

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.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/. Lord, I love your commands.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

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 READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
13:44-52

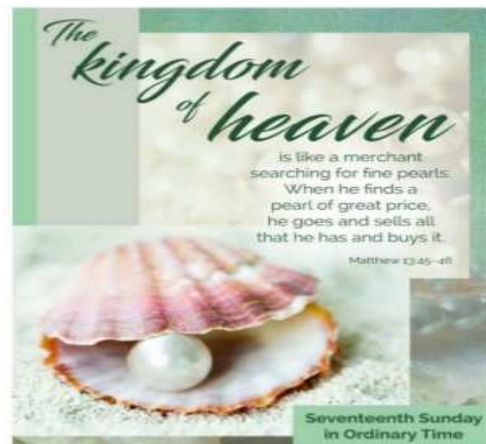
Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
Knox Deanery
19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, 3156
Phone: 9758 1029 Fax: 9758 9234
Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au
Website: www.stjohnthebaptist.net.au



17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
25th/26th July, 2020

*Heavenly Father,
enfold us in Your gracious care and mercy,
that with You as our ruler and guide,
we may use wisely the gifts
of this passing world,
and fix our hearts on those things
which last for ever.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



FOCUS ON THE READINGS

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.

Q. Who do you know who has discovered the 'great treasure' and done all they could to gain it? © Greg Sunter

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Wed 29th July: St Martha
Fri 31st July: St Ignatius of Loyola

Thurs 30th July: St Peter Chrysologus
Sat 1st Aug: St Alphonsus Liguori

I have come that you may have life and have it to the full
(John 10:10)

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:

Fr Thomas Kuruvila 9758 1029
 Email: Thomas.Kuruvila@cam.org.au
 thomas@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

DEACON:

Rev. Peter Stringfellow 9758 1029
 Email: Peter.Stringfellow@cam.org.au

FAITH DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR

Carolyn Sombekke 9758 1029
 Email: csombekkesjb@gmail.com

PARISH OFFICE:**9758 1029**

Monday 9.45am – 3.45pm
 Tuesday to Friday 9.00am -3.00pm
 Secretaries: Charmaine Premaratne
 & Maree Wilson

Accountant: Sara Luk
 Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

SCHOOLS:

St John the Baptist 9758 1013
 Principal: Catherine Mason

St. Joseph's College 9758 2000
 Principal: Catherine Livingston

Mater Christi College 9754 6611
 Principal: Mary Fitz-Gerald

MASS TIMES POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Saturday 6:00 pm
Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am
 Tuesday 7.00 pm
 Wednesday & Thursday 9.15 am
 Friday 11.00 am

RECONCILIATION: People who identify within themselves the need for Confession should contact Fr Thomas directly 9758 1029

BAPTISMS:

Baptisms are to be postponed unless there is an urgent and pastoral need. Contact the Parish Office on: 9758 1029 or via email at: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au

WEDDINGS:

By appointment, 6 months' notice required. Saturdays or weekdays (not Sundays). Contact the Parish Office: on 9758 1029.

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
25th / 26th July, 2020

PRAYING FOR...**All who have died recently:**

Mrs Eleanor Katherine Phillips, known as "Nell".

Those who we remember at this time:

Margherita Capozzi, Ettore Luciano, Theresa Campion, Primo Scapin, Ronald William Herbert.

The sick: Wilma Neville, Ruby Samtoy, Fame Pelgrim, Elsie Johnson, Barbara Kenny, Anne Jayawardena, Lea Hartley, Cosimo Petracca, Giuseppina Zarro, Catherine Turner, Patricia Quinn, David Merton, Michael Byrne, Mary Edmunds, Bev McNamara, Anthony McNamara, Victoria Lewis, Nicole Moore, Peter Fairhurst, Hans Whitaker, Edward Osborne, Allida Serafin, Clive Geach.



SICK LIST – If you are aware that any names on the sick list need to be removed, please contact the Parish Office on 9758 1029.

KEEP IN TOUCH: We love to be able to keep in contact with you, especially during these unprecedented times of isolation. Please let us know your current email address or/ and phone number. We are happy to email the bulletin to you! Or check it on our new website!

You are dispensed from your Sunday obligation at this time. At present, Mass is not available but - **Try participating in a Mass online:** <https://stsimonsparish.com.au/mass-videos> or <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> or <https://holyfamilydoveton.org.au/> or **if you don't have a computer:** Mass can also be heard on **The Light FM radio station (89.9 FM) at 7am** each Sunday morning. Or **MASS ON T.V. C31 / 44 shows the 11am Sunday Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral** and will continue to be televised free to air. Or Mass for You at Home on Ch10 Sunday at 6am.

THANKSGIVING PAYMENTS ON-LINE: Can't make it to church because of the Covid 10 restrictions? The **CDFPAY FOR PARISHES** – ONLINE PAYMENT PORTAL is AVAILABLE NOW: **This site enables you to make quick and easy online thanksgiving** The Ferntree Gully Parish site is now live and can be found via this link [CDFpay for St John the Baptist Parish, Ferntree Gully](#) We thank all of you who have already used this wonderful tool, and hope many more will try it!

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK: Better

days are coming! Never regret a day in your life, good days give happiness, bad days give experience, worse days give lessons, and best days give memories. If you really want to feel joy, laugh! Laughter is not only the best medicine it is a powerful way to bring joy and lift your spirits.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK Just a reminder to all the kind volunteers who work within our Parish, in any capacity:- all are required to have



a current Working with Children check (WWCC) in place. If you have a current WWCC card, and have not presented a copy to the Parish office, please do so. If you do not have a card, and would like assistance in applying for one, please contact the Parish Office or go to the website at <https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/> to apply. Thank you for your help as we continue to work together to safeguard all children.

TIPS ON HOW TO STAY SAFE ONLINE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC With social isolation now in back in full force in most homes around the country, children and young people's online activities are increasing — for education, to socialise with friends and for entertainment. Of course, none of this would be possible without the internet and technology, and for that we're eternally grateful. However, at eSafety, we know first-hand the risks associated with children and young people spending more time online as well as keeping your sanity while trying to support them. The good news is we're here to help. <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents?>

NEW PODCAST: Brother Lawrence Yuen MGL has launched a new podcast series called "The Myth Pilgrim." It is a fortnightly podcast series that seeks to nourish the Catholic spiritual journey through our favourite fairytales and myths It'll be fun: theology alongside Disney, scripture alongside the Lord of the Rings, and saints alongside Narnia! the first two episodes have been launched!

Ep 1: Beauty and the Beast, and the God who breaks our curse.

Ep 2: Jesus, Jedi and the Hero's Journey You can listen to these and all future episodes via your preferred podcast app.: [Spotify](#) [Apple podcasts](#) or [Google podcasts](#), or If you're a Facebook user, you can follow the [page](#) here.

UPDATED COVID 19 GUIDELINES:FACE**COVERINGS – as of 11.59pm Wednesday 22 July**

2020 All people who live within metropolitan Melbourne or Mitchell Shire must wear a face covering whenever they leave their home, unless an exception applies. This means that for any permissible activity within a Parish location, as outlined in the following Archdiocesan Guidelines, face coverings must be worn. If you live in metropolitan Melbourne or Mitchell Shire and must travel outside of these areas, for necessary goods and services, medical care and caregiving, or study or work, you must continue to wear a face covering. This will include those attending funerals outside the metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire areas. Similarly, if you live outside metropolitan Melbourne or Mitchell Shire and must travel inside these areas, for necessary goods and services, medical care and caregiving, or study or work, you must wear a face covering. A face covering needs to cover both your nose and mouth, and can be a face mask or shield. There are exemptions, notably for children and those with specific medical conditions.

These are outlined in the following: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/updates/coronavirus-covid-19/face-coverings-1159pmwednesday-22-july>

PARISH THANKSGIVING/STEWARDSHIP If you require an annual statement for your contributions to our Thanksgiving / Stewardship Program, please contact the Parish Office via Email or phone to let us know, on Mondays/ Tuesdays between 10.30am-11am., if possible. Thank you for your generous support to this program.

COMBINED PARISH RAFFLE TICKETS all

unreturned books sold/unsold must be returned to the parish by Friday 7th August. We understand that the Victorian lockdowns does not permit anyone from going out for other than essential reasons. It would be appreciated if you have a book outstanding could you kindly please either post it into the parish at:19 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully 3156, or drop it into the letter box or parish office as you drive past to do shopping. We are liable by the Victorian Commission of Gambling and liquor Association to have all books returned. We thank you for your help in these unprecedented times.



MARY MACKILLOP FEAST DAY the ten year anniversary of Mary's canonisation will be celebrated on **August 8th, 2020.**More info next week.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR AREAS DESIGNATED HOT ZONES As of 11.59pm Wednesday 08 July 2020 the following continues to apply for places of worship until 19 August 2020, or otherwise directed. if you live in the Melbourne metropolitan area and the Shire of Mitchell you must stay at home. People may leave their home for four reasons:

- Shopping for food or other essential items
- To provide care giving, for compassionate reasons or to seek medical treatment
- For exercise (outdoor exercise only, with only one other person or members of your household)
- Work or study, only if you cannot work or study from home

PLEASE NOTE: The Government has indicated that police patrols will be present in the Hot Zone Postcode areas to restrict travel to the four reasons listed above Additional restrictions have also been put in place:

- Weddings in a restricted zones will be limited to 5 people (the couple, two witnesses and the celebrant).
- Baptisms in a restricted zone are to be postponed, unless there is an urgent and grave pastoral need. (Can. 857; 860).
- Funerals held in a restricted zone will be limited to 10 people plus those required to conduct the funeral.
- A wedding or funeral held in a private residence outside of a restricted postcode will be limited to five visitors, plus the celebrant.
- Religious services and private worship will need to be streamed online as places of worship will be closed in restricted postcodes except to hold weddings, funerals or public services such as foodbanks.

- For those liturgies permitted above, all density, number and hygiene regulations must be adhered to, including the recording of participant contact details.

Except for the exemptions noted regarding Weddings and Funerals, all public Masses,

Liturgies and communal devotions (whether indoors or outdoors) are temporarily suspended until 19 August 2020, or until further notice. Also affected by this closure are church buildings, adoration chapels and other church buildings used for public prayer and religious services. Priests may celebrate Mass privately in a closed church, including for the purposes of live streaming. In doing so all precautions such as physical distancing and hygiene measures must be modelled and met. Masses in family homes or other such private or domestic locations are not permitted until further notice. All other requirements for density, numbers and hygiene may be found in the General Guidelines as listed below. It is recommended that you keep informed through the Department of Health and Human Services website for varying updates: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/sites>

We ask for your continued prayers for everyone – and that we can all approach these difficult times in respectful and compassionate ways.

SPRING IS COMING! Perhaps you have some gardening tips or ideas that you



could share to brighten our world and our gardens! Send us an email with your suggestions, and we will try to include them in next weeks ' bulletin!

