



**Please pray for:** Frank & Alice May Purcell (deceased)

**Mass Times: Sun 26th July 2020 – Seventeenth Sun, Ord Time (A)**

Sunday, 26 Jul	<b>10.30 am</b>	Solemn Mass
Sunday, 26 Jul	<b>6.00 pm</b>	Young Adults Mass
Monday, 27 Jul	<b>12.35 pm</b>	Monday – Week 17, Ord Time
Tuesday, 28 Jul	<b>12.35 pm</b>	Tuesday – Week 17, Ord Time
Wednesday, 29 Jul	<b>12.35 pm</b>	St Martha (Memorial)
Thursday, 30 Jul	<b>12.35 pm</b>	St Peter Chrysologus, bishop (Opt)
Friday, 31 Jul	<b>12.35 pm</b>	St Ignatius of Loyola, priest (Mem)
Saturday, 01 Aug	<b>No Mass</b>	St Alphonsus Liguori, bishop (Mem)



**Regular Confession Times:**

Monday to Friday: 11.45 am – 12.30 pm (before 12.35 pm Mass)  
Sunday: 5.30 pm (before 6.00 pm Mass)

**The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding Office**



If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Archdiocese of Sydney we invite you to contact us. We will listen to you respectfully, offer support and discuss the options you have available to you. Please contact the **Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office** on ph 02 9390 5812.



A VOCATION VIEW: 'Those who carry God in their hearts bear heaven with them wherever they go.' *Saint Ignatius of Loyola*

**\*Weekly Envelopes for FY2021 now in the church – if you could collect your envelope pack it would be appreciated – many thanks \*FY2020 Planned Giving tax statements have been posted**

**Streaming of Sunday Mass – from St Benedict's Church – 6pm – Here is the link to this Sunday's Mass – 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time (26th July 2020) – <https://youtu.be/X6cbksdGVUQ>**

**Calling for Mass Registration Volunteers – 10.30am & 6pm Mass** As everyone would be aware, it is a requirement that all parishioners be registered for Mass before entering the church. We are currently short of volunteers to register parishioners at the door (**especially at 10.30am Mass**) and would be grateful for help. If you can volunteer for this important task, please contact Julie in the parish office on 8204 4378 or [enquiries@stbenedicts.org.au](mailto:enquiries@stbenedicts.org.au) who will explain what is involved. Many thanks.

**Feast of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop – Saturday 8th August – Celebrations Online this year**

The Sisters of St Joseph have been in touch to let us know the Feast of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop will be an online celebration this year. Mass in the Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel will be *Live-Streamed* at 10am on Saturday 8th August 2020. The streaming details will be posted on their website – [www.marymackillopplace.mmp.org.au](http://www.marymackillopplace.mmp.org.au) The Sisters are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to Mary MacKillop Place for next year's feast in August 2021 and in the meantime, would like to leave us with some of Mary's words – 'God is good and has brought light and help when all was very dark.' 1899

**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:**

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

**Saint Martha** – Martha was the sister of Mary and Lazarus who received the Lord with hospitality into their home in Bethany, not far from Jerusalem. Martha diligently waited on the Lord and with expectant faith beseeched the return of her brother from the dead.

**Saint Peter Chrysologus** – called Chrysologus ('golden worded') because of his eloquence, Peter was born near Ravenna in Italy in 380. Elected bishop of Ravenna, he was an effective, dedicated pastoral leader, especially noted for his preaching. About 180 of his sermons still exist. He died in 451.

**Saint Ignatius of Loyola** – Ignatius, who has had a profound influence on Catholic life, was born at Loyola in the Basque area of Spain in 1491. He became a soldier and was wounded in battle. Ignatius turned to Christ during his long recovery. A strong and holy organiser, Ignatius founded the Society of Jesus at Paris in 1534. The Jesuits effectively worked for Church renewal, especially in the missions and in Catholic education. The Spiritual Exercises Ignatius developed helped many others to conversion. Ignatius showed unconditional loyalty to the pope. He died in 1556 and was canonised in 1622.

**Saint Alphonsus Liguori** – was born near Naples in 1696. Alphonsus earned degrees in civil and canon law. He gave up law to become a priest – an apostle to the poor, an untiring preacher and writer, a merciful confessor. Alphonsus founded the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists) to evangelise the poor. He was an outstanding moral theologian and bishop who worked unceasingly and patiently through many trials. In 1950 he was named patron of moral theologians. Saint Alphonsus was also a talented poet, artist and musician. He lived a long life and died in 1787.

**Update on St Benedict's Bushfire and Drought Appeal disbursements**

We have recently finished disbursing the donations to the Bushfire and Drought Appeal held in the parish earlier in the year (following 2 of 3 donation websites being down in recent months) and have made the following donations:

- \$360 to *Buy a Bale* enabling the purchase of 18 small bales of hay for drought affected farmers
- \$360 to Shoalhaven City Council's Mayor's Relief Fund, set up by Mayor Amanda Findley, for the Shoalhaven councillors to individually visit and assess the needs of people who lost homes and property and tradespeople and small businesses who lost tools of trade in the bushfires
- \$360 to the Koala Hospital at Port Macquarie who continue their care of injured koalas. The Koala Hospital recently lost *LINR Paul* who looked to be recovering from his bushfire injuries but suddenly passed away. Sue-Ellen who works at the Koala Hospital said the whole team was devastated to lose *LINR Paul*. \*The Hospital has recently started a Wild Breeding program to raise koalas and release them into the wild, once they are strong enough to fend for themselves, in the hope of significantly boosting koala numbers in NSW and eventually moving away from the endangered position they are currently edging toward. Our donation and all others at this time will be going toward the *Wild Breeding Program*.

Thank you so much to everyone for your donations – it is a wonderful example of how a little help can do a lot. ☺ jw

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.

*Shorter form 13:44-46.*

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# Reflections on the Gospel



# THE SAVING WORD

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

26 JULY 2020

## GLIMPSING THE KINGDOM

The two little parables, that of the Treasure Discovered in the Field and the Pearl of Great Price, both depict a situation where a person finds something that they dearly want to possess. In one, a poor day-laborer comes across treasure buried in a field – an unimaginable windfall! In the other, a merchant recognises something he has been searching for all his business life: the perfect pearl!

Neither, however, is able to get hold of what they have discovered immediately. There is a gap between finding and possessing. But already the mere sight of what each have found frees them to 'sell all' so that they can finally possess it.

Jesus told the twin parables to illustrate a key feature of the Kingdom of Heaven. It is not something we possess right now; only in the future will it be fully realised in the world and in human lives. But those who have caught a glimpse of it from Jesus know that they have come upon a treasure that will fulfil their deepest desires. The joy of the discovery puts all other attractions in second place. They gain the freedom to 'sell all' in order, one day, to obtain what they have seen.

Taken together, the parables contain a whole Christian spirituality – perhaps best illustrated in the life of St Francis of Assisi. His commitment to radical poverty was not something imposed on him. It flowed in complete freedom from the 'treasure' of God's love that he, in supreme degree, had glimpsed.

**Brendan Byrne, SJ**

## FIRST READING

1 Kings 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.

**RESP 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.**



## 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.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

cf. 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!**