

# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / 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.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** cf. Ps 67:6-7, 36  
**God is in his holy place, / God who unites those who dwell in his house; / he himself gives might and strength to his people.**

## GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**R. And with your spirit.**

## PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

**R. For we have sinned against you.**

P. Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

**R. And grant us your salvation.**

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**R. Amen.**

V. Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

V. Christ, have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

V. Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

## GLORIA

**Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.**

## COLLECT

P. O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm

foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure. 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.

**R. Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### 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.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

**RESP PS** 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.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

### 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

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**

*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

# ST MARTHA'S PARISH STRATHFIELD



Parish Priest: Fr Jacek (Jack) Cichy

Administration Coordinator: Nicolle Mazzaferro (Mon-Thurs) [admin@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:admin@stmarthas.org.au)

Administration Support: Larissa Argiro (Fridays) [office@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:office@stmarthas.org.au)

Sacramental Coordinator: Patricia Saad (Fridays) [sc@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:sc@stmarthas.org.au)

Safeguarding Officer: Dianne Dawson [safeguarding@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@stmarthas.org.au)

Parish Ministries Coordinator: Helen Williamson

Music Ministry: Marcella Ayoub & Agnes Lee

Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Rachel Suriano

Plenary Council 2020 Ambassador: Helena O'Neill

Youth Ministry: Jessica Gereis [youth@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:youth@stmarthas.org.au)



**'He sells everything he owns and buys the field' ... Matthew 13**

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Parish Office: Mon- Fri 9.00am-3.00pm



St Martha's School: 9764 1184

Email: [info@stmstrathfield.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@stmstrathfield.catholic.edu.au)

Principal: Judy Gastin

Assistant Principal: Leanne Meehan

REC: Attilia Kazacos

THE PARISH OF ST MARTHA'S ACKNOWLEDGES THE WANGUL PEOPLE AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND ON WHICH THE CHURCH IS BUILT

## **Vision:**

**Welcoming  
Eucharistic  
Transformed by the Word  
Full of Grace  
Proclaiming Good News**



## **Mission:**

**Alive with the Spirit  
Inspired by St Martha  
We Celebrate & Witness  
God's love  
Using our Gifts & Talents**

## **MASS TIMES**



Tuesdays: 7.30am Wednesdays: 9.10am

Thursdays: 9.10am Fridays: 9.10am

Saturdays: 9.10am, 5pm Vigil Mass

Sundays: 8.00am; 10.00am & 6.00pm

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month: 8-9am Adoration, 9am Benediction,  
9.10am Healing Mass and Anointing of the Sick, followed by  
reconciliation

## **RECONCILIATION:**

Saturday after 9.10am Mass or by appointment.

## **BAPTISM:**

Available dates to be Advised

Next Preparation Session:

To be Advised



**MARRIAGES:** By appointment only.  
(6 months' notice is required).



**ROSARY:** Tuesday & Saturday after morning Mass, Wednesday, Thursday  
& Friday 8.30am and 7.30pm on Fridays in conjunction with Marian  
Movement of Priests Cenacle and Divine Mercy Chaplet

## **LIFE ASCENDING GROUP:**

TBA

## **PRAYER GROUP / ADORATION AT ST MARTHA'S CHURCH:**

Mondays 10.30am - 11.30am

## **SYDNEY MALAYEALAE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**

Rosary, Mass & Adoration from 6.30pm to 9pm on  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month. Rosary & Bible Sharing 6.30pm on  
the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month



## **ADORATION AT SISTER DISCIPLES OF THE DIVINE MASTER:**

Daily from 2.30pm-6.00pm



**Please continue to support the  
St Vincent De Paul Society  
through the Church Poor Boxes.**

*In the Spirit of St Martha,  
let us continue to help others and Carry  
Hope Everywhere.*



## **SAFE GUARDING**

**A reminder to parents that the Notice-Board  
located at the side entrance contains various  
resources for children regarding Safeguarding.**

### **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 at 9390 5810 or [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org). 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..

Please be aware that if you "TAG" St Martha's in photos on your Facebook page, the images also appear on an "unofficial" St Martha's Facebook page. This "unofficial" page was created automatically by Facebook and is not controlled by St Martha's. We kindly remind you to take care when uploading photos of any children without parent consent.



### **IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

**IF YOU PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING MINISTRIES YOU ARE REQUIRED TO SIGN IN - ACOLYTES; READERS; EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS; CHOIR; CHILDREN'S LITURGY (LEADERS & CHILDREN) & SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM (LEADERS & CHILDREN). SIGN IN FOLDERS ARE KEPT IN THE SACRISTY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION.**

**ALTAR SERVERS ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THE SACRISTY WITHOUT A PARENT/TEACHER. THE SIGN IN FOLDER IS LOCATED IN THE CORRIDOR OUTSIDE THE SACRISTY.**

**Nicolle will be away from the office from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July until Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August.**





Trybooking to be used for mass attendance on weekends from Saturday 1st August 2020. St Martha's Parish will now be managing registrations for weekend masses through try booking from next Saturday the 1st of August. From Friday the 24th of July the numbers in the church will be capped at 100 people adhering to the "4 square metre rule." Bookings for the weekend masses will close 2 hours before the particular mass. Remaining spots if any will remain on a first in, first served basis. Parishioners will need to arrive at mass 20-30 minutes before mass so that details can be confirmed. If you are unwell or high risk, please do not attend to preserve the safety of our parish family. If you have booked a mass you no longer can attend let us know so that we can accommodate other parishioners. Weekday masses will still be managed on a first in first served basis. For parishioners who would like support registering for a mass through Try booking please call Claudia Elias on 0425 278 026 for assistance. <https://www.trybooking.com/BKONZ>  
Thank you for your support in keeping our community safe during these trying times.

### **Printed copies of the Catholic Weekly are now available again.**

With all churches reopened for Mass across the Archdiocese of Sydney, the hard copy edition of the Catholic Weekly is available again in parishes this weekend for \$2.00



**The HOPE Keepsakes are available from the Church or by contacting the Parish Office. Don't forget to upload your images to the St Martha's Facebook Page with #carryhope**



### **Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press)**

Today's Gospel concludes three weeks of readings from the 13th Chapter of Matthew's Gospel. Throughout these three weeks we have heard Jesus teaching crowds about the kingdom of heaven, and we have heard Jesus interpret some of his teachings for the disciples. In this week's Gospel, Jesus offers three more short parables. The first two parables describe the great value of the kingdom of heaven. In the first parable, Jesus says that the kingdom of heaven is like a buried treasure that is worth possessing even if it means giving up everything else. In the second parable, Jesus proposes that the kingdom of heaven is like a pearl of great worth for which one will sell everything else to possess. These parables teach us that we are to place everything we value in the service of the pursuit of the Kingdom of God. The third parable

that Jesus proposes in today's Gospel is different from the first two, but it is reminiscent of the parable of the sower heard in last week's Gospel. The kingdom of heaven is compared to fishing with a wide net. After the fish have been collected, the good fish are kept and the bad fish are thrown away; so too, in the final judgment, will the wicked and the righteous be separated. Today's Gospel concludes with a curious statement about the scribe who understands the kingdom of heaven. Here a metaphor is offered: this scribe is like the head of a household who "brings from his storeroom both the new and the old." The scribes referred to here are experts of Mosaic law. It is possible that Jesus is here instructing the early Christian community on how to proceed in the interpretation of Jewish law with respect to Jesus' "new" teaching. Jesus' teaching about the kingdom of heaven does not replace the Jewish tradition; it interprets it in a different light.



### **NEW SETS OF WEEKLY PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION IN THE CHURCH.**

**We encourage all Parishioners to join the giving system by either Weekly Envelope or Monthly Credit Card as this is the main income of the parish, by means of which we run everyday expenses, funds projects and plan for the future. If you would like to join forms are available in the Church Foyer which can be returned via any collection plate or directly to the parish office.**

**2019/2020 Tax Receipts are now available in the Church Foyer. If you would like your receipt posted please contact the parish office on 9746 6131 (option 2).**

We are blessed to have Bishop Terry Brady minister Confirmations at St Martha's Parish on Friday the 18th of September @6.00pm.

Please register before Thursday the 13th of August online at [stmarthas.org.au](http://stmarthas.org.au).

We will keep you updated on changes and give you further information closer to the date. There is a possibility lessons may be given online depending on the Government Regulations.

Please observe the following dates:

Date Event Time

Saturday 15th August Parent information, Lesson 1 3.00pm

Saturday 15 August Commitment Mass 5.00pm

Saturday 22nd August Lesson 2 4.00pm

Saturday 28th August Lesson 3 4.00pm

Saturday 5th September Lesson 4 4.00pm

Saturday 12th September Retreat 2.00pm

Friday 18th September Confirmation 6.00pm

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to direct them to Patricia Saad at [sc@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:sc@stmarthas.org.au)





A note of thanks from Basil Hayes for all the prayers, well wishes and kind thoughts after his recent surgery. He is now home and recovering well.

**PRAYER FOR PROTECTION FROM CORONAVIRUS**

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Our Refuge and our Hope, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas - we who are put to the test

- and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.



**MASS INTENTIONS**

<b><u>Recently Deceased:</u></b>	Tom Gaha, Maria Casimiro, Sr Maura McAvoy op, Sr Thecla Caruana, Sr Cecily Gaudry, Sr Marie Gaudry, Noeleen Smith, Bernard Nader, Philip Huynh, Mary Bentley, Mary Zammit, Daragh Hayden, Daniel Lucich, Sr Sophie McGrath, Fr Noel Connolly.
<b><u>Rest of The Soul:</u></b>	Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Br Ray Dowding, Gerald Wilson, John Ferguson, Ken Fraser, Connie Wong, Aldo Amarino, Salvatore (Phillip) Puglisi, William (Bill) & Dorothy Starr, Roger O'Reilly, Stefano, Estelle Thurn, Anne Cecilia Glass, Reginald & Agnes Glass, Gerald & Frances Gleeson, Faado & Alice Herro, Patrick & Janet Reynolds, Jim Reynolds, Ken Rich, Monica & Patrick Ryan, Stephen Maxwell Stewart & Christopher John Stewart, Dr Stephanie Winfield, Mary & Anne Trefle', Philip Winfield. Francesco & Maria Colagiuri, Caterina & Matteo Genova, Lisa Cooke, Michael & Mary Cassar, Guisepppe & Romilda Reginato.
<b><u>Anniversaries:</u></b>	Reg Jones, Clare Kenny, Frank Burton, Lawrie Soares, Blanche Saldanha, Peter Lam, Maria Vozzo, Kathleen Woodland, Mary Liu, John Harrington, Joseph Ayoub, Rodolfo Sereno, Henry O'Hara.
<b><u>Sick Intentions:</u></b>	Lorna Redolfi, Marc Kayrouz, Br Jude Butcher cfc & Peter Starr.
<b><u>Special Intentions:</u></b>	Sarah Argiro, Members of the Lucich & Argiro Families, Members of the Casmiro & Martins Families, Pauline Murphy, John Murphy, Kristian Seric & Family. Deceased Friends, Relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order & the St Vincent de Paul Society & Benefactors, Holy Souls.

**1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> August**

**VIGIL**

**8AM**

**10AM**

**6PM**

**Special Ministers**

Grace Herro	Christine Ng	Jackie Romanous	Ravi Family
Rick Herro	Geraldine O'Sullivan	Georgia E.	Ravi Family
		Meaghan Williamson	

**VIGIL**

**8AM**

**10AM**

**6PM**

**Readers**

Czarina Mendoza-Cruz	Beatrice Cooney	Helen Williamson	Jenny O'Hehir
Matthew Lam	John Edwards	Rachel Suriano	Anne Chow

**VIGIL**

**8AM**

**10AM**

**6PM**

**Altar Servers**

Giselle C.	George C.	Michael S.	Katarina S.
Elizabeth C.	Elias C.	Anthony S.	John Paul B.
Grace T.	Dominic N.	Beatrice L.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Peter T.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>

**Wardens**

<b>VIGIL</b>	<b>8AM</b>	<b>10AM</b>	<b>6PM</b>
Ken Goodrick	Peter Yamin	Trudie Rogers	Theresa Kuk

**Children's Liturgy**

		<b>10AM</b>	<b>10AM</b>
		TBA	TBA

**If you are unable to attend your rostered Mass kindly organise a replacement.**

# The Feast of our Patron St Martha falls on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July.



## Prayer:

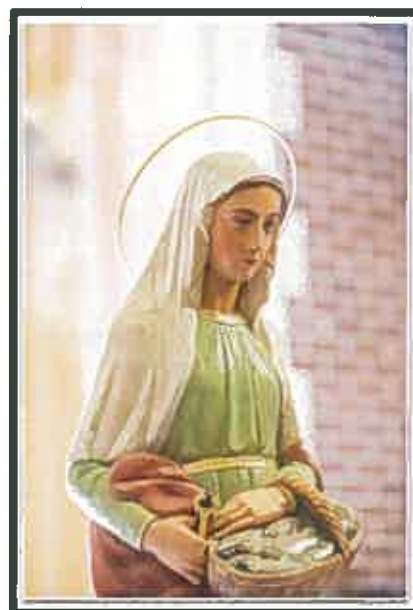
O blessed St. Martha, your faith led Jesus to proclaim, "I am the resurrection and the life"; and faith let you see beyond his humanity when you cried out, "Lord I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God." With firm hope you said, I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him, and Jesus called your brother Lazarus back from the dead. With pure love for Jesus you welcomed him into your home. Friend and servant of our Saviour, I too am "troubled about many things." (*Pause for silent prayer.*) Pray for me that I may grow in faith, hope and love, and that Jesus, who sat at your table, will hear me and grant me a place at the banquet of eternal life. Amen.

## NOVENA TO SAINT MARTHA

A Novena is a 9 consecutive day recitation of prayers and devotions with the hope of obtaining, through the grace of God, the requested favour before the end of the Novena.

### NOVENA

Saint Martha,  
I resort to thy aid and protection.  
As proof of my affection and faith,  
I offer thee this light,  
which I shall burn every Tuesday.  
Comfort me in all my difficulties  
and through the great favours thou didst enjoy  
when the Saviour was lodged in thy house,  
intercede for my family,  
that we be provided for in our necessities.  
I ask of thee, Saint Martha,  
to overcome all difficulties  
as thou didst overcome the dragon  
which thou hadst at thy feet.  
In the name of the Father  
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.



Recite the following prayers...

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Glory Be...

## First Eucharist Dates for 2020

Parent information night	Tuesday 13 October 7pm- parents only
Lesson 1 plus commitment mass	Saturday 17 October 3.30pm followed by 5pm commitment mass
Lesson 2	Saturday 24 October 3.30pm followed by 5.00pm mass
Lesson 3	Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> October @3.30pm followed by 5.00pm mass
Lesson 4	Saturday 7 November @3.30pm followed by 5.00pm mass
Retreat	November 14 2.00pm-4.30pm
First Holy Communion Masses	Sunday 15 November 12pm, Saturday 21 November 11am and 22 November 12pm

**Do you need help  
finding help?**

Relationships. Parenting. Ageing.  
Disabilities. Addictions. Mental Health.



**CCareline 131819**

A free and confidential helpline.

✉ connect@catholiccare.org

🌐 CCareline.org

🕒 8am - 6pm Monday - Friday

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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**  
*Shorter form 13:44-46.*

## HOMILY

**PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CRIED**  
*Or the Nicene Creed may be said.*

**I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:*

**R. Blessed be God for ever.**

**P.** Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**R.** May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

**P.** Accept, O Lord, we pray, the offerings which we bring from the abundance of your gifts, that through the powerful working of your grace these most sacred mysteries may sanctify our present way of life and lead us to eternal gladness. Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

**P.** The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

**P.** Lift up your hearts.

**R. We lift them up to the Lord.**

**P.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**R. It is right and just.**

## PREFACE I-VIII OF THE SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME

*After the Preface, we sing or say:*

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

**P.** The mystery of faith.

**All: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**

## COMMUNION RITE

**P.** At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...**

**P.** Deliver us, Lord, we pray...

**All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

**P.** Lord Jesus Christ, who said...

**R. Amen.**

**P.** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**R. And with your spirit.**

**P.** Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*All exchange a sign of peace*

## LAMB OF GOD

**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P.** Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb

**R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON Ps 102:2

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P.** We have consumed, O Lord, this divine Sacrament, the perpetual memorial of the Passion of your Son; grant, we pray, that this gift, which he himself gave us with love beyond all telling, may profit us for salvation. Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

**P.** The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

**P.** May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son. ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

**P.** Go forth, the Mass is ended.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

## REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL

### GLIMPSING THE KINGDOM

The two little parables, that of the Treasure Discovered in the Field and the Pearl of Great Price, both depict a situation where a person finds something that they dearly want to possess. In one, a poor day-laborer comes across treasure buried in a field – an unimaginable windfall! In the other, a merchant recognises something he has been searching for all his business life: the perfect pearl!

Neither, however, is able to get hold of what they have discovered immediately. There is a gap between finding and possessing. But already the mere sight of what each have found frees them to 'sell all' so that they can finally possess it.

Jesus told the twin parables to illustrate a key feature of the Kingdom of Heaven. It is not something we possess right now; only in the future will it be fully realised in the world and in human lives. But those who have caught a glimpse of it from Jesus know that they have come upon a treasure that will fulfil their deepest desires. The joy of the discovery puts all other attractions in second place. They gain the freedom to 'sell all' in order, one day, to obtain what they have seen.

Taken together, the parables contain a whole Christian spirituality – perhaps best illustrated in the life of St Francis of Assisi. His commitment to radical poverty was not something imposed on him. It flowed in complete freedom from the 'treasure' of God's love that he, in supreme degree, had glimpsed.

BRENDAN BYRNE, SJ

### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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