

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

27th July 2008

THEME: Kings 3: 5, 7-12

In today's first reading King Solomon asked not for riches and power but for discernment, an understanding and wise heart. -

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord, I love your commands.

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!

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

| | | |
|----------|------------|---|
| Tuesday | 29th July | Martha |
| Thursday | 31st July | Ignatius of Loyola, priest |
| Friday | 1st August | Alphonsus Liguori, bishop, doctor First Friday, Sacred Heart |
| Saturday | 2nd August | First Saturday, Fatima |

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

Jesus described the kingdom in terms of a treasure hidden in a field or a pearl of great price, and offered it as a supreme value before which all other treasures paled into insignificance.

Aware of this human desire for securing treasure, Jesus advised his own to seek first the kingdom and there find treasure that would survive beyond the grave.

Despite all the ethical injunctions of the Gospels, the central thought is that the kingdom is something God is *doing* and that it is to be received as gift, as a life-changing gift. It is not a possession to be acquired and henceforth claimed as a legal and permanent possession. The kingdom of God is a sphere into which one enters. It is a participation in the very life of God; it is a taking to heart the treasure of God's Word so as to live in accord with its truth. The kingdom of God is that life-changing event in which my relatedness to God, and God's to me, becomes the alternative reality in which I begin to witness to God's way, God's will and God's purpose for the world.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Grant spiritual comfort and healing to the sick, especially:

Mary Cooper, Judith Falconer, Wendy Murphy, Stan Sawaski, Frank Smith, Roy Poy, Jim Star, Ray Muntz, Matthew Doyle, Doreen Irons, Sr Celsus O'Grady RSJ, Monette Fealy, Annette Hoffman, Lionel Jansen, Kelly Harty, John McManus, Peter Cairns, Allan Dedrauth, Marjory Stott, Stephen Aldridge, Gerri Boldrini, Mary Egan, Melda McDonald, Kristi Cassandra, Allanah Barnes, Anthony Gilchrist, Rosel Free, Luke Heffernan, Reece Valta, Yela Jankovic, Karl Grlica, Alvin Horn, Kate Cox, Patricia Hamill, Maureen Pidutti, Zoltan Tar, Catherine Mead, Helen Saffrey, Charles Francis, Will Carland, Maureen Fields, Patricia

Barber, Ian Walters, Des O'Meara, John Williams, Gregory Cummins, Ben Harper, Joseph Doran, Nicholas Hetherington, Bess Harris, Sandra Varrasso, Effie Ray, Patricia Bourke, Bob Woods, Marie Cook and Luke Westaway.

Grant eternal life to:

Ray Beech, Harold Southcombe, Kath Sefton, Bob Bartlett, Elaine Cox, Alf Scelisi, Neil Elliott, Mary McEneaney and all our dear ones deceased.

Anniversaries:

Edgar Rodrigues, Richard Gomes, Louis Gomes, Jim Spinelli, Jack Hegarty, Leo McCormack, Lucia Vlacci, Jack Surrey, Marian & Kath Carlo and all those whose anniversaries occur now.

And Also:

Bert Scammell, Lorraine Hill, Casimiro Vlacci, Miranda Torand all our dear ones deceased.

LORD HEAR US

FOR YOUR DIARY

THANK YOU

As Bishop of the Diocese, I wish to record my gratitude to the host families and parish organisations who worked together to welcome over 650 pilgrims to various parts of our diocese in the days prior to World Youth Day Sydney 2008. From all reports the days in the Diocese were particularly fruitful and the mutual benefits apparent; A wonderful expressing of the Church as "communion". For your efforts and your spirit of generosity I offer my sincere thanks.
Bishop Gerard Hanna.

MEET A 35 YEAR OLD INDIGENOUS WOMAN FROM ALICE SPRINGS

Jody Kopp speaks passionately about her faith, her heritage, and Catholic Mission's work with indigenous people. Take the opportunity to meet Jody at Sacred Heart Hall, Mate Street, North Albury, on Wednesday 30th July 2008 at 7.30pm.

Jody is employed by DASA and is also a qualified teacher, journalist and counsellor.

CATHOLIC WEEKLY

* Special World Youth Day pictorial edition

* Heart to heart with Benedict XVI

PALMS AUSTRALIA

Palms Australia is interested in meeting Teachers, Doctors, Nurses and other professional, technical and trades people willing to share their skills for

1-3 years in Asia, Africa or the Pacific. There will be a Palms Information Session at the Fair Trade Coffee Company, 33 Glebe Point Road, Glebe on Sunday 17th August at 4.30pm or Wednesday 20th August 6.30pm.

Enquiries: Jennifer Murphy Ph: (02) 9518 9551, Fax: (02) 9518 9550, email:

jenni@palms.org.au

Website: www.palms.org.au

42ND MEN'S CURSILLO 29TH, 30TH, 31ST AUGUST 2008

This is an opportunity to share your faith, deepen your understanding, listen and find others on a similar journey. The theme of the weekend will be from Matthew 28'Yes my yoke is easy and my burden light".

Anyone interested in learning more details about the Cursillo please contact Frank Neville on (02) 6040 0820 (AH).

CATECHIST/SRE TRAINING DAYS FOR TERMS 3 AND 4

SRE teachers/catechists of the Albury Deanery are encouraged to attend a training day at Lavington on Friday 8th August, in the Holy Spirit Parish Centre from 10.00am-2.00pm. Please bring lunch, bible and textbook.

RETREAT - DOOKIE COLLEGE

A two-day retreat will be held at Dookie College commencing at 9.00am Saturday 24th August until 4.00pm Sunday 25th August. The guest speaker will be Fr Jack Soulsby SM who is a world renowned speaker and will speak on the life and teachings of St Paul. For further details ring Margaret (03) 5722 2221 or Gerri (02) 6056 2442.

1-2-3 MAGIC

Centacare is again presenting its successful parenting program at Slattery Catholic Centre, 449 Olive Street (In grounds of St Patrick's Church) Albury on 3 consecutive Wednesdays, 30th July, 6th August and 13th August.

Days: 12.30pm-2.30pm

Evenings: 7.30pm-9.30pm.

The cost is \$40.00 per family. Bookings essential.

Phone Centacare (02) 6042 3700.

SNIPPET

I ask God to look down lovingly upon this city, this country and all its inhabitants. I pray that many of their number will be inspired by Blessed Mary MacKillop's example of compassion and service. (Benedict XVI)