

SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA



36 Queen Street (PO Box 23) Moruya NSW 2537
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Web: <http://cg.org.au/Moruya>
Priest: Fr George Azhakath
Secretary: Mrs Vickie Moore
Parish Office hours: Wed and Fri 9:00am—2:00pm



Mass Times:
Moruya: Sat: Vigil 5:00pm Sun: 10:00am
Tue: 5:00pm, Wed, Thu & Fri: 9:15am/1st Saturday of the month 9:15am
Tuross: Sun: 8:00am **Bodalla:** 4th Sunday of the month 3:00pm/3rd Thursday of the month 9:00am
Reconciliation: Sat @ Moruya: 1st Saturday of the month 8:30am-9:00am before Mass
4:15pm-4:45pm before Mass
Devotions: Daily Rosary and Saturdays 9:30am **Adoration:** 40 mins before weekday Mass
Schools: St Mary's Moruya: 4474 2817 Carroll College Broulee: 4471 5600
Caring Groups: Tuross Head: 0497 315 534 Moruya: 0431 354 993

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- YEAR A -

July 29 & 30 2023

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.

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

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.

Prayer for a Child's First Communion

Lord Jesus,

Bless the children coming forward to receive Holy Communion for the first time.

May this day be an initial step into a life-long love of the Eucharist.

Give them a hunger for this sacred food so that they turn to you for comfort, guidance, and wisdom as they grow into full discipleship.

Thank you for their innocence and goodness.

May their hands, extended in anticipation of your Body and Blood, inspire all of us to cherish this sacred sacrament.



On 26 July the Church remembered **St. Joachim** and **St. Anne**, the parents of the Virgin Mary. Despite the importance of their role as the maternal grandparents of Jesus, we do not know too much about them. Joachim was a shepherd from Jerusalem, married to Anne. They did not have any children, and they were a rather elderly couple when, one day, while Joachim was at work in the field, an angel appeared to announce the birth of a child, and Anna also had the same vision. They called their little girl Mary, which means “loved by God,” and then they moved to Nazareth, where they educated Mary, teaching her the law of the Lord.



Liturgy of the Word

First Reading 1 Kgs 3:5.7-12

A reading from the first book of the Kings

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

All: Thanks be to God

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.)**

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Second Reading Rom 8:28-30

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

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

All: Thanks be to God

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!

Gospel Mt 13:44-52

P: The Lord be with you

All: And with your spirit

P: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

P: All: Glory to you O Lord

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.'

He sells everything he owns and buys the '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.'

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

THE WORD AND LIFE this week ...

1) **We should live every 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 joy and pleasures within the framework of God's commandments. Right now, it is for us to use the message 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 always be 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*".

NOTICES FROM THE PARISH

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: We continue to pray and extend our support to those at Banksia Village, IRT Moruya, the sick members of our Parish and those in need of our prayers: Kathleen Ebbelaar, Gerry Ebbelaar, Dianne Ebbelaar, Kylie Leplaw, Andy McCosker, Bala Stankovich, Clare & Bert Broekhuysse, Pat Morris, Julie and John Kay, Lee Maat, Kirk Dowling, Rosemary Patyus, Kay Morton, Rod McDonald, Hans Brosch, Father Giles Setter OFM, Annette and John Nader, Ross Hay, Robyn Barkley, Mark Wales, Rick Christensen, Therese Masserot, Jenny Hopkins, Pat Anderson, Tammy Whiteman, Clair Holmes, Patricia Murphy, Leo Kop, Barbara Kirk and John Richmond.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Very Happy Birthday to **Michelle Scobie** who celebrated her Birthday on 24 July.

PARISH OFFICE: The Parish Office is closed and will reopen on Wednesday, 16 August.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Commitment Masses will be held next weekend, 5 and 6 August.

EVANGELISATION PROGRAM: Next **Tuesday, 1 August** Parishioners are invited to Marg Croese's home (19 Costin Street, Moruya) to watch and discuss the next episode of **The Chosen**.

BRIDGING ABORIGINAL AND CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY: A gathering will be held on Tuesday, 22 August, 10am - 3pm in St Bernard's Church Meeting Room. **Guest Speaker:** Loretta Parsley, First Nation's Elder and facilitators Carolyn Evenden and Marie Weatherall. Cost is free. Morning Tea provided. **BYO Pot Luck Lunch** to share. **Booking is Essential** by Tuesday Aug 15 Phone Marie 0405 028 057.