

## 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 26 July 2020

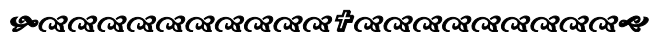
**Finding A Treasure.** A treasure is not something we earn but something we find. We can spend a lot of our lives wishing and hoping that some treasure will come our way. We can forget that we already possess a wonderful treasure in our loved ones and in the gift of life itself. And the greatest treasure of all is the kingdom of heaven which Jesus freely offers to us. May we have the wisdom to seek our treasure in God, and not in the glittering goods of a passing world.

### Responsorial Psalm:

**Lord, I love your commands.**

### 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!**



### **A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney**

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org) or call (02) 9390 5810 or You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance.

The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.



Congratulations to **Mia Wise, Jordan Singh and Blake Antonio** who we recently welcomed into our faith community through the Sacrament of Baptism. Please keep Mia, Jordan and Blake and their families in your prayers.



Fr. Brian Egan, Parish Priest  
Fr Chaminda Wanigasena, Assistant Priest  
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Stuart St, Concord West  
Principal: Ms Linda McFadden  
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**Sunday Masses: Sat Vigil 5pm, Sunday 9.30am & 5pm**  
Live-streamed Mass: Sat Vigil 5pm. You can participate from your home online & receive the Spiritual Communion.

**Weekday Masses: 9am Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri (or Fri 9.15am school Masses)**  
Tuesday evening 7.30pm

**Saturday 8.30am Devotions to Our Lady of Lourdes**  
Saturday 9am Mass

**Reconciliation: Sat 3.30 – 4.30pm**

**Adoration: Mon & Fri 6-9pm, Tues 5.45pm – 7.15pm,**  
Sat 3.30 - 4.30pm, Italian Cenacle: Mon 9.30am

**Holy Hour & Cenacle: Wed after 9am Mass, Fri 9.30am**

**Baptisms: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month at 11am by appointment.**

**Weddings: by appointment. Contact Parish Office.**

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### **2020 Sacraments Program**

We are very pleased to announce that our First Reconciliation Sacrament will go ahead as planned – however there will be restrictions to ensure the health of our children and their families.

**First Reconciliation- Saturday 8, 15 and 22 August at 2pm**  
**First Holy Communion- Sunday 1, 8 and 15 November at 11am**

Please contact the Sacramental Coordinator for further information  
[sacraments@stambrose.org.au](mailto:sacraments@stambrose.org.au)



Please remember in your prayers the following  
for whom Masses will be offered.



**Recently Deceased:** Gladys Seruys, John Kola

**Anniversaries:** Lauren Hew, Emanuela Pisani, Boris Slaminka, Marko Tadinac,

**Others:** Fr Kevin McGovern, Patrick & Margaret Egan, Veronica & Anne Gough, Mario Iannacito, Angelo Iannacito, Mabel & Kevin Rice, Peter Waters, Helen Timpanaro, Paul Broderick, Harry O'Hara, Eugene & Aileen Morris, Ted & Laura Merlino, Harriet David, Terry Tully, Michael Culligan, Angelina Camuglia, Dr Leonado Dimaculangan, Jennifer Bast, Doug Kemp, Carmel Cullinan, Francesca Vizzari, Anthony Zovaro, Eric Pewal, Chris Elliott, Paola Pilosio, John Ferranda, Olivero Vendramin, Thomas Murickananickal & Kochappan, Joseph, Anna Nguyen, Gordon Bridges, John Baptist Nguyen, Giuseppe Rubbo, Teofilo Zamora, Paul, Filomena Agostino, Marie Madeleine Danev, Nicola Betro, Margaret Sharpe, Tamam Koloj, Helen Timpanaro, Mario Gemin, John Ryan, John & Gwen Kennedy, Antoinette Constable, Ludivina Green, Agata Rodi, John Baptista Zammit, Catherine and John Manning, Joe and Mary Mangion, Rema Flannery, Margaret Jean Sharpe, John Pomroy, Mary & Ernest Vanzella, Gaetano Patamia, Filomena Agostino, Boris Slaminka, Ruby Madera, Jack Kocina, Maria & Carlo Colongioli, Caoile Families, Iannacito, Funaro & Di Iorio Families, Guisepppe & Maria Idiotta, Whiteford Family, Culligan Family, Cootes Family, Zammit Family, DeBono Family, Moses Family, Nancy's Family, Dahdah Family, Wheeler & Higgins Families, Morson Family, Abraham, George & Cherote Families, Kennedy and McGovern Families, John White, June Bates, Dorothy Vantwest, Thelma & Stephen Muller & Family, Soloman Family, Merrell, Bourke, Gielis & Shields Families, deceased members of St Vincent de Paul Society, dearly departed souls and all souls in Purgatory.

**Please pray for the sick especially:**

Joseph Borg, Lorna Redolfi, Yuan Sheng Ye, Theresa Tan's mum, Veronica Rutherford, Baby Willow Rose Frazer, Paul Dovico, Jim Branley, David Bagnato, Angela, Rosaria Natalina Patamia, Felice Minutillo, Charlie Rossini, Kelly & Ursula, Giuseppina Algozzino, Peggy Kerr, Viru, Fr Paul Boyers, Kevin McGrath, John and Betty Gattenhof, Esther Tully, Gary and Leslie McGrath, Rosa Mastro, Tanya Greenaway, Gianna, Matthew, Luisa, Zia Pina, Grace Comare, Sean Peters, Elizabeth Esguerra, Juliet Walsh, Barbara Wayne, Marilyn Deguara, Elijah, Adrian Vanzella, Matthew Chan, John Rodrigues, Belinda Nicholls, Nan Peters, Carmela Smigliani, Shinta Widzaza, Alan Borg, Rosa Maria Santos, Bhupinder Tamber, Rebecca Sinclair, Marina Arasaratnam, Teresa Domalewski, Adel Abraham, Anne Vassily, Gloria Clark, Kim Long, Bob & Marion Merrell, Terry Murphy, Stacey Spencer, Joanne Ford, David, Celia and Gomes Family, Warwick Cook, Louise, James Anthony Manassa, June Corcoran, Rosina Morson, Celina Shaw, Laurence O'Connell, Sam Carroll, Dr Bede Muller, Robert Carey, Carmen Zammit, Mario Bianco, Rochelle Rodrigues, Kevin Desouza, Pat Toohey, Charmaine Yu, Anne Collins, Anna Viteznic, Adrian Walker, Lauren Wedd, Sara Benjamin & Family, Peter Weinfefoe, Ivy Ross, Dr Siri Kannangara, Maria Rosa de Angelis, Frank Zappia, Cecily Culligan

**Special Intention:** Saadia & Jeremy de Silva

## **NOTICE FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS DURING MASS**

### **Re Archdiocesan Parish Safeguarding Policy**

This policy aims at safeguarding all our many volunteer Ministers, as well as safeguarding our children and any vulnerable adults. The volunteers required to be covered by this policy are those people in any way connected with the celebration of Eucharist, namely **Eucharistic Ministers at Mass or Hostel, Youth Choir Ministers, Lectors, Children's Liturgy of the Word Ministers, Collectors, Counters, and Acolytes.**

Thank you to all those who have already collected their personal KITS from the foyer of the church and have followed through and obtained their WWCC. The final step is **online training** which is quite simple to do and much quicker than face to face training which will not be possible for some time. To assist you with this, I can send you the website if you email me on [judith.clark@rscsisters.com.au](mailto:judith.clark@rscsisters.com.au)

Twelve people have already sent for the website, done the training and secured the Salt Certificate.

**I HAVE LEFT A PLASTIC BOX IN THE PRIESTS' SACRISTY FOR YOU TO PUT ALL YOUR PAPERWORK RETURNS FOR RECORDING, not online please.**

All details of each person's forms are required

1. **To be recorded by me**
2. **A copy kept in Parish Records....and**
3. **A record of all details forwarded to the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Office.**

The Parish is currently being asked for a review of how the process of "**Safeguarding**" our generous volunteers is moving ahead. This process was begun four years ago, in response to the Royal Commission into Sexual Abuse and is coming to a close, prior to an audit of all Australian parishes. This is to ensure that our Parish of St. Ambrose' Concord West is well covered by law in regard to the safety of our children and vulnerable adults and that our leadership has acquiesced in the process to protect all our generous volunteers.

**I have treated the work in mounting this whole project as part of my Christ-given mission to the people of this Parish. It has taken many hours. It was good to interact with so many. Sr.Judith**

**IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS**  
**COMPLETING SAFEGUARDING PAPERWORK**



**Working With Children Checks**

When returning your **safeguarding K I T paperwork to the parish**, please include your WWC number printout so the parish can verify you as a volunteer who has been cleared to undertake voluntary work at St Ambrose parish.

In order for the parish to process your verification with the NSW Working With Children Office **we need your date of birth. Please write your date of birth on the WWC printout along with a contact number so we can contact you if necessary.**

**Please return KITS when ALL requirements have been completed.**

**CatholicCare outreach to the lonely and isolated**

CatholicCare and the Parishes of the Sydney Archdiocese are here to support vulnerable people in our local communities during lockdown. We can connect local volunteers to people who need help with their shopping and errands or even just for a regular friendly chat over the phone. If you, or someone you know, could use a little help during this time, CCareline 13 18 19 can connect you with a local volunteer from your community. CCareline 13 18 19 is a free and confidential helpline for counselling, relationships, parenting, ageing, disabilities, addictions and mental health. CCareline is here to help. Call 131819 Monday - Friday 8am to 6pm.



**Thank You St Ambrose Parish!**

Once again you have shown your true spirit of generosity & care. St Vincent de Paul Concord West Conference thank you immensely. During these difficult & unprecedented times your support has been outstanding. Your kindness in giving to the Winter Appeal has raised \$4,371.50!!

On behalf of the community members that will benefit from your generosity, I thank you. This money helps us continue our valuable work, supporting the vulnerable and less fortunate. During this time of global pandemic, many people are affected - thankfully, with your help, we are able to assist some of them in a variety of ways.

We are encouraged by you, the people of the parish. **THANK YOU!**

Jackie Burgess, President

**Room available** in retired professional's home with verandah and garden. Close to Concord Hospital and transport. Suit mature working lady or pensioner. Dog OK. Terms Negotiable. Please see or ring Fr Brian.

**Prayer Resources during time of Pandemic**

The Archdiocese of Sydney has a dedicated webpage with prayers and scriptural reflections to help nurture your faith during these difficult times. You'll find the webpage here-

<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-updates/prayer-resources-for-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

## **Br Julian's Reflection. 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**God said to Solomon: "Ask something of me and I will give it to you". Solomon replied: "Give your servant an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong. For who is able to govern this vast people of yours?"** 1 Kings 3, 5, 7-12

**"God's kingdom is like a treasure buried in a field, and then accidentally found by someone walking through. The finder is ecstatic, and proceeds to sell everything he owns in order to raise the money to buy that field;...is like a jeweller searching for fine pearls. Finding one that is flawless, he immediately sells everything and buys it"** Matthew 13, 44-52

If there is anything we learn from today's readings, it is that everything comes at a cost. In today's first reading from *Kings*, we hear the story of how Solomon, responding to God's invitation to ask for what he wanted, chose the gift of wisdom. However, just like every human being before and after him, Solomon allowed human weakness to get in the way. His weakness for concubines and his longing to accumulate wealth and weapons of war prevented him from using the wisdom God had given him. Whatever our gifts, and we all have them, it is important that we use them with integrity and enduring commitment. Solomon displayed admirable selflessness in asking God to give him the wisdom he needed to govern his people, but, with tragic consequences, he allowed self-interest to get in the way.

The readings of the last few Sundays, and again today, have given us a succession of Jesus' parables in which he imagines a world governed and guided by the values of God; a world in which people actually practice mercy, forgiveness, equality, sharing food and universal access to safe shelter, clean water and sanitation; a world in which people enjoy freedom and treat one another with respect and dignity. Yet, we've heard these parables so often that they don't fire us up to pursue that kind of a world with commitment and passion. We say we believe in freedom and dignity and equality and compassion and reconciliation and justice, but somehow we cannot bring ourselves to pay the price required to invest ourselves in pursuing the things to which we give only nominal assent. We say we believe in what Jesus proclaims but we lack the passion, energy and drive to make it happen. We just can't bring ourselves to imitate the person who stumbled on the treasure in the field or the jeweller who came across the flawless pearl to sell up everything to purchase what they discovered. A world in which God's values hold sway just doesn't look attractive enough; it doesn't capture our imaginations. Moreover the cost for such a way of living is beyond what we're prepared to pay.

Many of us, I'm sure, have heard the story of the group of teenage boys who had come together to celebrate the birthday of one of their number. After the party, they decided to play football in the back yard. There was a bit of rough and tumble until the birthday boy lost one of his contact lenses in the grass. The game came to a sudden halt, and they were soon all down on their hands and knees searching for the lens. After five or six minutes, the lens had not been located, so the boy who had lost it went and told his mother the bad news. She immediately began her own search in the grass, and, within a few minutes, found the missing lens. "Mum, how come you found it in no time, when the five of us had no success at all?" asked the lad whose lens had been dislodged. "Because we weren't looking for the same thing", his mother replied. "You were looking for a small, round, clear piece of plastic. I was searching for \$300!"

All three of today's parables are about perspectives and priorities and the urgency with which we approach them. Jesus is inviting us to unclutter our lives, to readjust our priorities and to put the things of God at the top of our list. Therein lies the kind of wisdom that is at the focus of today's first reading. In fact, Job described that kind of wisdom as more valuable than any amount of flawless pearls and precious stones:

"Wisdom can't be bought with the finest gold; no amount of silver can get it. Even famous Ophir gold can't buy it, nor even diamonds and sapphires. Neither gold nor emeralds are comparable; extravagant jewellery can't touch it. Pearl necklaces and ruby bracelets - why bother? None of this is even a down payment on Wisdom!" (*Job* 28, 13-18).

Wisdom helps us to distinguish what is of lasting value for our lives and what is simply attractive on the surface but lacking in substance (the parable of the dragnet). But wisdom has to be accompanied by faithful commitment and adherence to the agenda of Jesus and his Gospel.

By accepting the agenda of Jesus we grow into putting ourselves second, and giving our attention to the people and values that were at the centre of Jesus' life - the needy, the lonely, the forgotten, the neglected, and we invest our energy in making sure that mercy, compassion, justice and reconciliation are central to the way in which we live and act. But there is a price to be paid for choosing to live like that.

