

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday Patchwork Group meet @ 12.30pm
Tuesday Friendship Group meet @ 10am
COGs Group meet @ 1.30pm
Wednesday Golf Group meet @ 7am
Thursday Revd Josie at church @ 10am -12 pm

PROGRESSIVE LUNCH – a huge THANK YOU to Jennifer, Noeleen and Scott for making all the delicious food we had last Sunday. And for being so gracious in opening your homes for us to come to. It was a wonderful afternoon of chatting and catching up with each other.

VISIT TO ARALUEN - will be held on Saturday 29th August. We have ordered a bus to take 12 people who don't want to drive, cost \$10 each, plus \$6 for entry. For those who don't fit on the bus we'll car-pool to minimise the number of cars. The cost to enter Araluen is \$10 per head, or \$8 concession if in a single vehicle. Please put your name on the notice board and indicate your preference of going on the bus or driving there yourself.

Please pray for: Paul; Colleen & Ted; Marge; Lynne; Frances; Isla; Brad; Peter; Lois; Albert, Ivan; Suzie; Dan; Jean; Jennifer; Serena; Colin; Stuart; Dennis; Peggy; Merle; Jodi; Jack, Sara; Jan



*Happy birthday to Scott Tanoai on 30th;
Tony Laws on 31st*

Wardens -	Noeleen Stewart	Phone: 0414 505 064
	Judith Smith	Phone: 9246 3745
Parish Priest – the Reverend Josie Steytler		Phone: 0421 115 438

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Welcome to Worship



Pentecost 8

26th July 2020

We are a warm-hearted community who are delighted to have you worshipping with us today ...

Our Mission is to

- **Know God personally**
- **Love and respect one another deeply**
- **Disciple and serve those around us**

Sentence: Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

Collect of the Day

O God, the fount of wisdom, you have revealed to us in Christ the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price: grant us your Spirit's gift of discernment, that, in the midst of the things of this world, we may learn to value the priceless worth of your kingdom, and be ready to renounce all else for the sake of the precious gift your offer. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Today's readings:

Genesis 29:15-28
Psalm 105:1-11
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:44-58

Next Week:

Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7, 16
Romans 9:1-8 (9-16)
Matthew 14:13-21



Matthew 13:44-58

Pentecost 8 – Matthew 13:44-58

“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells what he has and buys that field.”

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells what he has and buys it.”

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collects fish of every kind. When it is full they haul it ashore and sit down and put what is good into buckets . . . ”

The first two parables in today’s Gospel – the parables of the buried treasure and the pearl – are lessons in the total *attachment* to Christ and *detachment* from the things of the world demanded of the disciple in order to make the reign of God a reality.

The parable of the dragnet is similar in theme to last week’s parable of the wheat and weeds. Again, Matthew makes the point that the kingdom of God is neither an instant happening nor a static event, but a dynamic movement toward completion and fulfillment which Jesus set into motion.

The “treasures” and “pearls” of lasting value are the things of God: the love of family and friends, the support of community, the sense of fulfillment from serving and giving for the sake of others. In order to attain such treasure, we must take the risk of the speculator and “sell off” our own interests, ambitions and agendas in order to free ourselves to embrace the lasting values of the compassion, love and reconciliation of God.

The Gospel “pearl” of great price transcends logic, efficiency, and self-interest; and the Gospel “treasure” is the joy and wholeness one experiences in imitating the humble compassion and forgiveness of Christ.

In the parable of the dragnet, Jesus calls us to embrace the vision of God that seeks out the good and nurturing, the right and just in all things amid the “junk” of life.

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