



17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME  
YEAR A

30 July 2023

LITURGY AND BULLETIN

### OPENING PRAYER

*Heavenly Father,  
guide us to everlasting life by helping us to use wisely  
the blessings you have given to the world.  
Amen.*

**FIRST READING:** A reading from the book of 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.'

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

**Response: 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

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**

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 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 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 Greg Sunter

The twin parables of today's gospel – the treasure in the field and the pearl of great value – reveal a paradoxical truth about the kingdom of Heaven. Throughout the gospels, Jesus presents the kingdom as 'now but not yet'; as 'present but future'. This paradox is captured in these twin parables. In both cases, the kingdom is likened to something of great value that is discovered but cannot be immediately grasped. In both parables, the finder must go away and sell everything so that they can eventually come to possess the treasure they have discovered.

By comparing this experience with the kingdom of Heaven, Jesus suggests that most of us can only ever catch glimpses of what it means to live in the kingdom. For most of us, only in the future reality of heaven will we ever fully come to understand the kingdom. However, those glimpses that we catch – those moments of inspiration and connection with God and with one another – are like the treasures of the parables. They are enough to inspire us to do what it takes to make sure that we will one day enter into that kingdom reality.

The third parable of this gospel passage reveals yet another truth about the kingdom. The dragnet thrown into the sea is like the message of Jesus – it is flung far and wide and does not discriminate about where it falls or on whom it falls. This parable rounds out the chapter that began with the parable of the sower and the image of casting the net is a neat parallel to the indiscriminate casting of seed. It is not up to the one who casts the net, the seed or the Word. Rather it is up to each individual to determine how they will respond to receiving the Word.

### **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

We pray for Pope Francis, bishop of Rome and pastor of all, that his apostolic ministry at this week's World Youth Day (1-6 August) will call many to new discipleship. (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray for world leaders, that like Solomon of old they will treasure wisdom above all and not be seduced by the trappings of power. (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray for the whole of humanity under threat from record heatwaves and extreme weather, that World Tree Day (Schools – 28 July; National Tree Day – 30 July) will inspire practical action to deal with climate change. (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray for the staff and volunteers of the world's humanitarian agencies, that with our support they will bring relief to the countless people displaced by war and famine. (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray for all who are suffering severe stress from cost of living pressures: that they will receive the support they need from the community, from business, and all levels of government. (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children: that their national day (4 August) will honour their cultural heritage and help them grow strong in hope and confidence. (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray for all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, especially Penny Crawford, Jenny Bodman, Ross Lawless, Rongo Tee Peeti, Helen Montgomery, Judy Nielson, Tony Riley, Val Biggers and all who need our prayers, that they may be cared for by loving family, friends and community. (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray for the recently deceased Joan Daniel, Judy Bevege . . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that they will share to the full in the glory of God. (Pause) Lord, hear us

### **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

*Lord,*

*today we celebrate the memory of the death and resurrection of your Son.*

*May this gift bring us closer to our eternal salvation.*

*Amen.*

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**PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mondays: 9am – 3pm; Fridays: 9am – 12pm**

**Weekday Mass: Tuesdays at 10am**

**Meditation: Thursdays in Presbytery at 10.30am**

**Social Justice Group:** Wednesday 2 August 2023 at 9.30am, at the Presbytery

**Krawarree Mass:** Sunday 30th July at 11am. Lunch afterwards in the hall.

**Araluen Mass:** Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August (Mary McKillop's Feast Day) at 11am. We are currently working on where to have lunch as the pub is closed on a Tuesday.

**Nerriga Mass:** Sunday 20 August at 11am. Lunch afterwards at the pub.

**Araluen Mass:** We now envisage a sausage sizzle (sausages and bread supplied by parish) in the park there with parishioners contributing other foods like slices etc. There will also be two nuns from Sydney attending. Please contact Helen Hart 0430169849 if you plan on attending (for catering purposes)

**A date has been set to farewell Brother Brian. Sunday 17th Sept, 2-4pm** at the Club for afternoon tea This will be a self catered event. We are all sorry that Brian is leaving us as he has become such a loved member of our parish family. Please mark this date in your diaries.

**We have some old china and glassware** in a cupboard in the Presbytery that hasn't been used in over 20 years. If any parishioner would like to have some, please contact Helen on 0430169849 to check it out. Anything not taken will be sold on our market stall in the coming months.

**Printer:** Vinnies also have a used (very little) Dell multi-function printer that needs a home. Anyone interested please contact Helen on her mobile.

**The Catholic Parish of Pambula** invites members of our community to join with Archbishop Christopher Prowse and other pilgrims, as he leads the annual St. Mary of the Cross McKillop pilgrimage to Eden on Saturday 19th August. He will be leaving from St Christopher's Cathedral at 7.30am on Saturday 19th August and travel to Eden by private vehicle.

As they are organising lunch, it would be appreciated if you could advise if you are attending so catering can be arranged, please book in via our website [Catholic Parish Pambula](#) or on the following link [Archbishop's Mary MacKillop Pilgrimage](#)

If there are any special dietary requirements, please make these known to us. You can contact either Sue Heffernan (0405 251 947) or myself (0429 774 119)

**Readings for Mass:** 1<sup>st</sup>: 1 Kings 3:5,7-12. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Romans 8:28-30. Gospel Matthew 13:44-52

**Next week: Transfiguration:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Dan. 7:9-10,13-14. 2<sup>nd</sup>: 2 Peter 1:16-19. Gospel: Matt. 17:1-9.

**Radio Church:** Sundays at 6pm on FM 88.9

<b>Ministries for our Mass:</b>	<b>29 July</b>	<b>5 August</b>	<b>12 August</b>	<b>19 Aug</b>	
Welcomer:	Helen P	Geraldine	Cathy F	Helen P	
Acolyte:	Felix (when available)				
Reader 1:	Wendy M-B	Ann T	Michael	Bobbie	
Reader 2:	Germaine	Wendy H	Cathy F	Tommy	
<b>Ministries of service:</b>	<b>28 July</b>	<b>4 August</b>	<b>11 Aug</b>	<b>18 Aug</b>	<b>25 Aug</b>
Altar Decorating:	Margaret	Joy	Helen P	Cathy	Margaret
Cleaning:	Helen P & Sarah			Bunny & Ella	
Counters: 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday:	Pauline & Bobbie.		2 <sup>nd</sup> : Sunday: Wendy H		
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday:	volunteer please		4 <sup>th</sup> : Phil Owen		
Please advise if you are unable to fulfil your roster, so alternative arrangements may be made.					

Keep warm and take care of each other, Helen

The Parish of St Bede's Braidwood acknowledges the Yuin people, the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for many thousands of years. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.