr Lina Hagele, Dulcie & Leo Tobin, Florentino & Petra Cabezas, Vicente Cabuenos, Sr., Antonina Cabuenos, Dulcie & Leo Tobin, Alban Fonseca, Robert Hanssen, Deanna Hsu, Dr Therese Gaudrey, Abraham Patacsil, Dra Julia Lee, Yolanda & Donald Muir, Mercy Palisoc, Fidel Perez

**Anniversaries:** Edgardo Perez, Sophie Ellis, Joseph Tinh Yu, Len Larrado, Frank & Umberto Papagna, Daisy Neroy, Luz Arcilla, Elizabeth Sarah Edgar, Patrick Robert Edgar, Marie Saldanha, Norbert Saldanha, Rebecca Patacsil

**Perpetuals:** Paul Mahoney, Louisa & Arthur Baxter, Nat Fedyk, Robert Dearie, Norm Hector, Bokeyar family, David family, Japour family, Paula Loto'aniu, Peter Van Tilburg, Margaret Angela Roberts, Sally & Frank Martlew, Sherwood family, Pat & Jim Hartman, Royan & Andrews families, Don Andrews, Juliet Noronha, Dr Joseph Malouf, Abel Moses, Jimmy, Anna & Frank Grainda, Frank Agostino, Bernadette Melhen & Sally Boujandy, Jack & June Barrett, Ann O'Brien, Watson Lee, Ian & Pat Sanders, Bill & Alice Kendall, Allan Kendall, Maria Patterson & Ellen Bancan, Hooper family, Giuseppina & Giovanni Rechichi, Mary Coady, Mary & Jack White, Vincent & Rebecca Vella, Walter Townsend, Ferris Grugeon, McInherny, White, McWilliam & McGuckin families, Mary Abela, Robert Andrews, Sylvester family, Rogan family, Adcock & McMillan families, Love family, Gabrielle Baker, Paula Cowling, McDermott & Starr families, Repose of the Souls in Purgatory and all deceased parishioners of St Patrick's and St Monica's

# We also pray for...

**Sick:** Mary Rose Perez, Buenaventura Zafiro Jr., Betty Tobin, Sandrella Toubia, Vincent Rowan, John Lowe, Stephen Senjak, David Mannall, Rachael Sumagu, Nivola Senjak & family, Miguel-Angel Soto-Figuerdo, Belinda & John Mull, James Sampey, Ashley & Debbie Brown, Daniel & Sharon Webb

**Special Intentions:** Harrisson, Naleen, Raveen, Tian, Warren Pimenta, Marcel Melik, Anita Denis & family, O'Neill family, Turner family, Fardell family, Rachel Lawrence, Cathleen Donovan, Shane, Luisa, Virginia Ayuste, Jorge, John, Agnes & Napoleon Patacsil, Franz Tito, Jake Brennan, Julie Perrottet, Nicole Desouza, Elizabeth Perrottet, Elizabeth Perez, Vina Ayuste, Elena Patacsil, Carmelita Perez, Agnes Patacsil, Mary Rose Perez Tito, Michael Perez, Leonardo Perez close, Elmer Patacsil Ayuste, Napoleon Patacsil, Jasmine Olivera, Joseph Sadaka, Mini Harb, Charlotte Dos Remedios, Stephen Senjak, Maria Perugini, Fatima, Rohan



We welcome into our Catholic Christian family the following children who were recently baptised here...

Brielle Burgess & Patrick Furlong Yvonne Gatt & Symmone Gatt Roman Genuino



We also welcome into our Catholic Christian family the following couple who were recently married here...

Erika Zafra & Nicolas Castillo Niuman

Please pray for them and their families.

# POPE FRANCIS' Prayer Intention for July



# For a Eucharistic life...

"We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening them to an encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters."

### From Pope Francis...

From a tweet date 23 July

"Many countries are experiencing extreme climatic events. I reiterate my appeal to the leaders of Nations, that something more tangible be done to limit polluting emissions: it is an urgent challenge and affects everyone. Let us protect our common home!"

# Saint of the Week

## 02 August - St Eusebius of Vercelli (283-371), Bishop

He was born in Sardinia and brought up in Rome, and later (in around 340) was made the first bishop of Vercelli in Piedmont. He lived in a community with his diocesan priests, the first bishop ever to do so.

He was a strong supporter of orthodoxy, and in 355 was sent into exile by the Emperor for refusing to sign the condemnation of St Athanasius which had been passed by the Council of Milan. He was in exile for six years, harshly treated by those who had charge of him. On his release he worked hard for unity, but in vain.

He co-operated with St Hilary in fighting Arianism, and eventually died peacefully in Vercelli, where a manuscript of the Gospels in his handwriting is preserved.



(Information: Universalis)

# "Quote of the Week"

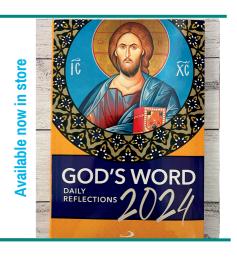
I came here to encourage you to take this synodal process seriously and to tell you that the Holy Spirit needs you. It is true: the Holy Spirit needs us. Listen to him by listening to each other. Leave no one behind or excluded. It will be good for the Diocese of Rome and for the whole Church, which is not strengthened simply by reforming structures (that is the great illusion!) or by giving instructions, offering retreats and conferences, by issuing guidelines and programmes. All those things are good, but as part of something else, namely our rediscovery that we are a people meant to walk together, with one another and with all humanity.... Take heart and keep going! Thank you!



### **Pope Francis**

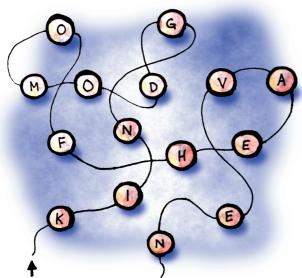
(b.1936) Excerpt from Address to the Faithful in the Diocese of Rome 18 September 2021





# The Kids' Bulletin

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time July 30th, 2023



What did Jesus say was like a buried treasure or a pearl of great price? Use the letters on the string of pearls to fill in the blanks and find out!

# The \_\_\_\_\_\_

### King Solomon's Dream Cross-Word

| God  | _ (19d) to the yo                   | oung         | (24a) Solomon     |           |  |  |  |  |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|
| in a dream, "  | (21d)                               | whatever you | ver you want      |           |  |  |  |  |
| me to  | (16d) you."                         |              |                   |           |  |  |  |  |
| Solomon knew   | that he was only                    | (8d) and     |                   |           |  |  |  |  |
| couldn't rule God's people without His help. So he said(5d)  |                                     |              |                   |           |  |  |  |  |
| God, "O  | (20d), I am                         | a            | (10a) youth, not  |           |  |  |  |  |
| knowing  | (1d) to                             | _(4a). I     | (                 | (18d) you |  |  |  |  |
| in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a people so |                                     |              |                   |           |  |  |  |  |
| vast that it can   | not be                              |              | (22a) or counted. |           |  |  |  |  |
| Give your  |                                     | (18a), there | fore, an          |           |  |  |  |  |
|  |                                     | (3d)         |                   | (17a)     |  |  |  |  |
|  | (2a) your people and to distinguish |              |                   |           |  |  |  |  |
|  | (11d) from                          | (12          | 2a). For          | (6a)      |  |  |  |  |
|  | 4d) to                              |              |                   |           |  |  |  |  |
|  | (9d) of yours?                      | ?"           |                   |           |  |  |  |  |

\_\_\_\_(15a) was pleased with Solomon's request and told him that He would grant him \_\_\_\_\_(7a) greater than anyone else had ever had or would have.

|    |   | 1  |    | 2  | 3  |   |   |   | 4   | Γ   | 5  |
|----|---|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|--|
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# The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...



In today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells the disciples what the Kingdom of Heaven is like. He says it is like a buried treasure, that when a man finds it, he sells everything he has and buys the field where it is

hidden. He also says it is like a pearl of great price, that when a merchant finds it he sells all he has and buys it.

These parables tell us how precious the Kingdom of Heaven is. Jesus is explaining that it is more important than anything else in our lives. The men in the parables sold EVERYTHING they had to get the treasures.

But what is the Kingdom of Heaven? Is it a country with a king and subjects? Well it is, sort of, but you can't see it. Jesus is the King and His people are the people who choose Him as their King. The laws of the kingdom are God's laws, and the enemy is the devil who is trying to take all the souls. Always remember that

belonging to God's Kingdom is more important than everything else in your life!

Answer to front page: Kingdom of Heaven Answers to Cross-word: across: D.Judge 4. act 6. who 7. wisdom across: J.Judge 4. act 6. who 7. heart 10. mete 12. wrong 15. God 17. heart 18. servan 22. numbered 24. king down: 1. how 3. understandling 4. able 5. lo & man 9. people 11. right 14. govern 16. give 8. man 9. people 11. right 14. govern 16. give 18. serve 19. said 20. Lord 21. ask 23. me



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