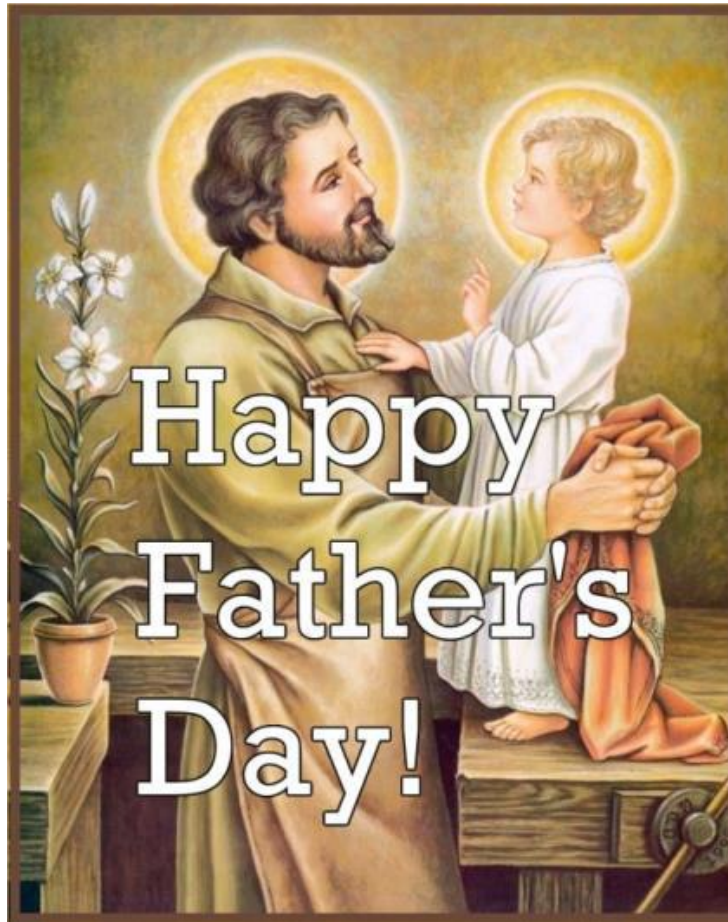


ST COLUMBKILLE'S FAMILY

THREE PARISHES TOGETHER

FR MICK MACANDREW PHONE 02 8331 7609

Please continue to sanitise your hands and a mask is recommended, maintain social distance to keep us all safe.
Please take your Bulletin home, Thank you



Father's Day Appeal – Collection for our retired priests:

There are 26 priests in our Archdiocese. We should remember our retired priests as we celebrate the [theme for the **Second World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**](#) "In old age they will still bear fruit" (Psalm 92:15).

Please join us in generous giving. You can make a gift today:

- By envelopes
- By giving at: www.cgatholic.org.au/donate
- By calling: (02) 6239 9801

Thank you for taking care of our priests in their retirement

Pope Francis – On Discernment

What is it, how does it impact our lives?

Today we begin a new cycle of catechesis: we have finished the catechesis on old age, now we begin a new cycle on the theme of discernment. Discernment is an important act that concerns everyone, because choices are an essential part of life. One chooses food, clothing, a course of study, a job, a relationship. In all of these, a life project is realised, and even our relationship with God is concretized.

In the Gospel, *Jesus speaks of discernment with images taken from ordinary life*; for example, he describes the fisher who selects the good fish and discards the bad ones; or the merchant who knows how to identify, among many pearls, the one of greatest value. Or he who, ploughing a field, comes across something that turns out to be a treasure (cf. *Mt 13:44-48*).

In the light of these examples, discernment presents itself as an exercise of *intelligence*, of also of *skill* [It: ‘perizia’] and also of *will*, to seize the opportune moment: these are the conditions for making a good choice. It takes intelligence, skill, and also will to make a good choice. And there is also a price required for discernment to become effective. To perform his trade to the best of his ability, the fisher reckons with hard work, long nights spent at sea, and then discarding some of the catch, accepting a loss of profit for the sake of those for whom it is intended. The pearl merchant does not hesitate to spend everything to buy that pearl; and so does the person who has stumbled upon a treasure. [These are] unexpected, unplanned situations, where it is crucial to recognise the importance and urgency of a decision to be made.

Everyone has to make decisions; there is no one to make it for us. At a certain point, adults can freely ask for advice; we can reflect, but the decision is our own. We can’t say, ‘I lost this, because my husband decided, my wife decided, my brother decided.’ No. You have to decide, each of us has to decide, and for this reason it is important to know how to discern, to decide well it is necessary to know how to discern.

The Gospel suggests another important aspect of discernment: *it involves the emotions*. The one who has found the treasure feels no difficulty in selling everything, so great is his *joy* (cf. *Mt 13:44*). The term used by the evangelist Matthew indicates a very special joy, which no human reality can give; and indeed it recurs in very few other passages of the Gospel, all of which refer to the encounter with God. It is the joy of the Magi when, after a long and arduous journey, they see the star again (cf. *Mt 2:10*); the joy, it is the joy of the women who return from the empty tomb after hearing the angel’s announcement of the resurrection (cf. *Mt 28:8*). It is the joy of those who have found the Lord. Making a *good* decision, a correct decision, always leads you to that final joy; perhaps along the way you have to suffer a bit of uncertainty, thinking, seeking, but in the end the right decision blesses you with joy.

Twenty-Fourth Sunday Ordinary Time /C

1 st Reading	Book of Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14
2 nd Reading	1 Timothy 1: 12-17
Gospel -	Luke 15: 1-10