



Gospel Mt 13:44-52
(or shorter form Mt 13:44-46)

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.'

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

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 incommunicado to communion by learning and practising the language of Heaven.

mtate@bigpond.com

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the Lectionary for the Mass ©1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc.(ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts, from *The Psalms, A New Translation*, ©1963 by The Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the *Jerusalem Bible*, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.
 © 2017 Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd
 All use must be in accordance with your user licensing agreement.

The Living Word

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

30 July 2023

First Reading 1 Kgs 3:5.7-12

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.'

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. (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

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.

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!



Catholic Parish of St Mary Queen of Heaven Georges Hall

Parish Priest: Rev. Peter Krigovsky
Secretary: Mrs. Zenna Azar (Tuesday 9.30am—5.30pm)
Address: 15 Georges Cres, Georges Hall NSW 2198 **Telephone:** 9727 3759
Website: <http://www.smgh.org.au> **Email:** parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com
Facebook: fb.me/smgh2 **Streaming:** <https://cutt.ly/StMarys>

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Georges Hall

God and us Together

Principal: Mrs Monica Palmer **Website:** www.stmgeorghall.syd.catholic.edu.au
School Tel: 9727 0000 **School email:** info@stmgeorghall.catholic.edu.au



SUNDAY, AUGUST 20 OUR PARISH FEAST DAY THE QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY SPECIAL 10AM FEAST DAY MASS

FAMILY PICNIC FOLLOWS: BBQ SIZZLE, LEBANESE AND VIETNAMESE FOOD, COFFEE, TEA, CORDIAL, (DESSERTS AND/OR SALADS—BRING A PLATE TO SHARE).

THIS WILL BE A COMBINED ENGLISH AND VIETNAMESE AND SCHOOL COMMUNITY CELEBRATION. ALL WELCOME.

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO 8AM MASS ON THAT DAY.

MASS TIMES (English):
 Vigil Mass 5 pm (Saturday)
 Sunday 8.00 am & 10.00 am
 Weekdays: Wednesday 6 pm
 Mon. Tue. Thu. Fri. Sat. 9.00 am

VIETNAMESE MASS
 Vigil Mass 6.30 pm (Saturday)
 Sunday 5.30pm

RECONCILIATION
 Saturday 4.30pm-4.55pm
 or anytime on request

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
 Wednesday 5.00pm—6.00pm
 Friday after Mass 9am-10.30am

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK
 Offered to those in need on
 1st Tuesday at 9.00am Mass

Baptisms: Sunday 11.00am
 Bookings are necessary

Children first Sacraments:
 Please contact Elaine Nehme email:
nehme.elaine@yahoo.com.au

Parish site maintenance:
 John Impala Phone TBA
 Ivan Leskur Phone TBA

Parish Pastoral Council:
 Bernie Freeburn, Veronica Dening,
 Elaine Nehme, Zenna Azar,
 Paul Abdul Ahad, Natalie Goetz,
 Monica Palmer, Linh Bui,
 Jannette Samawi, Grace Mokdassi

Finance Committee:
 Bernie Freeburn, Michael Anderson,
 Ted Goetz, Veronica Dening, Eileen Stevenson

Golden oldies:
 Lorraine Impala

St Vincent de Paul:
 Mary Scott

Scripture:
 Lorraine Corkeron

Music Ministry: TBA

Youth Ministry: TBA

HOSPITALITY - SUNDAY 6TH AUGUST 2023

Next weekend hospitality will be served after 8am and 10am Sunday masses. Everyone is invited to bring a plate of food to share, and to stay for a cuppa, a bite to eat and a chance to have a chat.

WORLD YOUTH DAY PARISH SUPPORT

One of our very own young parishioners, Jesse Azar, is currently on pilgrimage for World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal. Please keep Jesse in your prayers, for her safety and a spiritual experience which will help Jesse to grow in her faith.



'MARY AROSE AND WENT WITH HASTE'
 LUKE 1:39

CWF APPEAL – 5&6 AUGUST – a CWF APPEAL -

will be held on 5 & 6 August and we need your help to keep alive the vital ministries of the Church in service to those who need it most. In hospitals, churches, schools, communities and families, your donation is making our world a loving, caring and compassionate place. Please give generously - your tax-deductible donation changes lives. You can also donate at: www.ourfaithworks/give-to-cwf or you can use the envelopes which will be available next week.



NEW CHURCH ITEMS ACQUIRED Eight new vestments, Thurible + stand, six candlesticks were added recently to our church items collection. We will hold a special blessing of these items this weekend.

OPPORTUNITY TO DONATE At our Parish Pastoral Council Meeting a decision was made that the requests to honour our founding parishioners are best fulfilled through an “active” choice rather than a “passive” choice, which would inevitably lead to divisions and complaints (Why him and not her). An “active” choice is through a donation for a church item which would bear the name of the person honoured. All the new items listed above are available for a donation. The inscription such as “Please pray for ...” or similar will be sown on the vestments or inscribed on the candlesticks, thurible or thurible stand. The items will be reserved for donation on first come first serve basis. The life expectancy of a vestment is up to 20 years, candlesticks 100+ years, Thurible 10+ years, Thurible stand 100+ years. The candlesticks are offered on

individual basis, which means that each candlestick will have an inscription. Of course the reason for a donation does not have to be only honouring and remembering of a founding parishioner, but also could be remembering of any of your deceased loved ones, or remembering the donor him/herself. The “remembering” refers to the celebration of the Sacrifice of the Holy Mass for the repose of the soul of the deceased or blessing for the living. Each Sunday the Parish Priest celebrates one Mass for the welfare of the parishioners living and dead including all donors. Please see Fr. Peter for the cost and/or reservation of the items.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK to those in need is offered during the Mass on 1st Tuesday of each month. Please consider to bring your shut-in loved ones to this Mass.

THE FRIENDSHIP GROUP meets in the Emmaus room on the first Tuesday of the month except in school holidays from 10 am to 1pm. Entry is through the school office. Come for a chat, meet new friends, play cards and games, or bring your knitting or sewing. Morning tea is provided just bring your cup. For more information ring Pauline on 97910098.

ADORATION AND BENEDICTION is available on Wednesdays from 5-5.55pm prior to the 6pm evening Mass and on Fridays from 9.30-10.30am after the 9am Mass.

MINISTRIES AT ST MARY'S - Our Parish is blessedly growing in number and with this growth comes opportunity for parishioners to join our volunteer team to assist with various ministries. Please contact the Parish office if you can share your time and talents with our Church.

SAFEGUARDING OUR PARISH - Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding Office at 93905810 or Email: safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Our parish has a folder with Safeguarding information in the church for parishioners to view. Check out the latest safeguarding newsletter. A link to the Archdiocese's Child Safeguarding Policy is available from the homepage of our parish website and on display in the folder. Enquiries: Veronica via email: parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com

COVID-19 is still around, Please use sanitiser when you enter the church.

ADDITIONAL NOTICES If you are interested in any diocesan events, please collect a copy of additional bulletin at the back of the church.

PARISH CENTRE Last Friday our architect visited our parish to visualize and assess the feasibility of the proposed changes. The existing surveying data from the time when the school was built is not sufficient for our project and a new surveyor will be hired to update the data. A town planner will also be hired to answer some critical questions regarding the new building line boundaries and the second floor. The architect estimated both tasks could be completed in 4 to 8 weeks.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES The new envelopes have been received and are available at the back of the church. We invite all parishioners that would like to be included in the planned giving register to contact the Parish office to arrange a box of envelopes. Up to 30% of your Planned Giving is tax deductible. Thank you for your

contributions which are absolutely necessary for keeping our church doors open. May God reward you hundredfold.

2023 FIRST RECONCILIATION

Lessons continue this week and are held on Mondays at 6pm and Tuesdays at 6:30pm. All children and at least one parent must attend all four lessons – you don't have to attend the same day each week.

Sacrament Dates:
 Wed 16/8, Thurs 17/8, Fri 18/8
 All enquiries via email:
nehme.elaine@yahoo.com.au
 We invite you to keep these children in your prayers as they prepare for this sacrament.

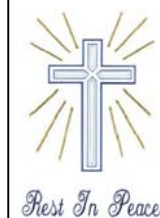
RECONCILIATION

PREPARATION LESSONS This year we have a large group of children preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is therefore very important that everyone attending is at their best behavior. Parents, please supervise your child so as to maintain maximum silence and thus help our voluntary Sacramental Teachers to do their duty with joy and in peace. Thank you for your understanding.



Please Remember In Your Prayers Our Sick

Beryl Moran, Paul Tonkli, Daniel Clarke, Warren Clarke, Azelia Donati, Eileen Ellery, Paul Evans, Kerry Gibbons, Kathleen Gibson, Christine Hughes, Sue James, Barbara Kains, Daniel Matesic, Phillip Nehme, David Sanders, Mary Strambio, Tony Strambio, Cornelius Van Baardwyk



Let us Pray For All Those Who Have Died

Jamilie Zaouk, Eddie Counihan, Jean Graham, Fr. Ignatius McNamara, Sam Cilia, Trevor Newton, Irma (Ziff) Buoro, Anna Nguyen, Anna Maria & Remo Raffin, Wilson & Ursula Barrett

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.
 May they rest in peace. Amen.*