

WELCOME TO

# ST BRENDAN'S CATHOLIC PARISH



St Brendan's Parish is a Child Safe community. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all and a zero tolerance to child abuse.

**Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A**

**30 July 2023**

## 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!*

## 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.'

## Vocations Awareness Week commences Friday August 4.

### Reflection by Greg Sunter

The twin parables of today's gospel – the treasure in the field and the pearl of great value – reveal a paradoxical truth about the kingdom of Heaven. Throughout the gospels, Jesus presents the kingdom as 'now but not yet'; as 'present but future'. This paradox is captured in these twin parables. In both cases, the kingdom is likened to something of great value that is discovered but cannot be immediately grasped. In both parables, the finder must go away and sell everything so that they can eventually come to possess the treasure they have discovered.

By comparing this experience with the kingdom of Heaven, Jesus suggests that most of us can only ever catch glimpses of what it means to live in the kingdom. For most of us, only in the future reality of heaven will we ever fully come to understand the kingdom. However, those glimpses that we catch – those moments of inspiration and connection with God and with one another – are like the treasures of the parables. They are enough to inspire us to do what it takes to make sure that we will one day enter into that kingdom reality.

The third parable of this gospel passage reveals yet another truth about the kingdom. The dragnet thrown into the sea is like the message of Jesus – it is flung far and wide and does not discriminate about where it falls or on whom it falls. This parable rounds out the chapter that began with the parable of the sower and the image of casting the net is a neat parallel to the indiscriminate casting of seed. It is not up to the one who casts the net, the seed or the Word. Rather it is up to each individual to determine how they will respond to receiving the Word.

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# ST BRENDAN'S PARISH NEWS

121 Knight Street, Shepparton

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Website: sheppartoncatholic.org.au

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Parish Priest: Fr Joe Taylor

Priest in Residence: Fr Joseph Kunnackattu

Associate Priest: Fr Jackson Saunders

Deacon: Francois Baguma

Office Manager: Diane Teitzel

Child Safe Officer: Jason Giuliani Ph: 5821 2633

Office Hours: Mon to Fri 9am - 2pm



*Christ in community ...  
the heart of our faith*

**Recently Deceased:** Ron Peck

**Anniversary:** Damian Segafredo, George Donnelly, Carmel Phelan.

## Readers & Commentators August 5 & 6, 2023

6pm	J. Sutton	A. Kilmartin
8am	M. Keenan	D. Keenan
11am	P. Crane	P. Chalkley

## Carrying Forward the Plenary Council Online Workshops

Dr Chris Cotter and Leslie Cooper will be facilitating two online workshops focusing on the findings from the Plenary Council and the ways we can implement actions to support the commitments agreed to at the Council. These online sessions will start and end in prayer and invite participants to read and reflect on the decrees and share and listen to thoughts and ideas - a process consistent with that used at the Plenary Council. Choose either an evening session on Tuesday 8 August 7.00 – 8.30 pm, or a morning session on Wednesday 9 August 9.00 – 10.30 a.m.

This event is free to all. You must register to receive Zoom login details. To register go to:  
<https://www.trybooking.com/CJKVC>



## What a wonderful celebration for Monsignor Peter Jeffrey's 60th Anniversary of Ordination.

We at St Brendan's are honoured to share in this momentous occasion.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We turn our hearts and minds to the people of the Yorta Yorta nation, who have occupied this country for thousands of years. We pay respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging, and commit to walking alongside Aboriginal Australians in truth and justice.

It can sometimes feel like we're "running on empty" in the spiritual life. Ignatian spirituality offers a plethora of ways for us to re fill our cups.



### 1. Community

Find community in a faith community. St. Ignatius learned that he was most healthy, both spiritually and psychologically, when he was travelling with companions on the path. As such, community was an essential part of his plan for the Society of Jesus. We too need the nourishment of a community in which we can live our faith authentically. Such communities foster a sacred respect for each member and gratitude for the diversity of gifts that each individual brings to the table.

In loving communities of faith, we experience the Holy Spirit working in powerful ways and get a taste of what it might mean to bring the Kingdom of God to earth.

The **Serra Club Mass** will be held Friday August 4, at 7.00pm. Weekly adoration will continue until 7.00pm. We pray for our priests and for more vocations. This Friday is also the feast of St John Vianney, the patron Saint of priests, so it's a special day. There will be a cuppa in the MPJC afterwards. All welcome.



**Faith and Light** will meet Sunday, August 6, at 12.00pm in the MPJC.



### Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 8am & **11am** **PRAYING WITH CHILDREN**  
SUNDAY LITURGY

*Syro Malabar Rite:* Wednesday 6.00pm, Saturday 8.30am, Sunday 5.30pm

**Rosary**— The Rosary is prayed in the Marian Chapel after weekday Masses and after the 8am Mass on Sunday.

**Holy Hour with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** Thursdays 7pm to 8pm and Fridays 5pm to 6pm

### Weekday Mass Times

Tuesday to Friday 9.15am

**Reconciliation** Saturday 9.45am to 10.30am (in the Church)

The Second Vatican Council emphasised the importance of Catholics spending time in prayer and dialogue with other Christians. On **Wednesday, August 16, at 7.30pm** a combined prayer service will be held in St Brendan's Catholic Church. The night will include a Liturgy of the Word service, music and fellowship with refreshments afterwards. We need your support for this occasion please as we extend hospitality to our brothers and sisters of other Christian Churches. Ministers of other Christian Churches in Shepparton will be attending with their parishioners. Please mark this date in your diary. God bless, Fr Joe and Fr Jackson.

### Great work for God's families.

On Wednesday of this week Laura O'Sullivan finished her work as our Sacramental Co-Ordinator, a role which she has fulfilled for the last 14 years here at St Brendan's Parish.

She has helped about 1100 families to celebrate the sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist. The children have come from our Catholic and Government schools.

Laura has done this with great faith, great professionalism, great expertise and great energy. Passing on faith is so central to Christianity; Pope Francis calls us all to be *missionary disciples*. Laura has facilitated this so well.

We wish her a happy retirement from this job; Laura wears so many other hats (especially the one of Nonna) and is involved in so many other enterprises. She has worked admirably with our staff and will be missed very much.

My words cannot express my gratitude to her. Laura, may you enjoy your retirement and a grateful thanks from us all. Fr Joe

Pictured: Laura O'Sullivan and Jessamy Doyle.



### World Youth Day

35 pilgrims from across the Sandhurst Diocese begin their World Youth Day (WYD) pilgrimage on Saturday, July 29.

We return on Friday, August 11. The WYD experience includes a visit to Fatima and a post-WYD retreat at Avila in Spain. The WYD week will be held in Lisbon, Portugal. The program includes festivals, the Papal welcome, Stations of the Cross and a pilgrimage to the WYD Vigil and final Mass, among other things. There are 11 young adults connected with St Brendan's Parish in one way or another taking part in the pilgrimage. This includes four staff from Notre Dame College, two teachers from St Luke's Primary School and six others connected with St Brendan's Parish. Please keep us in your prayers. God bless, Fr Jackson Saunders. WYD Chaplain.



**ALL INVITED**  
to our next  
**PPC meeting:**

**August 15, 7pm**

*Agenda: Future direction of the Parish  
Please come along with your ideas of where you would like the direction of the parish to go.*

*What is our mission?*

*How do we foster a faith community?*



**Billabong Nursery Cafe Cuppa**

All Sacristans and ladies who help around the Church are invited to join us for a cuppa on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month at 10.00am, including **Saturday, August 5**. All enquiries to Kath Smyth 0409 003 420.



We are very pleased to welcome **Jessamy (Jess) Doyle** to our Parish team as our new Sacramental Coordinator. Jess and her husband have 2 children Laura (5) and Mathew (3).



Jess is one of 5 children and has a twin brother. Jess loves playing netball, and spending time in the garden.

Held at 7.30am in the MPJC, Saturdays August 5, August 19, September 2.




**ANOINTING MASS:**

11.00am,  
Wednesday  
August 2, 2023.  
St Brendan's Church

**GVHealth Children's Ward**



Scan to Donate to the GV Health Children's Ward today!

Notre Dame College 'Mackillop House' captains (Eliza Bicknell & Aj Cela) have organised a fundraiser for the Children's ward at the GV hospital. They are raising funds to help young children in need of supplies and equipment they may need while visiting the hospital.

If you would like to donate to their cause, whether that be small or large, you are more than welcome to drop the money off to Notre Dame's front office or scan the QR code above.

We appreciate any help given, thank you!  
Eliza and Aj.

**Taking Action to Respond to the Call of Laudato Si**



Look to buy Fairtrade certified products such as coffee, tea and chocolate. From Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace

**Spirituality of St. Ignatius**

An afternoon of information on the life and spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola.



This is an invitation to learn more about St. Ignatius (founder of the Jesuits); and **the upcoming four week retreat in October in Shepparton.**

Come and find out about St. Ignatius and how in today's busy life we can learn and apply his wisdom and teachings.

**Where: Mons. Peter Jeffrey Centre, St. Brendan's Parish, Knight St. Shepparton**

**Time : 1:30pm – 3:30pm**

**When: Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

**Presented by: Paul White** (a parishioner of St. Brendan's). Paul was employed for nearly six years by the Diocese. He graduated from Melbourne University of Divinity and the Jesuit Arrupe program and practices spiritual direction and has delivered retreats in Victoria and NSW. Paul is a member of the Jesuit Ignatian Spirituality Australia (JISA).

For more Information contact: Paul 0437 290 950

On August 8, we celebrate the feast day of Australia's first canonised saint, **Mary of the Cross MacKillop.**

This year, *Aid to the Church in Need* is **inviting you to bulk purchase, at our special feast day rate (\$25.00)**, these beautiful Italian made Ghirelli rosaries which commemorate this notable occasion in the history of the Catholic Church in Australia.

These unique rosaries can be utilised as gifts to school or university cohorts, sacramental classes, youth groups, staff members, leadership teams, residents in aged care or group members. Alternatively, they can be purchased and then on-sold at a profit, creating an opportunity for local fundraising. Please note that orders

**will close Thursday 31 August.**

For any questions or request an order form email [orders@aidtochurch.org](mailto:orders@aidtochurch.org) or call 1800 101 201.



Aid to the Church in Need  
ACN AUSTRALIA



**ST DONATO FEAST DAY – 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

A Mass to celebrate the annual St Donato Feast will be celebrated on at Sacred Heart Church Tatura on **Saturday, August 12, 2023 at 10.00am** followed by a 3 course lunch and entertainment by Rick Brun, auctions and raffles at Tatura Italian Social Club. Tickets for adults are \$60.00 and youth (5-12) \$25.00.

RSVP by 1<sup>st</sup> August to Mary Zobec 0427 190 282.



**Retreat in Everyday Life – Moments of Grace**

Held over five weeks, beginning Monday, July 31 and concluding August 28 (at Heart of Life, Malvern, or via Zoom), Flexible timing. The Retreat in Everyday Life involves a commitment to daily prayer and weekly spiritual accompaniment for an hour per week over five weeks with this year's theme 'Moments of Grace'. This is an ideal opportunity for a Parish or spiritual community to retreat together, as well as for individuals who would like to experience an opportunity to recognise God's presence in their everyday lives in a more intentional way. Register your interest <https://www.heartoflife.melbourne/events/retreat-in-everyday-life-moments-of-grace/> or [info@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne) and we will be in touch to have a conversation. Cost: Donation



# PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

## SUNDAY LITURGY



17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

30 July 2023 - Year A

***"He sold all that he had and bought the field."***

### Something to Think About

What do you treasure in your life? What is of great value to you?

### The Story

This week we hear Jesus tell the disciples that the Kingdom is like finding a treasure in a field. Whoever finds it will go to extraordinary lengths to buy the field so that the treasure is theirs forever. Then he gives the people another example: the kingdom is like finding some lovely pearls and selling everything to buy those pearls of great value.

### The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

13:44-46

Jesus said to his disciples:

"The kingdom of heaven is like what happens when someone finds treasure hidden in a field and buries it again.

A person like that is happy and goes and sells everything in order to buy that field.

"The kingdom of heaven is like what happens when a shop owner is looking for fine pearls.

After finding a very valuable one, the owner goes and sells everything in order to buy that pearl."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Video

Watch the video:

[The Parable of the Hidden Treasure](#)



## Group Discussion

Tell the children that you (leader) have a treasure and it is hidden in this small treasure chest. Invite the children to guess its contents. Open the small treasure chest to reveal the treasure. Tell the children why you treasure this object so much and what lengths you would go to in order to protect it and keep it safe.

Invite the children to talk about what they treasure in life.

## Praying For Others

*Leader:* Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

*Reader 1:* We pray for wise leaders who treasure our country, Australia. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Reader 2:* We pray for people who don't have enough money to buy food. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Reader 3:* We pray for those who are hungry or homeless. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Reader 4:* We pray for those who are striving to grow closer to Jesus. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Reader 5:* We pray that we may treasure all of God's gifts to us. Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.*

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

**All: Amen.**

## Prayer



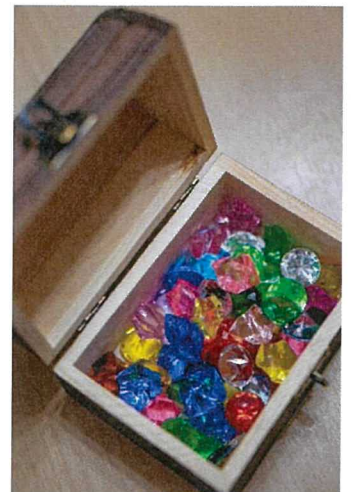
Dear Jesus,  
Thank you for teaching us what is  
most important.  
Help us to build up God's kingdom  
with our loving words and actions.  
Amen.

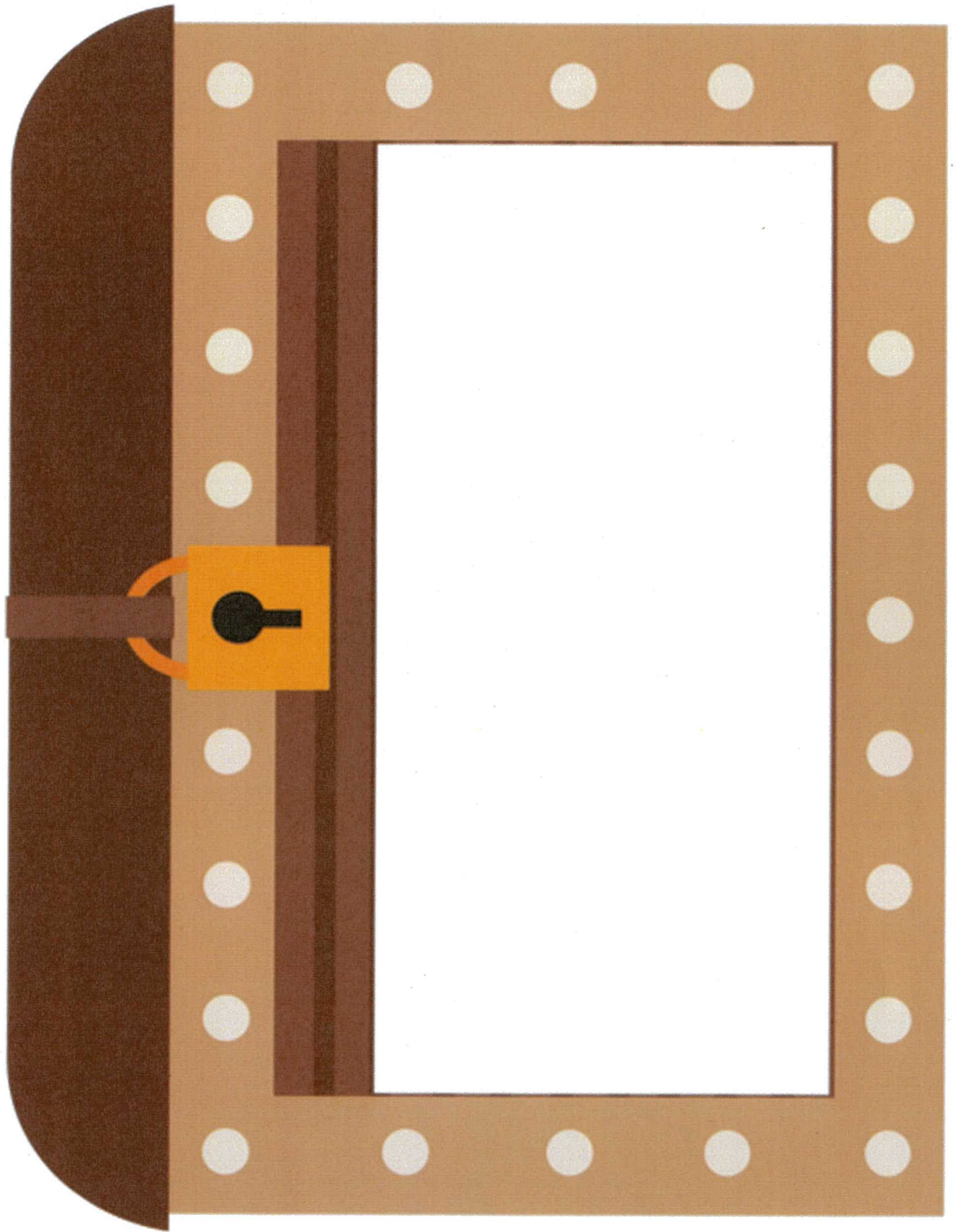
## Group Activity

### What Do You Treasure?

*You will need: a template for each child on cardstock paper, scissors, clear contact paper, glitter/sequins/feathers/confetti.*

- 1) Cut out the treasure chest as well as its rectangular centre.
- 2) Cut two pieces of contact paper that are bigger than the treasure chest.
- 3) Remove backing of one piece of contact paper and place treasure chest face down on the contact paper.
- 4) Children decorate the inside of their treasure chest with sequins etc
- 5) Peel off the backing of the second piece of contact paper and place it on top of the other piece.
- 6) Use scissors to trim the excess contact paper. Display on a window with tape.



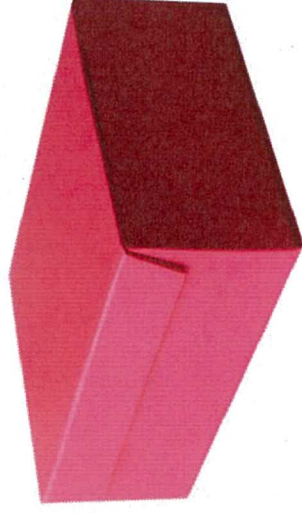


# **GOD'S LOVE: MORE PRECIOUS THAN A BURIED TREASURE**

ORDINARY TIME 17 – YEAR A

## **HAPPY IS THE ONE WHO FINDS A TREASURE!**

**HAVE A TREASURE HUNT  
AT HOME WITH YOUR FAMILY.  
FIND A SMALL BOX AND PUT A SECRET  
'TREASURE' INSIDE.**



**BURY OR HIDE IT IN A SECRET PLACE  
IN THE GARDEN.  
THEN LET EVERYONE SEARCH FOR IT.  
IF THEY GET CLOSE, YOU CAN TELL THEM  
THEY ARE 'WARM'.  
IF THEY GET CLOSER, YOU CAN SAY:  
'WARMER'.**





# Along the track

## Losing my Religion

Faith isn't comfortable. It's a struggle, a lifelong one. Perhaps the easiest way to react to it, and many do, is to say "I no longer believe". It is easy enough to find reasons why, particularly in the sort of society we live in today that sees little or no place for faith or religion. It is seen as out of step, out of place in the modern world, even a bit naïve, out of date. Divisive even.

Some people are turning away from religion because of scandals and hypocrisy. That's understandable. It is disgraceful that this has been going on for hundreds of years and it has only come to light in recent times. It is a dreadful shock, a betrayal of trust, a monumental cover up at the highest levels. On the other hand, at a personal level, sometimes tragedy or hard times make us question our belief in a loving God. How can God let this happen and why? That can be a lifelong and agonising struggle for answers. The Christian faith is inherently uncomfortable. C. S. Lewis once said, "I didn't go to religion to make me happy. I always knew a bottle of Port would do that. If you want a religion to make you feel really comfortable, I certainly don't recommend Christianity," he wrote.

Religion and faith are fellow travellers but they are not the same. Religion is about how we gather, with whom and why. Religion is about structure, about how we celebrate our beliefs, how we codify them and people do that in different ways – the world is full of people celebrating faith in different ways.

But if we have 'given it away', what do we replace it with? Do we need to? What sort of story sustains us now? When we were 'believers' we had something to fall back on, something to give us comfort, something to motivate us, to give us hope, to inspire the best in us. So what now?

This is, I suggest, the age of story. We are looking for something that affirms our values and fundamental beliefs, something that gives us direction, something to inspire us, something to hand on to our children. For many, the story of Christianity has lost its power to convince so we have replaced it with more modest and "localised" narratives. Hollywood has responded to this need within us – stories like the Lion King, Finding Nemo and Frozen, just to mention a few, encapsulate many of the values, the underlying beliefs we want to hang onto and to hand on. They are stories that help our children understand their world, help them to interpret their feelings, what is happening, their life experiences, what dreams might be important. And they help us too.

This isn't new, something unique to our times. The Bible is full of them, the Bible is full of stories that helped people generation after generation interpret what is going on in their times. Down through the ages, the Bible has included stories to help people understand their deepest feeling and desires, what they are struggling to believe. The Bible has told stories like Job who endures terrible hardship, despair and depression. It has told the story of the people in exile, refugees who are missing the things they hold most dear, the stories and songs that have given them strength and meaning. It has told the story of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel to try to help us understand that there are times when we want to do what is right but that doesn't always happen, that doing what is right is not always as easy as we would like. Or where naked ambition gets in the way. We have the enduring stories of the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son that speak to us of a loving God and our response. There are stories learning to forgive and accept forgiveness, stories about feeling wronged, stories of sadness and happiness, stories of power and ambition and stories of unselfish service.

Story is a powerful medium, a way of handing on underlying values and beliefs.

But faith is more than a series of stories. Underlying those stories is the challenge to ask the deeper questions. Faith continually irritates us, it challenges what we have come to find comfortable, it keeps on prodding and asking. Sometimes we need to just hang on to what we know, what makes us comfortable, what makes us secure. But often that makes us feel a bit superior, a bit judgemental about those who are 'not like us', who are not 'orthodox.'

Underlying all those stories of failure and success, exile and freedom, defeat and victory, searching and finding is the constant theme of a God who loves, a God who is seeking us out, a God who wants to befriend us in all of life's ups and downs. That is the message of all these stories, the message of the prophets, the message of Jesus. Without that, what have we got?

Regards  
Jim Quillinan

Email: [jquillinan@dcsi.net.au](mailto:jquillinan@dcsi.net.au)