



The Parish of

St Anne & St Bede



**Parish Office:** 1 Severn St, Balwyn North

**Office Hours:** Tuesday – Friday, 9:00am – 12:00pm

**Phone:** 9401 6355

**E-mail:** [balwynnorthkeweast@cam.org.au](mailto:balwynnorthkeweast@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [parishofstanneandstbede.org.au](http://parishofstanneandstbede.org.au)

**For those wishing to contribute to Stewardship or Priests' collection, the Parish account details are listed below for electronic funds transfer.**

1<sup>st</sup> Collection

**Account name: St Bede's Presbytery Account Presbytery**  
**Account BSB: 083 347 Account no. 666017079**

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection

**Account name: St Bede's Church Account Church**  
**Account BSB: 083 347 Account no. 458706734**

**Please click on the link below from 5pm on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> July, to watch Mass Online, celebrated by our priests:**

[https://youtu.be/XGZ\\_visvJLc](https://youtu.be/XGZ_visvJLc)

### **First Reading - 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, '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.*



## **Responsorial Psalm – Ps 118:57, 72, 76–77, 127–130**

### **R. Lord, I love your commands.**

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.**

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.**

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.**

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**

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.

*The word of the Lord.*

### **Gospel Acclamation**

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 13:44–46**

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.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

## REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

This Sunday we come to the last parables in Jesus' discourse, and again remember to focus first on the opening line of each parable: *"The kingdom of God is like a treasure hidden in a field which someone has found"*, and *"the kingdom of God is like a merchant looking for fine pearls"*. Both images put before us are active ones: it isn't just about a treasure or a pearl, it is about the finding of them. And that's where the first two parables into today's Gospel begin to engage us.

How did each of us find the kingdom of God in our life? At some stage – no matter how much our family background or our schooling or our community has been supportive – we had to make a decision about committing to the kingdom of God. We know that instinctively because we all know other people who either had the same background as us, or who went to the same schools, or who come from the same community, who haven't committed to the kingdom. So how did we find it? Perhaps we were cruising along quite nicely, life all fine, then something – perhaps like a treasure found in a field unexpectedly – has made us appreciate the treasure we have in our faith and in God's love for us. The parable gives a sense of urgency – the man in the parable hides the treasure until he is able to access it.

Or we might have been one of life's searchers – like the merchant looking for the pearl. Our journey to faith might have been a long and arduous one – but God has not disappointed us and will not disappoint us. And when we have found Him the sense of urgency is there again – sell everything and buy this pearl of great price.

In both parables, the treasure is hidden in the depths to start with. That imagery is right isn't it? About the things that really matter in life – the real pearls and treasures. They often aren't obvious – it requires a bit of digging around to appreciate them: the love of family or friends that we sort of take for granted; the support of a community we live in day-by-day; and the faith which informs and enlivens our lives.

Today's parables say there is a time to reflect on all these things – which bring us to gratitude. There is a time for sifting out things in life: like the fishermen sorting out the catch. And that sifting out will help prepare us for the kingdom in its fullness. We will then be a wise householder, knowing the best of things new and old as we help build the kingdom of God.

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

**Celebrant:** We ask God to bless us with the gift of wisdom and understanding as we bring our prayers before the throne of mercy, with humility and confidence.

We pray for Pope Francis, all Bishops and Church Leaders. May they, like Solomon, be blessed with a special gift of discernment as they lead the Church today.

*Lord hear us*

We pray for our leaders of government, commerce, trade and industry. May they strive honestly and intelligently to work together as stewards of God's creation.

*Lord hear us*

In celebrating the feast of St. Anne and St. Joachim this week-end, we pray for their guidance in opening our hearts in service to each other, especially to the frail and isolated.

*Lord hear us*

We pray for ourselves on our journey of faith. May we respond to the call of God who watches over us along the way and teaches us how to live with the treasures of his love.

*Lord hear us*

We pray for the sick of our parish and for those who care for them. We pray for those who have died recently **Margaret Wilson, Anne Harland** and **Macushla Cosgrave** and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time especially **Patricia Peyton, Roger John Ulehla, Kama Coyne, Elizabeth Milligan, Harry Despard** and **Maria Dinh**. May they now experience God's glory.

*Lord hear us*

**Celebrant:** Almighty God, hear the words of your servant people as we voice our needs and concerns before you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

### AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*The simple and loving act of Spiritual Communion (written by St. Alphonsus Liguori) can be made when we are unable to attend Mass and receive the Eucharist. Pray these words:*

My Jesus,  
I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament.  
I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.  
As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You;  
never permit me to be separated from You.  
Amen.

## *Prayers during a pandemic*

### ***FOR PEACE OF SOUL***

*Let nothing disturb you,  
Let nothing frighten you.  
All things are passing:  
God alone is changeless.  
Patience gains all things,  
Who has God wants nothing.  
God alone suffices.  
—St Teresa of Ávila*

### ***A Prayer to St Joseph, the Great Protector***

St Joseph,  
You were receptive to God working in your life.  
Help us by your prayers at this time of trial.  
You kept Jesus and Mary under your watchful care:  
may your prayers assist our local Church to respond to those in need.  
You taught the Christ Child your trade and prayers:  
help us to follow his example of love.  
You were part of God's plan for all humanity:  
assist us to be vigilant and responsible this day.  
You spent your life in service:  
may we be mindful of others, particularly the elderly and vulnerable,  
caring for them in these difficult days.  
You trusted in the clear primacy of God over all history and every  
situation: help us to grow in faith and pray to the Father,  
*Thy will be done.*  
Amen



### **SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

We hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our parish. The Parish Statement of Commitment and Reporting Process are on display in all churches and all Parish Policies are available on the website or at the parish office.