

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** (or a hymn) God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** (Ps 118)

**ANTIPHON:** Lord, I love your commands.

**RESPONSE:** Lord, I love your commands.

**LECTOR:** 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.**

**LECTOR:** 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.**

**LECTOR:** 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.**

**LECTOR:** Your will is wonderful indeed; therefore I obey it. The unfolding of your word gives light and teaches the simple.

**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!

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** (or a hymn) Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

**Or**

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.

**TODAY'S READINGS** 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52

**NEXT WEEK** (18th Sunday Year A) Isaiah 55:1-3, Romans 8:35. 37-39; Ps 144; Matthew 14:13-21

Brighten up  
your day with  
The Majellan

## ACPA Conference

The annual Australasian Catholic Press Association conference and Awards Dinner will be held in Christchurch, New Zealand on August 26 to 27. Those who work for Catholic organisations in the Media/Communications/Events field are welcome. Membership and conference enquiries at: [acpa.asn.au](http://acpa.asn.au)



# majellan

## A pearl of great price



26 July 2026 17th Sunday Year A

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.

Joseph Doyle

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