

Catholic Parish of the Nambucca Valley



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Our Lady Star of the Sea-Nambucca Heads,

Corpus Christi- Bowraville, St Patricks-Macksville

First Reading

1 Kings 3:5,7-12

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'O 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 number 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

Psalm 118(119):57,72,76-77,127-130

Lord, I love your commands.

Second Reading

Romans 8:28-30

We know that by turning everything to their good, God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those 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

cf Matthew 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

Matthew 13:44-52

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.'

A pearl of great price

Much like today, different gods and life philosophies were plentiful in the ancient Roman world. They were like different pearls, available for people to pick and choose which they liked and wanted to keep. However, say you had come across a pearl greater in its beauty and purity than all of the others you had seen, one so valuable it required you to discard all the rest to obtain it.

There’s a sense of urgency in the decision too. A pearl this valuable, like treasure found in a field, will not remain available like this for long. Looking at it, you know you must decide quickly while it is still available. Would it be worth it to you? When Jesus talks about the ‘kingdom of heaven’ or the ‘kingdom of God’ being like a pearl of great price, he’s referring to the value of the new way of living available through him. As St Paul explains in this week’s second reading, the kingdom of heaven is not just about eternal life. It is primarily about being shaped to become like Jesus, including in the here and now. We share Jesus’ wisdom, his capacity to love others and his relationship with the Father. We live with Christ’s life, we become moulded to his ways, and we take on Christ’s whole way of being as our own. The imagery offered by the parables in the gospels describes the right response to finding the kingdom of heaven, which is to give up everything else that has value in order to pursue it. Whether it costs us success, security, pleasure, or the respect of others, the kingdom of heaven is worth the very highest price. St Matthew understands how the kingdom of heaven can change a person. Not only has he given up everything, including riches and security, for the kingdom of heaven but, in attaining it, he is like the head of a household who can welcome others into the kingdom and give its treasures away. However, there is no understanding of the kingdom of heaven as Jesus describes it without a life-changing commitment to stay on its course. As our first reading explains, King Solomon, at the start of his life, found this pearl of great price and placed it at the very centre of his life. Solomon disregarded offers of health, wealth and security and instead prized knowing the heart and mind of God. However, as the books of Kings go on to document, the wealth and life of pleasure drew Solomon’s focus away from the wisdom he once prized above everything. The life on offer from God gives us meaning and joy. It offers us a life where “all things work for good for those who love God.” It is worth it to cast everything aside to attain it. Josphe Doyle © Majellan Media 2026

Announcements:

Sunday 26th July is World day for Grandparents and the Elderly.

Congratulations to all the students who have been confirmed. May God Bless them all

Women’s Retreat Coffs Harbour Saturday **8th August** at St John Paul College. Please refer to Church noticeboard for more information.

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Pauline Baker, Fay Gough , Joye Thorne, Elaine Gosson,
Nicky Hemsworth, Roy Pritchard

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES
OCCUR AT THIS TIME**

Tony Cooke, Fr Edward Galavan,
John Howle,Cresencia Batica

WE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED

Marie Clare Mainey, Peter Richardson, Coral Ryan(nee Ussher)

Tue 28th July	No Mass Deanery meeting
Wed 29th July	No Mass
Thu 30th July	9:30am Mass at Macksville
Fri 31st July	9am Adoration, 9.30am Mass at Nambucca Heads
Sat 1 st August	4:30 Confession 5:00 pm Mass at NH
Sun 2nd 18 th Sunday in Ordinary time	8am Mass at Macksville 9:30 am Mass at Bowraville

****Mass Intention envelopes are located at the back of the Church****