

Breaking Open the Word

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.



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COMMUNION WITH GOD

Today we continue to hear from the central chapter in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus' parable teaching about the kingdom of God. Over the past Sundays we have been hearing parables concerned with sowed seed (15th Sunday) and the mystery of the dandelion sown among the wheat (last Sunday). Today we hear that the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, a common banking technique by peasant farmers to protect their most valuable possessions. Someone discovers this treasure; hides it again and then sells every possession to buy the field and claim the treasure. Between the discovery and the purchase, the finder goes off "happy". The overwhelming joy of the discovery leads the merchant to sell everything to buy the field. This is an image of the disciple, of us, in discovering that the true encounter with God, the experience of the kingdom, is most precious. Nothing can substitute it.

The second parable that concludes today's Gospel is like the first. It is about a merchant's search for valuable pearls and, in finding one, sells everything to have the pearl. In the ancient world, in the time of Jesus and Matthew, the pearl represented purity, beauty, power, wealth, even divinity. The discovery of the pearl by the parable's merchant leads, as in the first parable, to the selling of everything possessed to gain the pearl.

Both parables speak into our desire for ultimate and intimate communion with the God revealed through Jesus. When we experience such communion, we realise how valuable it is; nothing can compare to it. Intimate communion with God cannot be bought nor can anything else in human existence substitute for it. This communion is deepened in every celebration of the Eucharist.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

26 July 2026

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!

GOSPEL

Mt 13:44-52

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



ST PETER CHANEL CATHOLIC PARISH

Under the Pastoral Care of the Claretian Missionaries

848 Ballarat Road, Deer Park 3023

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Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:00am - 3:00pm



ADORATION CHAPEL

"The Master is here and wants to see you" John 11:28

Adorers are needed for these hours:

Sunday: 3pm; 4pm

Monday: 10am

Tuesday: 3pm

Thursday: 10pm

Saturday: 7am; 1pm

Contact: Lucy Sgro 0424056823

Confirmation. Let us pray for students from State Schools who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation next Saturday during the 7pm mass.
Presider: Bishop Martin Ashe, D.D.

Come and Join. SPC Bible Study
SPC Evangelisation Team would like to invite you to an online Bible study. Every Wednesday, 7:45pm
Contact Hilda 0450 006 316.

SPC Bible study for SPC Youth and SPC Young Adults will be launched soon. We will keep you posted. If interested, please contact the Parish office 03 93633132 or Email: deerpark@cam.org.au

Healing mass Sunday, 2 August 2026.
Praise and Worship at 2:30pm followed by Healing mass at 3:00pm. All welcome
Contact: Hilda 0450 006 316.

DEATH REMEMBRANCE: Joseph Grima, Juse N.J., Lorraine Margaret Rowles, Jose Paulo Lay, Teresa Maria Jong, Renato Santos, Sergel Marie Gauran, Stella Daniels, Roko, Anica Koprivanac, Stephen Stolik, Marinton Abdilla, Maria & John Debono, Maria & Francisco Grima, Maria Camilleri, Conchita Becina, Dagsadas family, Annamma George, Katalin Hegedus, Juanito, Leonila, Rafael Lopez, Joseph Mary Cachia, Sarujini Thevathas, Jonathan Glover. All Souls in Purgatory

RECENT DEATH: Orlando Mostajo, Eduardo Salvador, Frank Jones, Panfilo Sison

SPECIAL INTENTION: David, Mark Kelly, Dominic Savello, Daniel Micallef, Annabel, Anu, Kevin & Jeremy Lawang, John & Angela Spiteri

HEALING: Pauline Gatt, Tony & Agatha Saliba, Charlie & Helen Aquilina, Arlyn Lim, Lydie Etienne, Koprivanac family, Gaudi family, McKenzie family, Alfino, Elmer de Ocampo, Rebecca Monares, Ann Marie, Daniel, Jason Denubo, Mayanja Sivumbi

THANKSGIVING: Clare Milan, Mark Grima, Kevin Daniels, Ana Calapardo, Ariela & Robert, Sr Consolata Huerta, Grace & Dominic Spagnol

THIS WEEK: 26 July 2026 - Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - A

	7:00pm	7:00am	8:30am	10:00am	12:00pm	6:00pm
Commentator	Delia J	Richelle C	Hilda D S	Eva O	Diana T	James J
1st Reader	Gregg S	James J	Mario N	Maria Mizzi	Mel O	Danica L
2nd Reader	Ryson D	Jeslie M	Kumudu M	Teresa Tan	Shereen Q	Samantha D G
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Rochelle R Joan S Paul M Grace S L	Kurt C Stefan P	Thi Pham Shirley T Wynna D Ronald D	Roger S J Nonie G Mariou S J Joe M	Gloria T Oliver T Kirk D G R Toniette S	Virgie G Greg G Teo C Perly C
Altar Servers	George E	Tony Cilia	Adrian D A	Henry Oliver Fawaz	Raphael P Rev S Arielle Mary Ann	Jericho Jude Jherzielle
Choirs	Harmonico Filipino	AHFI	Mt Horeb	CPCA	Exxemoz	MWIE with LUHM Sisters

NEXT WEEK: 2 August 2026 - Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - A

	7:00pm	7:00am	8:30am	10:00am	12:00pm	6:00pm
Commentator	Perly C	James J	Mario N	Julie Ann M	Gloria T	Frances R
1st Reader	Gynn D	Richelle C	Dulce T	Shiela D	Maria Sulfaro	Jeslie M
2nd Reader	Diana T	Susan C	Divina N	Nonie G	Kirk D G R	Samantha D G
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Teo C Nick S L Grace S L Alister R	Kurt C Richelle C	Rukmal M Roland D Cedric B Ferdinand T	Frogilan M Lidia L Joe M Maria Mizzi	Marvin D Jacqueline R Toniette S Candida D S	Joe C Ric M Michael D
Altar Servers	George E	Tony Cilia	Adrian D A	Henry Oliver Fawaz	Raphael P Rev S Arielle Mary Ann	Jericho Jude Jherzielle
Choirs	MWIE with LUHM Sisters	Burch Eleazar	Mt Horeb	Emmaus	CPCA	Samoan DVM

Vocations Expo. WE ARE CALLED.
With Archbishop Peter Comensoli.
ACU Campus Ministry and Vocations Melbourne invite you to come and explore what life looks like in Catholic Religious Orders, Diocesan Priesthood and Married life. Saturday, 1st August, 9AM-1PM, Greg Craven Centre, Level 7, St Teresa of Kolkata Building, ACU Melbourne. This is a free event. Book via Trybooking.com Check flyer in the foyer of the church

Memorial. Sis Martha, Mary & Lazarus
Wednesday, 29 July

Memorial. St Ignatius of Loyola, priest
Friday, 31 July

Parish Carpark. Friendly reminder that the Parish/School Car Park is Closed Monday to Friday between 9.30am to 2.30pm. Thank you for your cooperation.

Positions vacant. Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people. Further details can be found on either the Archdiocese website at:
<https://www.v.melbournecatholic.org.au/job-vacancies>

Next Week: 2 August 2026
Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - A

Please keep our crying room clean and tidy. Please pick up your rubbish before leaving. Thank you for your cooperation.

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.