



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF IVANHOE

St Bernadette's Church, West Ivanhoe

Mary Immaculate Church, Ivanhoe

Mother of God Church, East Ivanhoe

No. 30

23 – 24 July 2011

17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: YEAR A

Reflection:



Old-time missionaries used to have a field day with today's gospel, or at least with part of it. While they may have liked the passages that suggested that heaven was *like* a treasure in a field or *like* a pearl of great price, they told us that hell was a furnace of fire where there was weeping and gnashing of teeth. Some of those preachers seemed to know an awful lot about hell! It's as though they were travel writers who had visited the place several times just to warn us about what to expect when we got there. And do you remember how easy it was to get in? Many of us thought we had a first class ticket in our pocket most of the time.

Once, during a parish mission, where the visiting priest had given us an excruciatingly detailed description of hell, he told us, 'You could be dipping your hand in the holy water font as you leave the Church tonight and be struck down dead and sent to hell for eternity!' At the end of that session my cousin stood by the holy water font and watched everyone else dip their hand in, saying as they did, 'After you, after you.' She wasn't taking any chances!

All this is not to underestimate the reality of hell. If we believe in heaven and free will, it has to be logically true that hell exists and that, consistent with some people's free, knowing and serious rejection of God and of love all their lives, these choices will destine decisions made for, and by, them in the next world as well.

There are two major differences, however, between how we used to speak about heaven and hell and what we say now. Just as we know the treasure hidden in the field or the pearl of great price are metaphors for heaven, rich and wonderful ones at that, they remain images that enable us to grasp an unimaginable concept. So it is with hell. How can we imagine life without love and God? We have learnt that our guidebook regarding hell needs to be more circumscribed about what that destination or state of being holds. All we can confidently say is that hell is non-God. The second change is that we are more careful about being so confident in regard to who is going there. Jesus tells us that God wants all humanity to be saved. We can't take that seriously and then have people slip into hell for a small infringement of the rules.

If we read today's Gospel in a different way it can be a commentary on what God has done for us. Humanity can be seen as the treasure in the field that God has sold everything to own. We are the pearl of great price that God has moved heaven and earth to possess and we are the fish caught up in the net of God's love. Our God is the one who became one like us, in Jesus the Lord, so that we might know, love and serve him. That's what today's Gospel is all about.

Jesus reminds his disciples that in glimpsing the things of heaven they have to be like the master of a household. That's a rich image. In Jesus' day such a person would have provided protection, love, security and justice for all. God has given us free will and treasures, both new and old, to help us protect each other, love each other, feel secure in the truth and act justly. But we need to know that the choices we make in regard to these things have implications for how we live now and in the life to come.

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THE WORD

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: God is in his holy dwelling; he will give a home to the lonely, he gives power and strength to his people.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Lord, I love your commands.

V. 1. 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.**

V. 2. 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.**

V. 3. 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.**

V. 4. Your will is wonderful indeed; therefore I obey it.

The unfolding of your word gives light and teaches the simple. **R.**

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!

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL: Lord hear us: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: O bless the Lord, my soul, and remember all his kindness.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY:

We remember all in need of prayer at this time including Brother Len Francis, Madeleine Pye, Erin Toomey, Sidney Delaney, Frank Scheggia, Cathy Lengyel and Jill Brophy. We remember all who provide care and support for those in need.

We remember those who have died recently. We also remember Michael Curtain whose anniversary occurs at this time. May they rest in peace.



Baptism in our Parish Community: We welcome Leah Day who is baptised into the faith community of the Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe this weekend. We welcome her family, relatives and friends who have come to share this special occasion, one of many steps taken in the journey of faith.

HAPPENINGS ACROSS THE PARISH

Monday 25 July	7.30pm	St Bernadette's School Parents & Friends	St Bernadette's School
Tuesday 26 July	9.15am	Mass & St Bernadette's School Grade 3	St Bernadette's Church
Tuesday 26 July	7.30pm	St Bernadette's School Education Board	St Bernadette's School
Wednesday 27 July	7.00pm	Eucharist Catechist Class	Mary Immaculate Hall
Friday 29 July	9.15am	Mass & Mother of God School – SSG	Mother of God Church
Saturday 30 July	10.00am	Reconciliation	Mary Immaculate Church
Monday 1 August	7.30pm	Baptism Preparation Session	Parish Office
Tuesday 2 August	9.15am	Mass & St Bernadette's School Grs 4, 5, 6L	St Bernadette's Church
Wednesday 3 August	7.00pm	Eucharist Catechist Class	Mary Immaculate Hall
Wednesday 3 August	8.00pm	Pastoral Leadership Team Meeting	Parish Office
Thursday 4 August	7.00pm	Mary Immaculate School Advisory Board	Mary Immaculate School
Friday 4 August	10am & 4pm	First Friday Mass and Benediction	St Bernadette's Church

Thanksgiving Statements 2011 are available for collection in each church.

Mary Immaculate – in Street order **Mother of God & St Bernadette's – in alphabetical order.**

Thank you to those who deliver them, either by car or on foot, to those unable to collect them personally.

If circumstances have changed and you are either unable or no longer wish to contribute please contact the Parish Office **as soon as possible**: Contact details: **Phone:** 9499 1515; **mail:** 4 Waverley Ave, Ivanhoe 3079, **fax:** 9499 9959; or **email:** catholicparishofivanhoe@bigpond.com - Ruth

Parish Office: 4 Waverley Ave, Ivanhoe 3079

Phone: 9499 1515

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Email: catholicparishofivanhoe@bigpond.com

Parish Staff:

Parish Administrator: Fr. Thang Vu 63 Wilfred Rd, East Ivanhoe 9499 5440

Secretary: Mrs. Ruth Villani Office hours 9.00am – 5.00pm 9499 1515

ROSTERS FOR WEEKEND 30 – 31 July 2011

ST. BERNADETTE'S:

Saturday 6.30pm

Lector

J. Murphy

Special Ministers

E. Crawley, Sister Carmel

MARY IMMACULATE: **Leader**

Sunday 9.00am

Conroy family

Reader

Conroy family

Mass Coordinators

M. Gilbo

Counters

S. & P. Kelly

MOTHER OF GOD:

Sunday 10.30am

Sacristan

A. Patterson

Lector

B. Brownstein

Special Ministers

D. Ervin, M. Chin, B. / S. Janus

Altar Society: I. Chiera

Choir Coordinators: P. Verrocchi