

**LOWESTOFT CATHOLIC PARISH -OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA & ST NICHOLAS****Presbytery:** 19 Gordon Road, Lowestoft, NR32 1NL Tel: 01502 572453**Parish Priest, Rev. Paul Chanh, 07414 735102 (text message only)**email: [paulchanh@yahoo.com](mailto:paulchanh@yahoo.com)[www.ourladylowestoft.com](http://www.ourladylowestoft.com) <http://www.catholiceastanglia.org>**Deacon:** Rev. Stephen Pomeroy

Sat 25 July	5:00 pm	OLSS Mass (Open to the Public)	Paddy Rooney dec'd
Sun 26 July <b>17<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	09:00 am 10:30 am	Saint Nicholas Mass (Open to the Public) OLSS Mass (Open to the Public)	Priest's Intention People of the Parish
Mon 27 July		No Masses	
Tues 28 July	12:15 pm	OLSS Mass (Open to the Public)	Deceased Souls
Wed 29 July	09:15 am	OLSS Mass (Open to the Public)	The Rooney Family in England & Ireland
Thu 30 July	09:15 am	Saint Nicholas Mass (Open to the Public)	The Rooney Family in America
Fri 31 July	12:15 pm	OLSS Mass (Open to the Public)	Priest's Intention
Sat 1 Aug	05:00 pm	OLSS Mass (Open to the Public)	Priest's Intention

**MASS WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING**

The second week of being open for Mass like the first has gone well. Numbers attending continue to be low enough not to create problems with social distancing but that may change after 1 August if people who been shielding feel happy about coming.

If you are planning to come for the first time, these are the points you need to bear in mind.

1. The Sunday obligation to attend Mass has been relaxed. Consider coming to a weekday Mass If it will be easier for you. Masses continue to be streamed via the Our Lady Lowestoft website.
2. If you have any Covid symptoms or have had a test and are waiting for the result, the stewards will ask you to return home.
3. You must wear a mask or face covering in church. Please bring your own, if you have one, so we don't have to use up the church's supply
4. The church toilets will be closed at both churches, excepting at the 10:30 Sunday Mass at OLSS and then only the disabled person's toilet will be open. This is because of safety and cleaning requirements.
5. You may not be able to sit in church where you would like.
6. You must sanitize your hands with the gel provided when you enter and when you leave.
7. There is no singing.
8. Communion will be in one kind and with the Host given to you by dropping gently on your hand with your arm outstretched.

## **CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

The usual papers are attached.

## **MEALS FOR FAMILIES IN THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

This is a project run by some of the local Churches to provide a meal to families with school children in school holidays- **FISH- Food In School Holidays**. All schools know about this scheme.

This year as well as 1 hot meal to take away and a bag of ingredients to make it again, the families will also be given a Treasure Hunt pack to enjoy. As part of this each Church in South Lowestoft (for us St Nicholas) is being asked to display a selected Bible quote/verse on their door or notice board. It will change each fortnight. The families go round, find the written clue and piece it together. Kathy Fallon will look after this at St Nicholas.

## **WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR ABOUT THIS TIME:**

Elsie Hubbard, Margaret Rosindale, May Ward, Penelope Cook, Agnes O'Connor, Sean Kiernan, Patrick Romeo, Joseph McQuade, Andrew O'Donnell, David Hutchinson, Mary Pryer, Eileen Blake, George Bouille, Frank Green, Christopher Ryan, Charles Brinded, Florence Donoghue, Edith Thompson, Joseph Froud, Vera Smith, Joseph Salmon, John McLean, Teresa Stone (Maureen), Eileen Weeds.

## **CAFOD AND THE CONFIRMATION GROUP**

CAFOD has joined with the UK Disasters Emergencies Committee to help millions of people whose lives are at risk, as coronavirus spreads across refugee camps and countries suffering conflict. Our confirmands group have raised £463 so far. Please see the attachment for more about this and how you can take part.

## **CARITAS & CAFOD WEBINAR**

There is Caritas/Cafod webinar next week - Wednesday 29th July, 6:30pm to 8pm.

Jane, the East Anglia Cafod rep., will be speaking on behalf of Cafod. There is special interest for our Parish as she will speak about the Confirmation Group Fundraising and one of the confirmands who took part in the Cafod National Assembly video. The diocesan website link has more information about the webinar and how to register to watch the webinar by clicking on the link. Only the speakers will be seen - no one else can be seen or heard.

There is an article on the diocesan website: <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/first-caritas-webinar-to-showcase-model-projects/> .

To register click here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4870236585770331152>

## **OFFERTORY**

We are not allowed to pass round the collecting bags at Mass so there will boxes at the back of church. These have to be kept for 72 hours before they can be counted. It really would help if you could pay via your bank until we get back to the old normal.

**Parish bank details:** Barclays sort code 20-53-06 Ac No.10719587 Our Lady Star of the Sea Registered Charity No 278742 Parish Account and remember to reference your name so we can count it for Gift Aid. Some banks also ask for the type of account and ours is a Business Current Account. Please include your name as a reference if you are Gift Aiding.

## **DIOCESAN JOB VACANCY**

The Diocese of East Anglia office has asked us to circulate in this bulletin that they are looking for a part-time cleaner for the Diocesan Offices at Poringland.

Details can be found on the Diocesan Website: <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/vacancies/> or ring 01603 492202 and speak to Laura.

## **COMMENTARY SIDE OF BULLETIN & SUNDAY PLUS**

What you would have seen on the commentary side of the bulletin is attached as is this week's Sunday Plus.

## Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July Gospel

*Matthew 13:44-46. The short form.*

**The Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man happens to find a treasure hidden in a field. He covers it up again, and is so happy that he goes and sells everything he has, and then goes back and buys that field.**



**“Also, the Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man is looking for fine pearls, and when he finds one that is unusually fine, he goes and sells everything he has and buys that pearl.”**



**Gospel reflection:** What do you remember from today's reading?

Jesus tells some more stories to explain the Kingdom of Heaven to us. What does he say it is like? *Like a man looking for fine pearls, like treasure in a field.*

In Jesus' story the person who finds the treasure hides it again, then goes away and sells everything that they own to buy the field that it is in. Why do you think they do this?

*They are so excited by the treasure, and they know that it is worth more than everything that they own. It is the best thing that they can possibly have – nothing compares to it.*

Jesus is telling us that the Kingdom of heaven is a treasure that we can reach if we live our lives as God asks us to.

We all have things we treasure in our lives. What treasures do you have? Why are they so special?

Each one of us is a treasure made by God. We are all very special, no matter who we are or where in the world we live.

God has created the whole world and all the people, animals, plants and other things in it. There are so many treasures in our world for us all to share. Can you think of some treasures in our world that we share? (eg. *water, the sun, fresh air, trees, food*)

How can we look after the treasures of our world and make sure that they are there for all people to enjoy now and in the future ?

We can try not to take more than we need, so that there is enough for everyone and to care for God's world and all the people, plants and animals in it. We can try to be kind and loving, to share generously and to treat other people as we would wish to be treated.

*Prayers: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit .Amen.*

We are all precious treasure in the eyes of God and so we pray together:

We pray for world leaders: that they may help protect God's world and make sure that all people have what they need to live free from poverty.

Lord, in your mercy... Hear our Prayer

We pray for our brothers and sisters throughout the world: that we may treasure each other and work together so that all people may have their fair share of the good things God gives us.

Lord, in your mercy... Hear our Prayer

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may care for God's world and all the treasures in it, so that all people can enjoy them, now and in the future.

Lord, in your mercy... Hear our prayer

**Closing prayer:** Giving God, we thank you for the treasures of creation. Help us not to take more than we need so all your people can live free from poverty. Amen.

**Activity suggestions:** Colour in the pictures and enjoy the worksheets.





Ask the question of each statement: **Is this what God wants?**

If the answer is yes, put the statement into your treasure chest.

If no, put it into the bin:

- People are peaceful and happy
- People have quarrels and use angry words
- Plants grow, flowers open and birds sing in the trees
- These trees look useful. I will chop them down to make a big fire and keep me warm.
- Turning off the tap when I brush my teeth
- Soaking in a bath full of hot water twice a day
- Catching lots of fish to eat and throwing away the left-over ones
- Switching things off electric lights, games and the TV when I've finished using them
- Thinking about other people and sharing
- Having a picnic and leaving the rubbish for someone else to clean up.

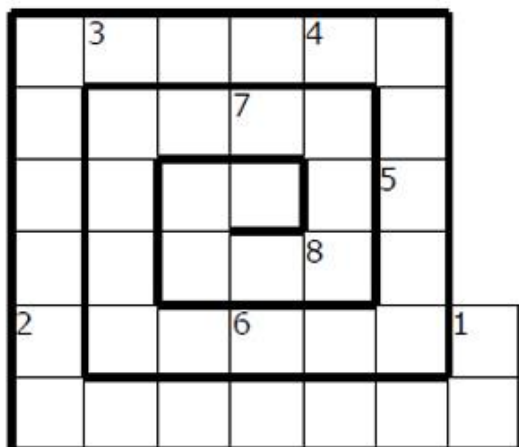
The man who finds the treasure



# Hidden Treasure and the Pearl

When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. Matthew 13:46 (NIV)

Look at the numbered clues, determine the correct word, and write that word in the spiral puzzle. Each numbered square will begin a new word.



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Something of great value; gold, silver, or jewels, for example         | 5. Gave something in exchange for money            |
| 2. A small, shiny, hard ball that forms inside some oysters               | 6. A territory or country ruled by a king or queen |
| 3. A feeling of great happiness   | 7. An adult male human                             |
| 4. To put in a place where something cannot be seen or found (past tense) | 8. The worth of something in money                 |

VALUE	PEARL	HID	KINGDOM
TREASURE	MAN	SOLD	JOY



# Hidden Treasure and the Pearl

When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. Matthew 13:46 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 13:44-46 (NIV)



M	K	E	J	O	Y	A	G	A	I	N	E	V	A	D
H	B	Z	G	M	H	D	P	G	N	U	V	S	R	H
O	I	O	N	A	V	K	L	V	L	J	D	S	T	T
V	Q	B	U	M	K	R	I	A	Q	U	U	F	Y	R
V	K	M	M	G	U	A	V	N	I	F	N	O	A	E
F	F	I	S	G	H	V	S	Z	G	E	O	U	R	A
S	I	Z	W	W	E	T	S	J	D	D	K	N	M	S
O	D	E	K	V	X	D	T	D	C	L	O	D	Q	U
L	F	D	L	N	B	B	I	G	F	C	X	M	E	R
D	M	R	K	D	C	H	S	S	I	R	C	S	T	E
O	N	V	L	O	V	L	L	K	F	H	H	A	K	T
H	R	L	L	M	R	U	H	E	A	V	E	N	G	R
X	A	C	P	A	W	B	A	B	F	R	B	X	X	D
Z	K	Z	E	P	X	A	E	D	G	H	H	N	Z	L
Y	I	P	L	N	M	S	P	M	A	N	L	X	F	B

GREAT  
KINGDOM  
VALUE

AGAIN  
FIELD  
ALL

SOLD  
JOY  
HEAVEN

TREASURE  
FOUND  
MAN

BOUGHT  
HIDDEN  
PEARLS

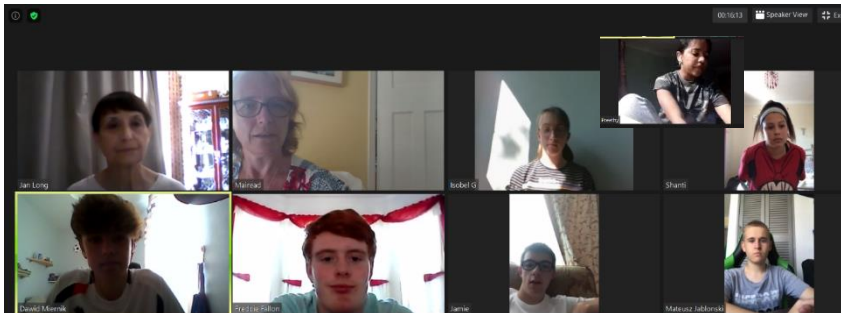


## Our Lady Star of the Sea, Lowestoft

### Confirmation Group Fundraising for Cafod Summer of Hope Appeal

Some of the Confirmands and Catechists from the Lowestoft Confirmation group set out to raise funds for the Cafod Crisis Appeal (<https://cafod.org.uk/>) despite the lockdown restrictions. Jan and Mairead, as the Catechists, thought it would be a great way of bringing in Catholic Social teaching on how we can help our brothers and sisters in need around the globe and supporting the charity.

**CAFOD has joined forces with the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) to help millions of vulnerable people whose lives are at risk as the coronavirus pandemic spreads across refugee camps and countries suffering conflict.**



Some of the Confirmation group and catechists who took part attending a Zoom meeting.

The aim was to give up (sacrifice) some of our own time and raise money through sponsorship. The activities varied with some doing bike rides, others gardening, a car wash, lawn mowing, runs, walks and Jan did an ambitious 150 + trampoline bounce!



To date £463 has being raised (some donated using the Cafod website and some on **our parish Just Giving site**)

The link to Our Lady Star of the Sea Cafod Just Giving site can be found through our Church website at:

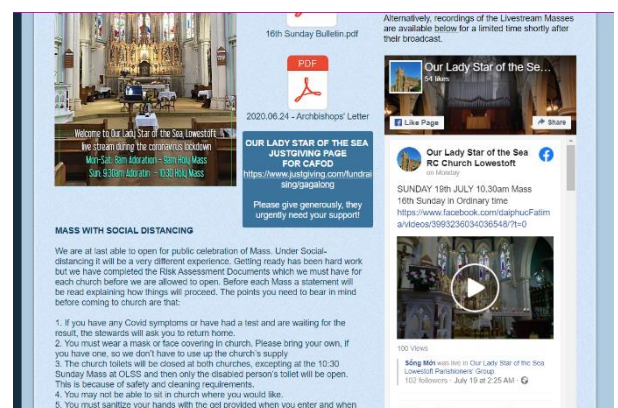
<https://www.ourladylowestoft.com/>

*"When I finally finished the three-hour bike ride, I had a real sense of achieving something good for someone else who is not as advantaged as me,"* Jamie, who did a 100km on his bike.

*"Knowing I was raising money for a good cause, enabled me to run more than I usually do,"* Shanti.

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Education-resources> - for **Fund raising ideas** in this Summer of Hope 2020.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fk8XTLhVLOs> or <https://vimeo.com/426215441/af26f3683f> - Watch the video to see one of our Confirmands introduce Suffolk in this special assembly to introduce the **Summer of Hope**.





That is, it is the coming close of the living God into fields and markets and homes and streets, meeting the sinner and the saint, the sick and the strong, the learned and the simple, the young and the old, men and women.

The world of Jesus' time had a very strong sense of sin and evil. Evil could be caught through proximity. It was, in some sense, contagious. It's a common enough idea. Parents still warn their children not to mix with certain of their friends lest they become like them. Jesus didn't seem to worry too much about the contagion of wickedness. He sat and ate with anyone who would join him. His enemies called him a glutton and drunkard who ate with sinners.

## DISCOVERING THE KINGDOM

Rather, Jesus believed in the contagiousness of holiness. He invited all sorts of dubious characters to sit and eat and talk with him and his disciples, to share what they had, to experience the gracious fruits of God's kingdom before he ever challenged them to change. He believed they would "catch" the kingdom and its joy and fellowship and discover how different their lives could be. They would come to know themselves the beloved sons and daughters of God, desired by God from all eternity.

As Jesus' disciples today, it is our calling to so live that others coming in off the streets to our worship, and into our homes, might discover among us the pearl of great price whose riches we already enjoy. May it be so.

## Mass text

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**God is in his holy place,  
God who unites those who dwell in his house;  
he himself gives might and strength to his people.**

FIRST READING 1 Kings 3:5. 7-12

PSALM Psalm 118

RESPONSE **Lord, how I love your law!**

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 Romans 8:28-30

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!  
Blessed are you, Father,  
Lord of heaven and earth,  
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom  
to mere children.  
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL Matthew 13:44-52

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive  
mercy.  
Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall  
see God.**

### Next Sunday's Readings:

Isaiah 55:1-3  
Romans 8:35. 37-39  
Matthew 14:13-21

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# SUNDAY BULLETIN

## HIDDEN TREASURE

Stories of buried treasure exist in all folk literature. They express a hope that a completely gratuitous occurrence could make a total change in our lives, transferring us from a state of care, coldness, hunger or horror into a world where all our desires could be satisfied. These stories are a universal expression of desire for meaning in the midst of lives often marked by absurdity or sickness, or violence and brokenness. They are a fundamental expression of human hope: that we'll just come across something that is of such value that, possessing it, we'll have nothing to worry about.



I remember my granddad driving us home from Mass in a pony and cart. It had been raining and now there was a beautiful rainbow in the brightening sky. My granddad told me that at the end of the rainbow was a crock of gold hidden by the fairies. So I begged him to go faster. But the faster we went, the quicker the rainbow disappeared and, sadly, we never found the crock of gold.

Religion can be like that. Against the dark it promises light, against fear it promises joy, against absurdity it promises meaning, against loneliness it promises community, against hate it promises love. But religious structures or even doctrines cannot provide these remedies. They must come from something deeper.

Judaism in the time of Jesus had different ways of promising these things. Most depended on some form of faithful practice of a variety of traditions. Some, like the Pharisees and Essenes, required the following of many rules and regulations; some were dependent on the chance of being born into blessed groups like the aristocratic Sadducees; some needed penitential practices of prayer and sacrifice in the Temple. And in the midst of these Matthew's community was still working out how its members were to receive the promise of Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

Pretty soon the Church itself would work out codes and rules and regulations that its virtuous members would need to follow if they were to be one with it and one with the God who called it into being. But it is worth remembering that Jesus did not talk much about the Church or about religious structures and doctrines. The treasure in the field, the pearl of great price is the kingdom of God.

## Catching the kingdom



David McLoughlin is a teaching theologian who has spent nearly forty years helping to train Christian teachers, ministers and activists. Today he concludes this series of reflections on the Gospel readings by considering the "contagiousness of holiness".

26 JULY 2020

17TH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
YEAR A

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK I

# SUNDAY PLUS

Worth everything!

A Year of the Word

## The authentic article



by Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R.

In two parables in today's Gospel, the men appreciate the true value of what they have discovered and are willing to pay the cost of everything they have for the new treasure. To outsiders looking at them, the two men might appear totally unhinged in risking everything on this one venture. But both are certain about the wisdom of what they must do; for them, the folly would be in passing over the main chance.

In the parables Jesus is asking the crowds if they perceive the kingdom of God in the same way: do they really see it as a treasure that is worth more than everything they now value in life? If the kingdom of God is not perceived as the authentic article, people will not bother renouncing anything to attain it.

None of us can gain anything of value without renouncing something. Perhaps what we have to renounce first is our perception of what real treasure in this life really is. Few of us will chance on the crock of gold at the end of the rainbow, or win a lottery, or stumble on an oilfield in the backyard. But we have all stumbled on treasure. The real treasure of life is under our noses – in the people with whom we share life; in the opportunities we face every day to exercise the values of Jesus. None of this might appear a glittering prize but it is in the heart of the ordinary that we discover the presence of Jesus. He is the authentic article. He is hidden in the commonplace, hoping that we'll stumble on that truth before long.

Fr Denis McBride's many books, CDs and DVDs are available from Redemptorist Publications, [www.rpbooks.co.uk](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk).

## Priceless opportunities

by Daniel Kearney

Nothing seems to last. We tire easily, always looking for the next best thing. But our restlessness is not the restlessness of which St Augustine talks, ultimately finding its peace in God. It is more superficial, less fulfilling. It continually turns us away from what we possess, setting our sights on what we don't. It undermines our stability in all things by creating a sense of being dissatisfied with everything. This is an illusion, but it is difficult to resist its lure because society is repeatedly telling us that "more" is better and that "more" is what we need to be fulfilled. Such thinking can seriously damage our health. Sometimes we need to take stock of what we have and, as the saying goes, count our blessings, because it is often the case that the priceless opportunities which we

think are "out there", are, in fact, already within our grasp.

Daniel Kearney is the author of *Adult Bullying and Childhood Bullying: caring for yourself and others*, available from Redemptorist Publications, [www.rpbooks.co.uk](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk).

**Loving Lord, how often do I count my blessings? What is most precious to me? What could I not live without? What is so important to me that I would willingly give up everything – even my life – to protect and defend it? Lord, if you are my dearest treasure, everything else falls into place: all those whom I love, everything I say, think and do. My Lord and my God, I love you. ☪ Amen.**

## Head over heels in love

by Emerald O'Hanrahan

Newly married, my husband and I arrived at St Peter's, for a blessing from Pope Francis.

When he reached us, he congratulated us and asked us to pray for him saying that he needed our prayers. He took our hands and blessed our new wedding rings and our marriage.

In all the pomp and ceremony of the Vatican, with all the guards and security, the sharp suits, glamour and riches, Pope Francis walked small: a man serving. A Jesuit. His humble walking through the world, responding to each person clamouring to see him as if they were the only ones, completely without ego – what an extraordinary model of discipleship! As newlyweds, there was no better gift: a model of humility, presence,

of love in action. Whenever I look at my wedding ring, I think not only of the best day of my life, when my husband put this symbol on my hand and we became a sacrament together, but of the humble loving presence of Pope Francis and his blessing on us both.

Emerald O'Hanrahan, actor and voice-over artist, is best known as Emma Grundy in the long-running BBC radio series, *The Archers*.

**"Guard the treasure that God has given us in the Gospel. The best means to guard it is God's grace. So I ask you to keep praying, for his grace to come and enable you to guard this treasure. Let us continue, then, to let others see this treasure which God freely gave us and which we must freely offer to others."**

Pope Francis

**Today:**  
1 Kings 3:5, 7-12  
Romans 8:28-30  
Matthew 13:44-52

**Monday:**  
Jeremiah 13:1-11  
Matthew 13:31-35

**Tuesday:**  
Jeremiah 14:17-22  
Matthew 13:36-43

**Wednesday:**  
1 John 4:7-16  
John 11:19-27  
or Luke 10:38-42

**Thursday:**  
Jeremiah 18:1-6  
Matthew 13:47-53

**Friday:**  
Jeremiah 26:1-9  
Matthew 13:54-58

**Saturday:**  
Jeremiah 26:11-16, 24  
Matthew 14:1-12

**Next Sunday:**  
Isaiah 55:1-3  
Romans 8:35, 37-39  
Matthew 14:13-21





## TREASURE HUNTERS (MATTHEW 13:44-52)

In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges us to think about what we value most. He uses two parables to get his message across. In the first, a farm labourer discovers a treasure hidden in a field. He realises that it is a valuable find, that it will make him a wealthy man. He buries it again, and sells everything he owns in order to buy the field.

In the second, another man discovers a great treasure. But unlike the farm labourer, this man does not discover the treasure by accident. He has been searching for it. He is a merchant who deals in fine pearls. He knows exactly what he is looking for, and when he finds the most valuable pearl he has ever set eyes on, he is in no doubt what to do – he sells everything he owns so he can have that pearl. Pearls in the time of Jesus were the most valuable of all goods. Now that the merchant has that pearl of great value, he doesn't need to search any more.

Both the farm labourer and the merchant appreciate the value of what they have discovered. They are prepared to risk everything, to spend every penny they possess, in order to have it. Both know it's worth the risk, that it would be foolish to let the opportunity pass them by.

In these parables Jesus is asking if we perceive the kingdom of heaven in the same way. Do we see it as a treasure that is worth more than everything else we value in life? Are we prepared to give up everything, to risk everything, in order to have it? Jesus did. He gave up everything he valued – his family, his home – to do his Father's will and to preach the Good News. For Jesus, there was no treasure greater than doing his Father's will. He was even prepared to give up his life to hold onto it. As Christians, God and God's kingdom must be our greatest treasure. It must mean more to us than anyone or anything else. ■

### REFLECT

People have always taken risks in order to find treasure. Think of the 200,000 who took part in the great California Gold Rush of 1849. Or those who spend all they have on "get rich quick" schemes or other ventures in the hope of striking it lucky. Think of an investor who gambles early on the success of a new company and who makes millions when the company is floated on the stock exchange.

Both the farm labourer and the merchant in today's Gospel know the value of what they've discovered. They are prepared to risk everything to have it because they know it's worth the risk.

Today's Gospel isn't about keeping a sharp eye out for hidden treasure or taking up a career as a venture capitalist. It is about values, priorities, knowing what's important, what our real treasure is. And for Christians the answer is clear: our treasure is the kingdom of God. Our treasure is Jesus. If we follow him, imitate him, live his way, then we will find what we are looking for, the most valuable treasure of all. The gift of salvation is a treasure far more valuable than all the pearls in the sea. ■

### DO

Think of the most valuable thing you own, possibly your house. Now think of the words of Jesus in today's Gospel. Even your house, even everything you own lumped together, counts for nothing compared to God and God's kingdom.



### LEARN

For Christians the only treasure that matters is the kingdom of God.

Wisdom is a gift of God.

### SAY

**"Lord, give me the grace to recognise the treasure in my life and the strength not to sacrifice it for things that are worthless. Amen."**

### PRAY

We live in a materialistic world, which defines happiness in terms of the size of one's bank account and the extent of one's possessions. Pray for yourself and others that you will have the wisdom to know what is truly important.

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

God is in his holy place,  
God who unites those who dwell in his house;  
he himself gives might and strength to his people.

**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**

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.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING**

1 Kings 3:5-12

A reading from the first book of the Kings.  
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.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Psalm 118

Response:

Lord, how I love your law!

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**

Romans 8:28-30

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

We know that by turning everything to their good God cooperates 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.

Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord,  
because I have made known to you  
everything I have learnt from my Father.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Matthew 13:44-52

(For shorter form Mt 13:44-46, read between > <).

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

>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."

>The Gospel of the Lord.<

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the  
dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

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.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

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

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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.  
Amen.