

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.



A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

26 JULY 2026

COMMUNION WITH GOD

Today we continue to hear from the central chapter in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus' parable teaching about the kin-dom 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 kin-dom 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 kin-dom, 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

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

In the Pastoral Care of the **AUGUSTINIANS**

- Fr Luca Park OSA (Parish Priest)
- Fr Francis Park OSA (Korean Chaplain)
- Fr Brian Buckley OSA (Prior)
- Fr Barry Clifford OSA (Retired)

ADMINISTRATION

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH CENTRE

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OUR PARISH AND THE AUGUSTINIANS

Commit to creating an environment where the safety of children and the vulnerable is paramount. All volunteers are required to have a Working With Children Check.

Pastoral and Administrative Support

- Stephy Coosnapa (Parish Pastoral Assistant) ► Joel Sanchez (Business & Facilities Manager: Wed - Fri)
- Safeguarding: Stephy Coosnapa ► Aryana Vega (St Joseph's Outreach Services: Mon, Tues, Thurs)
- Toni Stuart (Parish Secretary, Weddings & SJOS Volunteer Co-ordinator: Tues/Thurs/Fri)

MORNING TEA & CHILDREN'S LITURGY

St. Joseph's • 10.30am Mass
 Fourth Sunday of the month.
 (except school holidays and long weekends)
 St Thomas Aquinas – Morning Tea - last
 Sunday of the month following 9am Mass

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St. Joseph's • Sat: 5.10pm – 5.40pm, or by
 appointment.

ANOIDING / HEALING MASS

(Sacrament of the Sick) First Tuesday of the
 month 10am at St Joseph's Church

HOLY COMMUNION AT HOME

Anyone ill or housebound may contact us to
 request a visit for communion at home.

Liturgical Calendar for the week commencing 26th July 2026

DAY	ST JOSEPH'S	ST THOMAS AQUINAS'
	TIME	TIME
Saturday 25th July	6.00pm Vigil Mass	
Sunday 26th July 17th Sunday of the Year	10.30am Mass	9.00am Mass
Monday 27th July 17 th Week of Ordinary Time		
Tuesday 28th July 17 th Week of Ordinary Time	10am Mass	12.45pm Mass
Wednesday 29th July Sts. Martha, Mary & Lazarus	10am Mass	12.45pm Mass
Thursday 30th July 17 th Week of Ordinary Time	10am Mass	12.45pm Mass
Friday 31st July St Ignatius of Loyola	10am Mass Christian Meditation	12.45pm Mass
Saturday 1st August St Alphonsus Liguori	9am Mass 6.00pm Vigil Mass	



WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS & THE ELDERLY

This year the theme is "I will never forget you" (Isaiah 49:15) This theme is both a message of comfort and hope for grandparents and elderly people, as well as a reminder to families and communities not to forget them, but rather to recognise them as a "precious presence and a blessing"

EVENTS AND MEETINGS

- **Christian Meditation:** 10.45am Fridays
- **Children's Liturgy:** Sun 26 July 10.30am
- **STA Morning Coffee:** Sun 26 July 10am
- **Parish Social Bingo Trivia Night:** Sat 15 Aug

Pope Leo – On Artificial Intelligence



"As with every major technological shift, AI tends to amplify the power of those who already possess economic resources, expertise and access to

data. This raises serious concerns, since small but highly influential groups can shape information and consumption patterns, influence democratic processes and steer economic dynamics to their own advantage, undermining social justice and solidarity among peoples. For this reason, it is essential that the use of AI, especially when it touches on public goods and fundamental rights, be guided by clear criteria and effective oversight, grounded in participation and subsidiarity." (Magnifica Humanitas #108)

CHILDREN'S LITURGY & MORNING TEA



Families with young children are invited to come to St Joseph's 10.30am Mass this Sunday 26th July to join in the Children's Liturgy. Parishioners are welcome to join us for morning tea after the Mass.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Come as you are-No experience needed
 Every Friday, St Joseph's church parish library, 10:45 -11:30 am with a short reflection and meditation practice.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK Margaret Wallin, Anne Rigg, Mitos Gloudemans, Ced John Netto, Julie Mahony, Paul Chong, Isabella Chong, Luke Dennis, Sonia Guzman, Damien Ryan, Cecil D'Cruz, Joanna Howe, Janine Forster, Christie De Silva, Anita Zaio, Maurice & Pauline Sheehan, Rosie Gucciardo, Nichole Garnaut, Enid Netto, David Mills, Charles, Tom Greene, Anna Slawek.

IN LOVING MEMORY



Recently Deceased

✱ Daniel D'Andrea

Anniversaries

- ✱ Marie Doyle
- ✱ Geoff Macpherson
- ✱ Terence Waters
- ✱ Robin Armstrong
- ✱ Bridie Moloney
- ✱ Shirley Addinsall
- ✱ Irene Sawoff
- ✱ Mary Gaynor
- ✱ Justina Casipong
- ✱ Lily Gormley

VOLUNTEER AT ST JOSEPH'S

If you would like to be involved in the music ministry at St Joseph's on Saturdays at 6pm mass, please contact the parish office.

SAVE THE DATE!

PARISH SOCIAL AND GAMES NIGHT
 Saturday 15th August

FRIENDS OF ST AUGUSTINE NATIONAL LAY CONGRESS

9-11 October

Booking Inquiries: Judith Duncan 0417 309 747 / Mary McCormick 0419 134 075

COFFEE AFTER ST THOMAS' 9.00AM MASS 26 JULY

After mass at St Thomas Aquinas this Sunday 26th July, join us for coffee at Velvet Bean, 35 Albert Rd.



PARISH MAGAZINE 'THE SCRIBBLE'



The winter issue of the parish seasonal magazine is available from the church door this week. Please take one.

MASS COLLECTION 19/07/2026

Clergy (Augustinian Community)
 1st Collection, CDF & bank deposits... \$ 753.35
Church (Parish Ministries)
 2nd Collection \$ 644.65
 Envelopes..... \$ 900.00
 Direct Debit/EFT/ CDF Pay/ Cr Cards...\$ 745.60
 Tap Point Terminals..... \$ 445.00
Thank you for your generosity