



# Saint Mary MacKillop Catholic Parish

Birkdale · Thorneside · Wellington Point

(This Parish is Child Safety Aware and also complies with Australian Privacy Laws)



## 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A - 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020

### **In search of treasure....**

There is a story from the Desert Fathers about a young monk who asked one of the old monks why it was that so many people came out to the desert to seek God and yet most of them gave up after a short time and returned to their lives in the city. The old monk told him, "Last evening my dog saw a rabbit running for cover among the bushes of the desert and he began to chase the rabbit, barking loudly. Soon other dogs joined in the chase, barking and running. They ran a great distance and alerted many other dogs. Soon the wilderness was echoing the sounds of their pursuit but the chase went on into the night. After a little while, many of the dogs grew tired and dropped out. A few chased the rabbit until the night was nearly spent. By morning, only my dog continued the hunt. "Do you understand what I have told you?" the old man said. "No," replied the young monk. "It is simple," said the old monk, "my dog saw the rabbit."

In this weekend's Gospel Jesus tells a parable about a man who, one day in the market place, saw the pearl of great price. The merchant understood at once the value of the commodity before him and he sacrificed everything to obtain it. For much of the time, we are searching for false treasures, mainly money, status and pleasure. For much of the time we are locked into a past full of nostalgia or regrets, or focused on future desires, fears or anxieties. Meanwhile the present passes us by and the treasure is still not discovered and the really valuable pearl is never found.

Jesus wants us to know that the Kingdom of God is worth sacrificing all we have. He offers us God's Kingdom, a unique pearl of the greatest price. The "treasures" and "pearls" of everlasting value are the things of God. In order to attain such treasure, we must set aside our own interests, ambitions and agendas and thus free ourselves to embrace the lasting values of compassion, love and mercy of God which reconciles us to Himself. This parable also reminds us that the most precious things in life are to know God and to live according to the Gospel.

What the parables really teach us is that, when one discovers Jesus and His vision of life, everything else becomes secondary. That is what St. Paul meant when he said: "I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as refuse, in order that I may gain Christ" (Phil 3:8), and again "For me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Phil 2:21). To have a personal experience of Christ and personal relationship with Him - in other words, to have made Christ's view of life our own - is the most precious thing in the world.

Blessings,

*Fr. Dantus Thottathil.*

### ***This Week's Readings:***

**First Reading:** 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12 – *You have asked for wisdom.*

**Psalm Response:** Lord you have the words of everlasting life.

**(Alternative Psalm Response if spoken):** Lord, I love your commands.

**Second Reading:** Rom 8:28-30 – *He predestined us to become true images of his Son.*

### **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:** Matt 13: 44-52 – *He sells everything he owns to buy the field.*



### **QUOTE OF THE DAY:**

**The best things in life  
are mostly beyond  
your eyesight.  
They're most often felt  
form the heart.**

### **Next week's Readings**

**First:** Isa 55:1-3

**Second:** Rom 8:35, 37-39

**Gospel:** Matt 14:13-21

**Mass Times:** Saturday 6:15pm & Sunday 8:00am (limited to 80 people)

**Reconciliation:** By appointment only

**Parish Office Hours:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9:00am to 2:00pm.

**Parish Council Members:** Chris Mahoney, Therese Evans, Cathy McGrath, Lorraine Kumar, John Spillane

**Pastor:** Fr Dantus Thottathil [thottathild@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:thottathild@bne.catholic.net.au)

**Associate Pastor:** Fr Prem Rethnamony

12 Hardy Rd, Birkdale Q 4159 ☎ 3822 2139 Fax 3822 4060.

[birkmack@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:birkmack@bne.catholic.net.au) [www.stmarymackillopparish.org.au](http://www.stmarymackillopparish.org.au)

Emergency Contact: 3207 4566

**Safeguarding Officer:** Lisa Knight ☎ 3822 2139

**STOPLINE Contact:** [A0B@stoline.com.au](mailto:A0B@stoline.com.au)

### **A VOCATION VIEW:**

Finding our vocation in life is like finding a buried treasure.

We will do whatever we have to in order to be able to possess it. Finding the treasure is a gift, possessing it is our vocation.

Vocation Brisbane. P: (07) 3336 9392 E: [vocation@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:vocation@bne.catholic.net.au)

### **Parish Primary School**

Principal: Mr John Spillane

10 Hardy Rd, Birkdale Q 4159

☎ 3822 5500 Fax 3822 5690

[pbirkdale@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:pbirkdale@bne.catholic.edu.au)

[www.marymackillop.qld.edu.au](http://www.marymackillop.qld.edu.au)

**Please be mindful of our sick & all who care for them:** Tony Dickinson, Elizabeth Smit, Pat Cochrane, Kevin Kranz, Patricia Briscoe, Alicia Black, Tessa Gorogo, Mick Gauci, Paul McKean, Geoffrey Whall, Kevin Harrop, Judy Mullan, Charles Lilley, Ann Brown, Sally Legarda, Gemma Paxman, James Thomas, Cindy Cummins, John Bacon, Winifred Linton, Jodie Bromiley, Casey Whitby, Trish Swan, Ian Splatt, Jan Hurst, Steven West, Ava Loda, Joan Thorpe, Patricia Haines, Belinda Wheeler, Cely Salisbury, The Bade Family, Carol Parker, Brian Crimmins, Brian Johnston, Medi Camelli, Hazel Foster, Dan Mullan, Stana Matic, Page Brosnan, Dot Abrahams, Amelia Ramsay, Jeanette Moore, Nola Murphy, Christiana Becker, Cathy Leane, Pauline McNamee, Pat Crimmins, Gina Mather.

**May God embrace all who have recently died:** Ann Duran, Mona Quantock, Angelina Grasso, Jack Cochrane, Dolour Barnes, Peter O'Donnell.

**Anniversaries & Remembrances July:** baby Belle Woolfe, Cliff Friswell, Kathleen Miles, Roy Longwill, Thomas Czapkowski, Kerry McPeake, Mary Baldacchino, Margaret Adkins, Alice Webster, Charles McCourt, Michael Mossop, Emilia Stephenson, Dulcie Perera, Nancy Hogan, Harry Elliott, Trevor Myatt, Norah Butler, Antonio Giavedoni, Peter Trevethan, Mick McLain, George Amown, Fre Celestno, Marie Welsh, Marco Peressini, Sr Mary Robinson OSU, Nugget and Thelma Sweeney, Val Tranter, Alex Crimmins, Rose Mills, Anton Szwajczak, Ezilda Souza, Patricia Logan, Patricia Stevens, Francesca De Souza, Peggy Myatt, Noreen McGrath, Isabel Henry, Bart Szwajczak, Eileen Scanlan, Sydney Stone, Ranier Daboin, Fr Gerry Ronayne, Robert Bae, Gino Lippi, Kannika Bagster, Concetta Ragonesi, Doris Sharpe, Peg Knight, William Daley, Harry Kirkman, Jose Mangana.

**Please record any further names in the Anniversaries & Remembrance Diary at the Welcome Desk**

Roster	Readers		Music
1st & 2nd August	6:15pm (1st) Therese E (2nd) John E (POF) John E	8:00am (1st) Megan B (2nd) Maeghan N (POF) Maeghan N	6:15pm Gp CD 8:00am Gp 3
			<b>Powerpoint</b> 6:15pm Alan B 8:00am Chris M

**Mass Celebrations** In line with the Government's social distancing guidelines, we are allowed a maximum of **80 people in attendance** at each Mass. We have set up an online system to manage Mass registrations. Please visit the following website to register for the Mass you wish to attend. If you are unable to utilise this online system please call the parish office to register.

Parish Mass on Saturdays at 6:15pm - Your event URL is <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parish-mass-saturday-tickets-109262537190>

Parish Mass on Sundays at 8:00am - Your event URL is <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parish-mass-sunday-tickets-109263853126>

People who attend will need to adhere to the following guidelines:-

**You must NOT**

- have been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 or have a fever or symptoms of a respiratory infection such as a cough, sore throat or shortness of breath

**When you arrive at Mass you must**

- maintain a distance of 1.5 metres between people and refrain from handshaking and hugging
- clean your hands with the alcohol-based hand rub provided when you enter and leave the Church.
- Follow instructions given by the designated Marshal at the entrance to the Church
- Sit with at least 3 vacant chairs between non-family members (family groups may sit next to each other)

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation adhering to the restrictions that are currently in place to keep our parishioners safe and keep our Church open.

**Keep in touch with your parish** We are here to support you. If you or someone you know needs pastoral care, help to stay connected with the parish community or more information about sacraments please contact the parish office. The Parish Office is open on **Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays (excluding Public Holidays) between 9:00am and 1:00pm**. The preferred contact method is by phone 3822 2139 or email [birkmmack@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:birkmmack@bne.catholic.net.au). If you require a priest IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY ONLY please phone 3396 0742

**Feast Day** the decision has been made to not go ahead with the usual Parish Feast Day Celebrations due to the restrictions currently in place for COVID - 19. We will still have a special Mass on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August with a special liturgy to honour our Patron but we will not be having the usual fanfare afterwards (sausage sizzle, jumping castle, drinks etc). Once restrictions have been lifted we will also celebrate the 25 year Anniversary of our Church.

**HeartFIT** is back Next Wednesday 22 July. Mature Age Fitness - Now is a great time to resume or begin!! It NEVER too late, age strongly, live life to the full. **Wednesday's 7:30am-8:30. St. Mary McKillop Parish Hall.** Exercise will renew your body & mind at any age. Improve your strength, balance, confidence & your mood. Exercise at your level - relaxed, friendly & safe environment & a whole lot of FUN while you improve your health. Interested but have a question? Call Bruce 0408740543.

**17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**First Reading: A reading from the first book of the 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.'

**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: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

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.'