

# SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA



36 Queen Street (PO BOX 23) Moruya NSW 253  
Phone: 4474 2024 Email: [Moruya@cg.org.au](mailto:Moruya@cg.org.au)  
Web: <http://cg.org/au/Moruya>



Priest: Fr George Azhakath msfs  
Parish Office hours: Wed., Thu., & Fri., 9.00a m—3.00 pm:

**Mass Times:**

Moruya: Sat: Vigil 6.00 pm Sun: 10.00 am

Tuross: Sun 8.00 am

Tue: 5.30 pm Wed, Thu & Fri: 9.15 am

Sat: Reconciliation: 10—10.30 am

Schools: St Mary's Moruya: 4474 2817

Carroll College Broulee 4471 5600

Caring Group: Tuross Head: 0497 315 534 Moruya: 0431 354 993

17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

-YEAR A-

JULY 25 & 26 2020

## The Kingdom of God

**“The kingdom of God is like a hidden treasure in the field.....**

**He sells everything he owns and buys the field”**

Jesus concludes a long series of parables about the reign of God in today's gospel, by praising those wise men and women who have listened carefully, understood and responded to his message. This praise of the “wise” in today's gospel seems to justify the choice of today's first reading: the story of Solomon's request for wisdom from God and for “an understanding heart” to *distinguish right from wrong*, so that he might govern the people properly. Yahweh was pleased and granted *him a wise and discerning heart* which enabled him to surpass everyone in wisdom.

In the second reading, Paul Teaches that the principal agent in Christian spirituality is God and that His grace is with us through the whole process of salvation. The wisdom to perceive God's grace is essential for those who want to follow him. This is why Paul assures Rome's Christian community, “*We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.*” Such knowledge is an act of faith. In the gospel, Jesus teaches that God's kingdom is something of extraordinary value like a hidden treasure or valuable pearl and that its possession calls for total commitment. The kingdom of God is God's reign in our hearts, in our lives, in our homes, in our society, and in our world. Only those who develop a searching mind and are willing to give up everything for the great treasure of God's kingdom will be rewarded.



*Fr George Azhakath.*

**Entrance Antiphon:** God is in his holy dwelling; he will give a home to the lonely, he gives power and strength to his people.

**Communion Antiphon:** O, bless the Lord, my soul, and remember all his kindness.

**Prayer for Australia:** Lord you place deep in our hearts the love of Mary Help of Christians. Through her prayers grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens. Under her protection may Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

**Prayer after Communion:** Lord, we thank you for coming into our hearts in Communion. We believe you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. You are our life and our hope. Draw us more deeply to yourself and transform our hearts through your abiding love. May we come to know Sunday as a special day of faith, the day of our Risen Lord. May our celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday consecrate this day to you.

**O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, All Praise and All Thanksgiving be every moment thine.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD.

### FIRST READING

*A reading from the first book of Kings 3:5,7-12*

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.

**This is the Word of the Lord.**

**R: Thanks Be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 118

**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

*A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 8:28-30*

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.

**This is the Word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, Alleluia!*

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

*Alleluia!*

### GOSPEL

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew. Mt 13:44-52.*

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 find 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 bring 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'.

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

**R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **THE WORD AND LIFE....this week.....**

1. **We should live very moment in view of our precious goal.** Most of the time, we are chasing false treasures such as money, status or pleasure. Often we are locked into regrets over the past, or focused too much on the future. As a result, the enriching present passes us by, and the treasure is never discovered. Thus, the really valuable pearl of sharing in God's life here on earth and later in heaven is never found. Let us always remember that heaven is within the reach of all who follow the ordinary vocations of life and partake of this world's joys and pleasures within the framework of God's commandments. Right now, it is for us to use the me given to us to go in search of the pearl of great price and to help others in their search. We are challenged to search and discern where the Lord is calling us so that we may know what path to take. Let us remember that whenever we fight against discrimination, whenever we trust completely in God, whenever our selflessness conquers selfishness, whenever our love overcomes sin and our faith overcomes suffering, whenever we render humble service to others, we are doing the will of God as it is done in heaven and hence we are already in the kingdom of heaven while we are still on earth.
2. **A lesson in tolerance and compassionate understanding.** The lesson of this parable is similar to that of the weeds growing up with the wheat, namely, that the kingdom is a mixed body of saints and sinners (good and rotten fish). There will be always a temptation on the part of some who feel they are more "faithful" to separate themselves from the 'weeds'/'bad fish.' But Jesus reminds us that the final judgement resulting in reward or punishment is God's work. Thus, we must learn to be patient, compassionate and understanding with those who seem to fall far below the requirements of the Gospel and the Kingdom. Let us humbly admit the fact that there are only very few of us who are not a mixture of good and evil. Let us admit as St. Paul did, "*I am what I am with the grace of God.*"

## **DONATIONS TOWARDS PURCHASING NEW ORGAN/KEYBOARD.**

Thank you for your response and donations towards this project. To those who asked for an account number for direct deposit.

Sacred Heart Parish. Client No. 403s11

Church Account: BSB 062786

## **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

We continue to pray and extend our support to those who are in near lock down at Banksia Village, IRT Moruya; and the sick members of our Parish: Jake Hardis, Graham Beer, Gail Fenton, John Gerber, Debra Morris, Ben Pollack, Katherine Halse, Louise Strathendorf and Jerry Ebbelaar who is currently undergoing physiotherapy in Western Australia. Love and prayers to all of them for a speedy recovery.

## **PARISH PASTOR COUNCIL MEETING.**

The PPC Meeting scheduled for Wednesday 22nd July was cancelled to maintain COVID safety.

## **PARISH TO FORM A LITURGY COMMITTEE.**

We invite Altar Servers, Acolytes and Extra Ordinary Ministers of Communion, Collectors, Ushers, Counters, Readers to be a part of this parish ministry.

## **NEW ROSTERS:**

The new Rosters for Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Communion are now available.

*Our sincere thanks to those who are on the roster for flower arranging on the weekends, decorating the sanctuary. A work done so beautifully and quietly. I hope it has not gone unnoticed by parishioners.*

## **FR EMIL MILAT.**

Thanks to Rev. Fr. Emil Milat for choosing to stay with us for a week as part of his holidays. A great encouragement for Moruya Parishioners recovering from Bush Fires and the ongoing impact of COVID19. Thank you Fr. Emil for your concern and friendship.



## **Footprints**

### **In The Sand**

*One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand: one belonged to him, and the other to the Lord.*

*When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.*

*This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it.*

*"Lord you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me".*

*The Lord replied, "My precious, precious child, I love you and would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you".*

*Mary Stevenson*

## **ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHER PROWSE - VISIT.**



Archbishop Prowse is planning to make a visitation of parishes and schools in August and further we may have to propose a suitable date for us for his consideration. We welcome the Archbishop's visit to our Parish and Schools.

## **CARING GROUPS TO MAKE FREE FACE MASKS:**

Sacred Heart Parish Caring Groups are seeking supporters to donate material and sew masks to be sent every Monday to Melbourne.

Read more in the attached flyer.

Contact:

Kath—Moruya Caring Group

0431 354 993

Pat—Tuross Head Caring Group

0497 325 534



## **COVID19:**

Due to the outbreak of Covid19 last week linked to the Batemans Bay Soldiers Club, to keep our community members safe, we the Sacred Heart Parish, Moruya urge anyone linked or associated with the above Club or any other venue; with a possibility of contacting the virus or are now in quarantine not to visit or attend any church services here and are encouraged to self-isolate for two weeks in great responsibility and charity to stop any community spread.

There is no obligation these days to attend Masses or church services, as such you may stay home safe, if you think so.

Please keep required distancing and other protocols while you are in the church. "We earnestly care to make the church a safe place".

Thank you for your understanding.

Fr George Azhakath.