



The Parish of St Matthew's North Fawkner
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17th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME July, 26, 2020—The Pearl of great price

Life messages:

- **We should live every moment in view of our precious goal.** Most of the time, we are chasing false treasures such as money, status or pleasure. Often, we are locked into regrets over the past, or focused too much on the future. As a result, the enriching present passes us by, and the treasure is never discovered. Thus, the really valuable pearl of sharing in God's life through Jesus here on earth and later in Heaven is never found. Let us always remember that Heaven is within the reach of all of us who try to do the will of God, following the ordinary vocations of life and enjoying this world's joys and pleasures within the framework of God's Commandments. Right now, it is for us to use the time given to us to go in search of the pearl of great price and to help others in their search. We are challenged to search and discern where the Lord is calling us so that we may know what path to take. Let us remember that whenever we fight against discrimination, whenever we trust completely in God, whenever our selflessness conquers selfishness, whenever our love overcomes sin and our Faith overcomes suffering, whenever we render humble service to others, we are doing the will of God as it is done in Heaven. Hence, we are already living in the Kingdom of Heaven while we are still on earth. The pearl of great price in this life is also found in our human relationships: a happy family, good friends, and people who love and accept us, even if neither we nor they are perfect. We must give all we have to possess this great pearl because, through selfishness and self-worship, we can destroy entirely the bond of love joining us to God and each other, a bond that otherwise would flourish, surviving in spite of sickness, disease or geographical distance, and growing stronger when death divides us.
- **We need to take all precautions to keep our greatest treasure safe:** We will be able to keep safe the treasure of our personal relationship with Jesus by accepting him every day as our God and Saviour, by allowing him to have total control over our lives through our loving obedience to his will, by asking him daily for the strengthening and guidance of his Holy Spirit. We do this by talking to him daily in prayer, by listening to him in our meditative reading of the Bible, by getting reconciled to him and others every day, asking pardon and forgiveness for our sins, by offering Him our lives on the altar during the Holy Mass, and by nourishing our souls frequently, receiving Jesus in Holy Communion.
- **We need to learn the lesson of the dragnet:** This parable offers us a lesson in tolerance and compassionate understanding. In this, it resembles the parable of the weeds growing up with the wheat, for both parables teach us that the kingdom is a mixed body of saints and sinners (wheat and weeds; good and rotten fish). There will be always a temptation for those who feel they are more "faithful" to separate themselves from the "weeds"/"bad fish." But Jesus reminds us that the final judgment resulting in reward or punishment is God's work. Thus, we must learn to be patient, compassionate and understanding with those who seem to fall far below the requirements of the Gospel and the Kingdom. Let us humbly admit the fact that there are only a very few of us who are not a mixture of good and evil and that the good is the result of God's work within us, while we are responsible for the evil. Let us gratefully declare as St. Paul did, *"I am what I am with the grace of God."*

Our Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults

We especially pray for all the recently deceased and those whose anniversaries occur at this time. All those whose names are on the Church

Please pray for the Sick: John, Leanne, Raphaella, Diana, Robert, Nola Natalina Gianna Rossetini & Lia Pierazzi Phylliss Flood.

FEAST DAYS Fri 26: St Joachim & St Anne. Sat 27 The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mon 29th St Martha

PRAYER FOR OUR NATION (Pope Francis encourages us to pray this prayer daily)

PROTECT, O HOLY GUARDIAN, THIS OUR NATION OF AUSTRALIA. ENLIGHTEN THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COMMON GOOD, SO THAT THEY MIGHT KNOW—LIKE YOU DO—HOW TO CARE FOR THOSE ENTRUSTED TO THEIR RESPONSIBILITY. **GRANT** INTELLIGENCE OF KNOWLEDGE TO THOSE SEEKING ADEQUATE MEANS FOR THE HEALTH AND PHYSICAL WELL BEING OF THEIR BROTHERS AND SISTERS. **SUSTAIN** THOSE WHO ARE SPENDING THEMSELVES FOR THOSE IN NEED, EVEN AT THE COST OF THEIR OWN SAFETY: VOLUNTEERS, NURSES, DOCTORS WHO ARE ON THE FRONTLINES IN CURING THE SICK. **BLESS, O ST. JOSEPH, THE CURCH: BEGINNING WITH HER MINISTERS, MAKE HER THE SIGN AND INSTRUMENT OF YOUR LIGHT AND YOUR GOODNESS. ACCOMPANY, O ST. JOSEPH, OUR FAMILIES: WITH YOUR PRAYEFUL SILENCE, CREATE HARMONY BETWEEN PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN, IN A SPECIAL WAY WITH THE YOUNGEST. PRESERVE** THE ELDERLY FROM LONELINESS: GRANT THAT NO-ONE MIGHT BE LEFT IN DESPERATION FROM ABONDMENT AND DISCOURAGEMENT. **COMFORT** THOSE WHO ARE THE MOST FRAIL, **ENCOURAGE** THOSE WHO FALTER, **INTERCEDE** FOR THE POOR. WITH THE VIRGIN MOTHER, **BEG** THE LORD TO LIBERATE THE WORLD FROM EVERY PANDEMIC. AMEN.

Prayer when you cannot receive Communion:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen

Humour—Lost & found: "Life is unfair. I lost my car keys at a ball game and never found them. I lost my sunglasses at the beach and never found them. I lost my socks in the washing machine and never found them. I lost three pounds on a diet — I found them and five more!"

Pope Francis Quote:

Worshipping the Lord means giving Him the place that he must have; Worshipping the Lord means stating, believing - not only by our words - that He alone truly guides our lives; Worshipping the Lord means that we are convinced before Him that He is the only God, the God of our lives, the God of our history.

St Matthew's daily mass is live streamed on

Facebook at : <https://www.facebook.com/groups/206102420820791/> or search for "Mass at St. Matthew's Fawkner North, Melbourne" on Facebook.

Links to the recording of the Masses are also available on the Parish website : <http://stmatthewsparish.org.au> Mass times are as usual.