

LITURGY OF THE WORD
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary
Time Year A

First Reading 1 Kgs 3:5.7-12

A reading from the first book of the Kings

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
R. 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.

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.

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.

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

(R.) Lord, I love your commands.

Second Reading Rom 8:28-30

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

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
R. 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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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.
R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

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REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

The Language of Heaven

A burning rubbish tip in Jerusalem (Gehenna) provided Jesus with one image of Hell. Here is John Henry Newman's image. Have you travelled to a foreign country and can't speak the language? There is lots of weeping and gnashing of teeth. What if you were born with a good ear for languages, but had deliberately never learnt the language of that other place? You would only have yourself to blame. It would be a living hell. That is what happens at death. The soul is suddenly transported to a different dimension of existence, and it can be either heavenly or hellish depending on the choices and actions of a lifetime. So, our lifetime project is to 'learn the language of heaven'. We can mainly do this by following the story of Jesus, the Word of God, the perfect conversation between humanity and God. We could pause for a moment to move from incommunication to communion by learning and practising the language of Heaven.

© Fr Michael Tate:mtate@bigpond.com

PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

If you would like to join the Parish e-platform giving for both the Priest and the Church, the details are as follows:

Acc. Name: St Bernard's Operating

BSB: 062-786

Bank Account:
00012939

Ref: Family Name



ST BERNARD'S PARISH
BATEMANS BAY
2 David Avenue, Batehaven NSW 2536



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E: batemansbay@cg.org.au
Website: www.cg.org.au/batemansbay
Office Hours: 10am to 2pm
Tuesday-Friday

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Finance Admin: Anne Jackson
PC Co-ord: Marie Weatherall
Asst. PC Co-ord: Carolyn Evenden

Principal: Mrs. Jo Wain
St. Bernard's Primary School, Batehaven
R.E.C: Sharon Beashel
Principal: Mrs. Jacqui Heffernan
Carroll College, Broulee
R.E.C: Erica Drewsen

17TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY
TIME

YEAR A

Upcoming
Events

Choir Practice
1PM Mondays

Cenacle Prayer 9.30
am Fridays after
Mass, and 1st
Saturday of the
month @ 9.30am

ENJOY THE GOOD
NEWS
Wednesdays after
9am Mass

Wrap With Love
Tuesday 8th August
10am BB Library. All
are welcome

Craft Group
Thursdays 10am

ADORATION
TUESDAYS @ 4pm

COFFEE CLUB
Thursdays after
Mass
Venue: Corrigan's
Cove
All are welcome

Finding a Treasure

Can you remember as a child searching for 'treasure' in the Christmas pudding or reading about pirates in search of treasure? To find a treasure either by a stroke of luck or after a persistent search is really good fortune. What wouldn't one do to find a Treasure Island or simply win Powerball?

Sue McPherson in her book '**Grace beside me**' speaks of a time of stumbling around and searching for 'inner peace' – a more lasting treasure. Following a very trying time where an incident had left her angry, her Nan and Pop take her to the bush to sort through her feelings. It is spending time in nature, sitting and reflecting, she comes to realise she needs to somehow 'let go' of her anger. **It is in the bush she experiences over time a deep pure calm overtaking her.** She states 'I know I am going to be okay.' Later on talking to her Nan about this 'new treasure of calm' she felt, she asks "I was wondering though ... what do we call it? That wave of calm what is it? 'She's called Grace – you just sat in the presence of Grace.' 'Grace beside me' I whispered as I wiped away a tear. 'Grace beside you always.' Pop says nodding. [Pgs 199-200, 2012]

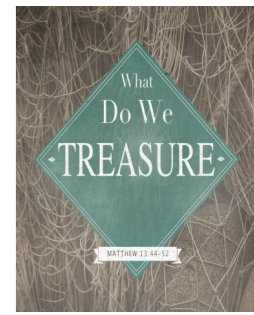
A treasure is not something we can earn but something we find as Fuzzy did in the bush. We can spend a lot of our lives wishing and hoping that some treasure will come our way. We can forget that we already possess a wonderful treasure in our loved ones and in the gift of life itself.

The Kingdom of God is our Treasure to find!

In today's Gospel Mathew 13:44-52 Jesus speaks again in Parables about the Kingdom of God. He speaks about a person finding a treasure **buried in a field**, upon realising the great worth of the treasure he **sells all to buy the field**. This is what happens when we discover the treasure of the Kingdom of God. In the Gospel **there is interplay of searching, finding, celebrating, and selling all to possess something of great value**. The discoveries of treasure and pearl disrupt normal daily life and priorities – they require risk and sacrifice and can shape life in a different way. Pope Francis says, 'those who find it have no doubts, they sense that this is what they have been seeking and waiting for; and this is what fulfils their most authentic aspiration ...'

When we have this personal and loving encounter with the person of Jesus, we are so captivated and attracted by Jesus that we are willing to sell everything, to safe guard our relationship with him. [God's Word Daily reflection 2020] As Christians, while Jesus is the treasure we are seeking, we find this can easily get clouded by events in our own life – worries, anxieties, insecurities and hardships. We need to perhaps 'go bush' like Fuzzy and **ask the Holy Spirit for the gift of finding Jesus, so that we too may experience 'our most authentic aspirations' being fulfilled.**

Marie Weatherall





MASSES THIS WEEK

Monday 31st July

Sunday 6th August

Monday 31st: No Mass

Tuesday 1st: Mass 5pm

Wednesday 2nd: Mass 9am

Thursday 3rd: Mass 9am

Friday 4th: Mass 9am

Saturday 5th: Mass 5pm

Reconciliation 3.30-4.30pm

Sunday 6th: Mass 9am

Fr John will be celebrating Mass with us Tuesday through Friday and we will also have a supply priest for the following week-end

Masses in Aged Care Facilities

- Mass First Wed of Month @10.30am Denhams Beach Community Care (Opal)
- Mass 2nd Wed of the month @10.30am The Glen
- Mass 3rd Wed of month @2pm The Manor
- Mass 4th Wed of month @2pm Maranatha Lodge

ROSTERS

29/30 JULY

Cleaning
31-7-4-8 Favetta/
O'Neill/Nugent

5.00PM MASS

Welcomer M Devine
Commentator: P O'Kelly
Reader : J Quigley
Eucharistic Ministers
M O'Neill L Rodwell
Computer Screen
J O'Sullivan

9.00 AM MASS:

Welcomer C Connell
Commentator D
Robinson
Reader: A Skinner
Eucharistic Ministers
A Scicluna, S Beashel
Computer Screen T
Priest.

MORNING TEA:

N Beatty/M deSmet

5/6 AUGUST

Cleaning
7-11 D & L May

5.00PM MASS

Welcomer: J Anderson
Commentator M
Bridges
Reader: M Weatherall
Eucharistic Ministers
J Lovering, M Devine
Computer Screen
M O'Neill

9.00 AM MASS:

Welcomer M de Smet
Commentator B
Basevi
Reader: D Herring
Eucharistic Ministers
N & L Page
Computer Screen D
May.

MORNING TEA:

Filipino Community



Tuesday August 8th Feast Day of Mary MacKillop

We are inviting Parishioners to join us for a Reflection morning in the Church Meeting Room

Beginning with Morning Tea at 10am - 11-30am. Why not join us and celebrate our first Australian Saint's Feast Day.

All Welcome

Wrap with Love

Is in its 30th year of providing hand made blankets (each 100cm x 175cm) to people in need, locally and throughout the world. Our local group will be holding its annual Knit-in and display of wraps at the **Batemans Bay Library** on **Tuesday 12th September 10am-1pm.**
Tea and coffee provided.

You are welcome to visit or to stay a while and knit, crochet or request information sheets which will be available. **Enquires: Jenny 0414 664 077**



FIRST EUCHARIST



First Eucharist Enrolment Evening will be held on Wednesday 9th August @ 5pm at the Church

ST MARY MACKILLOP PILGRIMAGE EDEN—19th AUGUST, 2023

For those Parishioners who would like to attend, we will be arranging transport options. Please put your name down on the list which can be found in the Church foyer if you are available to take a passenger/s with you in your vehicle or if you need a lift.

GATHERING:

Bridging Aboriginal and Christian Spirituality

will take place on **Tuesday August 22nd**, 10am-3pm in the Church Meeting Room. **Guest Speaker**—Loretta Parsley, First Nation's Elder and facilitators Carolyn Evenden & Marie Weatherall.

COST: Free

*Morning Tea is provided
BYO Pot Luck Lunch to share.*

All are welcome.

Booking is Essential: by Tuesday August 15th
Marie 0405 028 057

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND THE WALBUNJA PEOPLE OF THE YUIN NATION. WE PAY OUR RESPECTS TO THEIR ELDERS, PAST, PRESENT AND EMERGING

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Fr Loi has requested that the PPC be reformed in our parish.

The PPC will be a body reflecting the life of the parish providing advice and support to Fr Loi.

In 2023 the PPC will be made up of the following:

- 1 rep from the Pastoral Care team**
 - 1 rep from the Liturgy team**
 - 1 rep from the Finance Committee**
 - 1 rep from St Bernard's School**
 - 1 rep from Carroll College**
- Parish Priest
PPC Chair.**

We are asking for 2 additional members from the parish to nominate to join the PPC. Their roles will be Social Justice Coordinator and Social Coordinator.

Meetings will be held once every 2 months and will last for 1 hour.

If you would like to nominate for one of the two roles above please give your name to Fr Loi before August 14 with the first meeting to be held in early September

Fr Loi will be away from the Parish from Monday 31st July until Monday 7th August as he is having a surgical procedure. Please pray he has a successful surgery and a speedy and complete recovery.

Remembering the Sick:

Julie Morgan, Myrna Glenn, Norma Dean, Ann Marie McLoughlin, Antionette Doyle, Christine Norman, Anne Gatehouse, Tony Vogel, Suzanne Hughes, Trent Fisk, Carolyn Burns, Sr Marie McAlister, Peter O'Neill, Beverley Biglia, Fr John Walter, Lola, Fr Kevin Murphy, Allan Rogers, Pam Wilson, Antony and Andrew, Rita Condon, Ben Copland, Femia and Mark, Vince Burns, John Dillon, James Lee, Trish Hamilton, Jim Banks, Dennis Sheather, Mary Henderson, Diane Lanzon, Marion O'Grady, Victor Edith, Jan Simpson, Dawn Robinson, Allan Odium, Luke Ward, Andrew Morton, Ken Evendon, Judy Betts, Anica Bautovic, Angela Mylott, Jeanette Clarke, those in hospital and nursing homes.

Death Anniversaries: are listed in the Memorial Book at the front of the Church and names can be added to it if dates are provided.

We pray for the recently deceased in the Parish Community: Tony Plascek, Janet Thornbury, Michele (Mick) Ferrante, Barry O'Neill, Frank Belsa, Henry Thomas, Rosa Spano, Geza Markovits, Del Bateman, Kayleen Mortlock, Dan Quigley, Maree O'Brien, Rees De Winter, John Dunne, Maria Ivelja, Stjepan Matasin, Peter McGann, Dante Pasqualin, Loretta Jones, Filomena Dela Torre, Christopher Horsfall, Dawn Millman, Mara Pranjic, Travis Basevi, Judith Dewick, Nita Gorzalka, Linda Russell



The Year of Walking Together

The Risen Lord walked together with the disciples on the road to Emmaus, drawing them from anxiety to hope, from confusion to joy.

Jesus, centre of our common Emmaus walk, with You alone to guide us, make Your home in our hearts; as we pour "new wine into fresh wineskins" (Mk 2:22)

Like Mary, imbued by the Holy Spirit, may we give birth to a renewed faith and united pastoral action in this Archdiocese in the years ahead.

St Mary of the Cross, our Great Australian Intercessor, pray for us.

Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.

All Saints of God, who name and sanctify our parishes, pray for us. **Amen**

Pope Francis
Monthly Prayer
Intentions

AUGUST

For World Youth Day

We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives..

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