

**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 practicing the language of Heaven.

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**Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A****26 July 2020****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!*

## LATEST GOVERNMENT DIRECTIVES FACE COVERINGS

All people in Melbourne must wear a face covering whenever they leave their home, unless an exception applies (e.g. children and those with specific medical conditions)

This means that for any permissible activity within a Parish location, face coverings must be worn. A face covering needs to cover both your nose and mouth and can be a face mask or shield.

Under no circumstances should anyone awaiting test verification (even without presenting symptoms) attend a church or parish setting until a diagnosis is confirmed. Additionally, under no circumstances should anyone attend who is closely connected to people who are awaiting test results or who have tested positive.

### COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS FOR PARISHES Stage 3 lock down continues.

- If you live in a restricted zone postcode you cannot attend a religious service. Online streaming of a service is allowed.
- Funerals will be restricted to 10 mourners plus people required to conduct the funeral.
- Churches in restricted postcodes are closed for private worship or religious ceremonies (except for live streaming).

### IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### SICK

Patrick White, Vincenzo D'Agostino

#### RECENTLY DECEASED

Charlie Vassallo, Joy Perrett

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Maria Concetta Bruzzese (1 month),  
Sebastian Manicham, Leo Alvares, Valerie Butcher, Nina Cutayar, Felice Mangion, Joseph Mangion, Elisa Mangion, Alberto & Celestina Mangion

### FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Wednesday 29 July St Martha

Friday 31 July St Ignatius of Loyola

Saturday 1 Aug St Alphonsus Mary Liguori

## MENTAL HEALTH AND COVID 19

Physical distancing and isolation can make us feel anxious, stressed and worried. Being aware of how you're feeling and knowing what you can do to look after your mental wellbeing is an important part of staying healthy during this challenging time.

Read about what you can do to look after your mental wellbeing and look out for those around you as we tackle these challenges together

### Look after your physical health.

Exercising and eating well help us stay physically and mentally healthy. Getting a good night's sleep is a really important part of staying healthy.

**Stay connected.** Maintaining social connections is important to feeling safe and well. You can still keep in touch with family and friends through video chats, phone calls, online groups and chats with neighbours while keeping 1.5 metres apart.

**Develop new routines.** We're used to having routines to guide our days and give us a sense of achievement. When so much seems out of our control, establishing some structure in our days will help to provide stability and a 'new normal'. This is particularly challenging for families adjusting to home learning. Try to create new routines as a family to help separate 'work and school time' and 'family time'.

**Take breaks.** Be kind to yourself and take time just for you, even if it is just a few minutes to take some deep breaths and step outside into the fresh air.

**Reach out to others.** Some people are particularly vulnerable for different reasons. They may be older, live on their own, have a chronic medical condition, or live in a challenging home situation.

Reaching out to give people support, if you are able, can help your mental wellbeing and make a big difference to someone else's life. **Seek support.** It's normal to have ups and downs, and it is important to talk about how you're feeling with family and friends. In times like these, they are likely experiencing similar feelings.

If you want to talk to someone else, but aren't sure where to start, there are lots of great online and phone chat support services available:

**Head to Health:** [headtohead.gov.au](http://headtohead.gov.au)

**Lifeline:** [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au) or phone 1300 651 251

**Beyond Blue:** [beyondblue.org.au](http://beyondblue.org.au) or phone 1300 22 4636

**Kids Helpline:** [kidshelpline.com.au](http://kidshelpline.com.au) or phone 1800 551 800

**CatholicCare:** 03 9287 5555

### A Prayer for Healthcare Workers during this time of the Coronavirus COVID-19

Loving God,  
we place into your care  
all our doctors, nurses and healthcare workers.

Give them courage of heart  
and strength of mind and body.

Keep them safe from harm.

May they know our deep gratitude  
for all they are doing

to heal and help those affected by  
the coronavirus.

God of all consolation

may they know your protection and  
peace.

Bless them in these challenging days  
and bless their families.

Amen.

*The Parish of St Peter's, Kailor East and the Diocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community.*

### A Prayer to St Joseph

St Joseph,

You were receptive to God working in your life.

Help us by your prayers at this time of trial.

You kept Jesus and Mary under your watchful care: may your prayers assist our local Church to respond to those in need.

You taught the Christ Child your trade and prayers: help us to follow his example of love.

You were part of God's plan for all humanity: assist us to be vigilant and responsible this day.

You spent your life in service:

May we be mindful of others, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, caring for them in these difficult days.

You trusted in the clear primacy of God over all history and every situation: help us to grow in faith and pray to the Father, *Thy will be done.*

Amen.

### AVE MARIA COLLEGE YEAR 7 – 2022

Applications for Year 7 in 2022 close Friday 21 August 2020. Contact the Registrar on 9331 9308 or via email at [registrar@avemaria.vic.edu.au](mailto:registrar@avemaria.vic.edu.au)