

# FAMILY PRAYER

## WEEK BY WEEK



17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

26 July 2020

**"He sold all that he had and bought the field."**

### Something to Think About

Today we hear another gospel story about the Kingdom of Heaven. How do you think we could help to bring about God's kingdom on earth? What would such a place look like? It would be a safe and enjoyable place where people are appreciated and loved. It would be a place where people's gifts are acknowledged and valued, where everyone is treated fairly, where people are honest and caring. Add some ideas of your own!

### The Story

This week we hear Jesus tell the disciples that the Kingdom of Heaven is like finding a treasure in a field. Whoever finds it will go to extraordinary lengths to buy the field so that the treasure is theirs forever. Similarly, the kingdom is like finding some lovely pearls and the lengths one will go to in order to buy those pearls of great value.

### The Scriptures

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 13:44-46**

Jesus said to his disciples:

"The kingdom of heaven is like what happens when someone finds treasure hidden in a field and buries it again.

A person like that is happy and goes and sells everything in order to buy that field.

The kingdom of heaven is like what happens when a shop owner is looking for fine pearls.

After finding a very valuable one, the owner goes and sells everything in order to buy that pearl."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Video

Click to watch the video.

[Treasure Quest](#)



## THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK

### Prayer

This week, join in saying the “Our Father” together, praying that God’s kingdom will come among us here on earth.

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our trespasses  
As we forgive those  
who trespass against us  
and lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil, Amen.

### Family Discussion

Talk together about how in the time of Jesus, people would sometimes hide their valuables by digging a hole in the ground and burying them. If the person forgot about them, the goods could stay buried for years. Legally they belonged to the person who owned the land, but might be discovered by someone else such as a farm worker. They might sell everything they owned to buy the field and so be the owner of the buried treasure.

In today’s gospel, Jesus tells us that the kingdom of heaven is so valuable, worth more than all our possessions, and that we would be very happy if we could sell everything in order to have it. Have a chat about what we can do to find the treasure of God’s kingdom for ourselves. What are the treasures of being a follower of Jesus?

### Family Activity

You will need a treasure box (this could be a box or container lined with a piece of fabric), paper and pens or pencils.

Family members write on a piece of paper something or someone that is precious to them. Add this ‘treasure’ to the family treasure box, explaining what makes the thing or person a treasure. Now think about the treasures of being a follower of Jesus, write these on a piece of paper and add them to the treasure box, explaining what makes them a treasure.



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# **GOD'S LOVE: MORE PRECIOUS THAN A BURIED TREASURE**



## **HAPPY IS THE ONE WHO FINDS A TREASURE!**

**HAVE A TREASURE HUNT  
AT HOME WITH YOUR FAMILY.  
FIND A SMALL BOX AND PUT A SECRET  
'TREASURE' INSIDE.**



**BURY OR HIDE IT IN A SECRET PLACE  
IN THE GARDEN.  
THEN LET EVERYONE SEARCH FOR IT.  
IF THEY GET CLOSE, YOU CAN TELL THEM  
THEY ARE 'WARM'.  
IF THEY GET CLOSER, YOU CAN SAY:  
'WARMER'.**