



THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF ROSE BAY AND DOVER HEIGHTS



Issue 12

17th Sunday

30 July 2017



Reflection



All of today's parables are unique to Matthew. They seem to be a unity. The shorter ones of the treasure and the fine pearl speak clearly about the fact that the disciple must give up everything he owns if he wishes to secure entry to the Kingdom. The choice is a joyful one for he has found the way, albeit narrow, to eternal life. "

When combined with the scene of separating the fish and throwing away the useless ones, the message becomes broader: hearing Jesus' radical words and not doing them has eternal consequences! The remorse of those who have failed to do so is a chilling note on which to end the parables, a note that was heard in the "Lord, Lord" at the end of the Sermon on the Mount and will be heard again at the end of the judgment.

The challenging radicality of this final clutch of parables might be accounted for by the fact that they are seemingly addressed specifically to his disciples. The Lucan Jesus strikes the same note when he says, "Every one to whom much is given, of him will much be required." And, "Anyone who has ears let him hear!"

St Ignatius of Loyola—Feast Day 31st July

St Ignatius of Loyola is the founding father of the Jesuits, also known as the Society of Jesus. He was born in 1491 at Loyola in the north of Spain, of a courtly family, St Ignatius became a soldier, but during convalescence from a wound he was converted to a deep love of Christ, and a missionary sense. He studied theology in Paris. With companions, he formed the Society of Jesus, to resist the Protestant Reformation, to reform the Church from within, and to educate the young in religion. He died in 1556, at Rome.

Prayer of St Ignatius of Loyola:

Father, you gave Saint Ignatius of Loyola to your Church to bring greater glory to your name. May we follow his example on earth and share the crown of life in heaven. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Let Us Pray For...

The Sick: Brian Oong, Dorothy Cambell, Barbara Leslie, Bernice Miles, Ross Clifton, Michelle Jones, Paddy Nolan, Janaya Zohs, Georgia Cleaici, Fr Brian Yates, Natalie Connors, Elaine Oong, Harry Vanda, Alan Backman, John Johnson, Mary Marando, Tom Clark, Fabien Drif, Sarah Walke, Renata, Richard Hughes.

The Deceased: Beryl Yip, Sister Pam Corser, Victor Princeas, Dorothy D'Mestre, Mary Dunne, Joan Quinn, Pamela Shiels, John Fenech, Ethell Purcell, Patricia Scharrer, John Joseph Cannon, Cezat and Teofila Buer, Maria Lydia Fretas, Monsignor John Walsh, Leith Myerson, Fritz Shroader, Richard Charles Leo Carroll, John Chaplian, Norman and Josephine Slattery, Nell Moylan, John Fenech, Anne Pohlmann, Mark McGowen, Sonya Lineham, Marie Turnbull, Adrian Lee.



Weekly Liturgies

Sunday Mass
St Mary Magdalene: 8am, 10am, 6pm
St Therese (Sat night vigil): 5pm
Weekday Mass
St Mary Magdalene, Rose Bay: Tue-Fri 9am
Confession
Tues-Fri after 9am Mass (or by appointment)
Eucharistic Adoration
Friday 8:30am-9am
Rosary after 9am Mass.

St Mary Magdalene, 835 New South Head Rd, Rose Bay NSW : ABN - 78134 879 965
St Therese, Cnr, Napier St and Dover Rd, Dover Heights NSW : ABN - 96464 703 191

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Message From Pope Francis

The brief similes proposed in today's liturgy conclude the chapter of the Gospel of Matthew dedicated to the parables of the Kingdom of God. Among these are two small masterpieces: the parables of the treasure hidden in the field and of the pearl of great value. They tell us that the discovery of the Kingdom of God can happen suddenly like the farmer, or after a long search, like the pearl merchant. Yet, in each case, the point is that the treasure and the pearl are worth more than all other possessions; and therefore when the farmer and the merchant discover them, they give up everything else in order to obtain them. They do not need to rationalise or think about it or reflect: they immediately perceive the incomparable value of what they've found and they are prepared to lose everything in order to have it.

This is how it is with the Kingdom of God: 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 aspirations. And it really is like this: those who know Jesus, encounter him personally, are captivated, attracted by so much goodness, so much truth, so much beauty, and all with great humility and simplicity. To seek Jesus, to find Jesus: this is the great treasure!

Many people, many saints, reading the gospel with an open heart, have been so struck by Jesus that they convert to him. Let us think of St Francis of Assisi: he was already a Christian, though a "rosewater" Christian. When he read the gospel, in that decisive moment of his youth, he encountered Jesus and discovered the Kingdom of God; with this, all his dreams of worldly glory vanished. The gospel allows you to know the real Jesus, it lets you know the living Jesus; it speaks to your heart and changes your life. And then yes, you leave it all. You can effectively change lifestyles, or continue to do what you did before but you are someone else, you are reborn: you have found what gives meaning, what gives flavour, what gives light to all things, even to toil, even to suffering, and even to death.

Read the gospel. Read the gospel. To read a passage of the gospel every day; and to carry a little gospel with us, in our pocket, in a purse, in some way, to keep it at hand. And there, reading a passage, we will find Jesus. Everything takes on meaning when you find your treasure there, in the gospel. Jesus calls it "the Kingdom of God", that is to say, God who reigns in your life, in our life; God who is love, peace and joy in every man and in all men. This is what God wants and it is why Jesus gave himself up to death on the cross, to free us from the power of darkness and to move us to the kingdom of life, of beauty, of goodness and of joy. To read the gospel is to find Jesus and to have this Christian joy, which is a gift of the Holy Spirit.

Dear brothers and sisters, the joy of finding the treasure of the Kingdom of God shines through, it's visible. The Christian cannot keep his faith hidden, because it shines through in every word, in every deed, even the most simple and mundane: the love that God has given through Jesus shines through.

St Mary Magdalene Roster—6th August

6th August	8am	10am	6pm
Welcomer	Elizabeth Moore		
Info Desk		Isabella Zucco	
1st Reader	Michael Aaron	Lucille Gravina	Thomas Jones
2nd Reader	Danuta Aaron	Stuart Green	Margaret Douglas
Eucharistic Minister	Carmen Kapfenstein	Lucille Gravina	
	Barrie Lum	Narelle Hills	
Acolyte/Altar Servers	Paul, John, Saxon/Anthony Williams	Dave/Ella & Abby Adetunji	

St Therese, Dover Heights Roster—5th August

Commentator— Marie Manche
First Reader— Mary Walsh
Second Reader— Amelia Scarf
Acolyte/Senior Server— Gabrielle Scarf

Announcements



CATHOLICCARE..... You can help refugee families fleeing war by donating to our 2017 EOFY Appeal. Call us on 131819 or visit our website at www.catholiccare.org. CatholicCare Sydney: Helping families live and thrive



Valuing dignity
Strengthening families
Connecting communities



What does help us bring
generosity to other people's lives
by their weekly visits. To find out
more, call us on 13 18 19.

Australian Catholic Youth Festival This 3-Day festival will be held in Sydney 7-9 December 2017. The event will attract 15,000 young people and is for young people aged Year 9 to 30 years. It's a Catholic Festival a bit like World Youth Day! We look forward to the whole Parish Community being involved. For more information, see our website www.acyf.org.au

Over the next few weeks, there will be envelopes available in the foyer of the Church for the 'Vinnies Winter Appeal'. Your generosity is much appreciated!
Planned giving envelopes are now available at the Church door for the next calendar year.
Thank you to everyone who helped, donated and participated in last Sunday's feast day liturgies and morning tea. May St Mary Magdalene intercede for us always!