



WHITSUNDAY CATHOLIC PARISH

St Catherine's - St Martin's - Whitsunday Islands

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A — 26 July 2026

GOD'S WORD

1 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.'

**Ps 118:57.72.76-77. 127-130.
Rv97**

(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.)**

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.

Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

Matthew 13:44-52

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.
'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.
'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'



REFLECTION

by Dian Bergant (LiturgyHelp)

Two themes seem to weave through the readings for this Sunday: treasure and delight. The treasure is the extraordinary gift that comes from God; the delight is the joy that we experience when we realise that the treasure is ours. A third theme, which is found in the first reading, picks up a theme that we have considered several times during this period of Ordinary Time, namely, service of others. The treasure is the kingdom of heaven. It is the prize that gives meaning to the present, and its fullest delight draws us into the future. The reign of God is the fulfilment of our deepest desires and our fondest hopes. Nothing in the world can compare with it, and that is why we are willing to sacrifice everything to attain it. The treasure that we find is really a gift that is given. We need not work to attain the kingdom, nor can we earn it in any way. It is given to us by God. All we have to do is accept it. We have discovered the treasure in the field; we have found the pearl of great price. What we have been given, we must now give to others. In giving we will lose nothing. In fact, we gain an abundance of blessings. All things work for good, and God is glorified in all. Such is the character of the kingdom of God.

Welcome to Visitors and New Parishioners

A warm welcome to all of you! Our community is built on faith, love, and service, and we are excited to have you with us. We would love to connect with you. Please feel free to visit us in the office during office hours.

Parish and Diocesan Notices

Grandparents Day

This weekend we give thanks to God for the wonderful gift of grandparents and older people, whose faith, wisdom, love and example enrich our families, our parish and our community. Grandparents play a special role in passing on the faith, sharing family traditions and nurturing future generations with patience, compassion and hope. On this Grandparents Day, we acknowledge their invaluable contribution and pray that God will continue to bless them with good health, joy and peace. May Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus, inspire and intercede for all grandparents, strengthening them in their vocation of love and faith.

The Vocation of Marriage

This week we pray for the vocation of marriage. Marriage is a lifelong covenant of love, fidelity and service. In this sacrament, spouses reflect the love of Christ for His Church and build the domestic Church in their homes. Married life is lived through daily acts of patience, forgiveness, sacrifice and joy. We pray for engaged couples preparing for this vocation and for families seeking to grow in faith. May our parish support strong, faith-filled marriages that nurture children and strengthen community. "Life is not a series of random events. It is a call to love." St John Paul II

Eucharist28:

This is My Body, Given for You

The International Eucharistic Congress will be held in Sydney in 2028. Known as Eucharist28, it will gather Catholics from around the world to pray, worship and reflect on the Eucharist, the source and summit of the Christian life. The theme is This is My Body, Given For You. These are the words we hear at every Mass, as the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. As we receive the Body of Christ, we are also called to become the Body of Christ, carrying his presence into our homes, workplaces, schools and community.

Last Sunday's Collection

1st Collect 2nd Collect PG Env PG DirectDep
\$ 531.75 \$ 603.10 \$ 110.00 \$ 300.00
Planned Giving Program: For your contribution to the parish, you can direct deposit it to the parish account: Whitsunday Catholic Parish
BSB 034-207 ACCT 810014
Reference: PG_Name

You can also scan the QR code to make donations or payments.
Thank you for your generosity!



Scan to donate

Explore Our New Diocesan Website

We're excited to announce the launch of our new Diocesan website. Designed to be easier to navigate, it's a great place to find the latest news, events, parish information, resources, and much more. We invite you to explore everything it has to offer at tsv.catholic.org.au.

This Week's Anniversaries

26 Jul- Mary Philo, James Hickey, Reginald York, Mabel Vickers, Mary Lewis
27 Jul- Giovanna Scodellaro
28 Jul- Alfred Dobbins, Albert Weaver, Joseph Faust, Aimee McCormack, Giuseppina Scodellaro, Kevin Doyle
29 Jul- Paul Rossiter, George Boreserini, Helen Hayes, Albert Dunn



MASS ROSTER

	Saturday 25th JULY 2026 6pm St Catherine's Church	Sunday 26th JULY 2026 8am St Catherine's Church	Sunday 26th JULY 2026 6pm St Martin's Church
	Mass	Mass	Mass
Welcomer	Peter O	Joan H	Lynne E
Sacristan	Joan M	Margaret A	Lynne E
Introduction & POF	Julia B	Jill F	Paul C / Isabella E
1st Reading	Isabella O	Margaret S	Sam H
2nd Reading	Dianne S	Margaret A	Michael H
Gospel	Fr Sibi	Fr Sibi	Fr Sibi
Eucharistic Ministers	Christine O & Lane T	Margaret P & Pauline O	Paul C
Powerpoint	Aleena	Mandy A	Isaiah C
Collection	Raymond & Brian	Arnold & Miller	Khoi & Kha
Offertory	Elsina J & Gabby M		
Altar Servers	Cedric & Oscar		

PARISH CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

SAT 25	SUN 26	MON 27	TUE 28	WED 29	THU 30	FRI 31	SAT 01	SUN 02
10am Reconciliation Proserpine 3.00pm Wedding Cannonvale	8am Mass St Catherine's Proserpine (8am Mass in Bowen) 10:30 Grandparent & Elderly Day St Catherine's College		930am Liturgy Nursing Home (8am Mass in Bowen)	730am Rosary, Novena & Liturgy St Catherine's Proserpine (8am Mass in Bowen)	9.00am Catholic Education Week School Mass Bowen	9.00am Catholic Education Week School Mass Proserpine		8am Confirmation Mass St Marys Bowen 8am Liturgy St Catherine's Proserpine
6pm Vigil Mass St Catherine's Proserpine 6pm Vigil Mass St Marys Bowen	(11am Mass in Collinsville) 6pm Mass St Martins Cannonvale						6pm Vigil Mass St Catherine's Proserpine 6pm Vigil Mass St Marys Bowen Bishop Tim	5pm Mass Collinsville 6pm Liturgy St Martins Cannonvale



July 26, 2026

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12 | Rom 8:28-30 | Mt 13:44-52

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Today we continue to hear parables about the kingdom of God and the reaction of those who find it. The merchant and the person in the field joyfully sell all they have to acquire their treasures. In a world in which we have so many responsibilities, following God may sometimes feel like an obligation. We abide by truths of the Church that are countercultural and challenging. We give our time and our money for the benefit of our community. We profess bold belief in a Gospel truth that is often questioned. These parables remind us that God desires that we move past seeking him out of a sense of obligation or duty – to a place of joy-filled abandonment to him. To experience the full joy that comes from living the Gospel, Jesus comes to us and remains with us in his sacraments. He invites us over and over again to experience his love and his joy until our hearts are changed and we joyfully put everything aside in pursuit of him.

PRAY

As you seek to grow in understanding, pray the prayer of St. Anselm of Canterbury this week:

O Lord, my God / teach my heart this day where and how to see you / where and how to find you / Let me find you by loving you/let me love you when I find you. Amen.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I was pulling weeds in the garden when my daughter asked how I knew which plants not to pull. I realized that I simply recognize a weed from a desired plant because I have spent time in my garden. As we journey with Christ, our eyes become fine-tuned to see the difference between what is characteristic of the kingdom of God and what is of this world. King Solomon had eyes fixed on the kingdom, and he knew the value of asking for an understanding heart to help him see more clearly. We must also ask for the wisdom to see clearly what is from God. As we encounter the beauty of God and the truth of his word, we are called to share those encounters with those who are still searching and whose eyes are untrained. Not unlike pulling weeds in the garden, we must train our eyes to find the longed-for pearl as we see and experience the truth of God's love as a community of believers.

Caritas Australia Ukraine Emergency Appeal

Caritas Australia is urging the Australian community not to look away as the war in Ukraine continues for a fifth straight year. As violence escalates in other parts of the world, Ukraine is slipping from headlines, but for millions of people the suffering has not stopped.

Caritas agencies remain on the ground because the need remains immense. In 2026, an estimated 10.8 million people in Ukraine will require humanitarian assistance.

As one Caritas Ukraine staff member shared:

"...The realisation of the exhaustion from the war and the necessity to keep living despite it all paralyses me. Before my eyes, night and dawn. Breakfast after the last Zircon missile explodes as if it is inside my head. Getting the child ready for day-care...On the way, I keep thinking about what phoenixes we are."

You can learn more or make a donation today at www.caritas.org.au/ukraine

Support the Bishop's Appeal for Diocesan Ministries:

Please consider donating to Bishop's Appeal. Envelopes are available in the church. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference. Help us reconnect with God's mission and become new in Christ.

*Join Bishops Tim Harris, Joe Caddy,
Danny Meagher and Ken Howell,
together with
Archbishop Shane Mackinlay
for the*

Queensland Bishops' Mass
Celebrating Faith, Unity & the Living Gospel
Wednesday 19 August 9:30am
Sacred Heart Cathedral
270 Stanley St, Townsville
Followed by morning tea
All welcome to attend

Parish Groups

Catholic Women's League

Fourth Thursday of the month at 09:40am in the Parish Hall.

Care and Concern

A group reaching out to the lonely, grieving and most in need, needs communion, offering friendship and support. If you'd like to help and join the group. Please see the office.

Marian Devotees

Wednesdays at 7.30am, St. Catherine's Church. A group of people say a Novena to Miraculous Medal and pray a Rosary .

When I was a Stranger

Every last Sunday of the month, we gather after the 6pm mass St Martins Church. Please bring a plate to share.

Young Family Group

Each first Sunday of the month for the Eucharist Celebration, followed by the Parish Hall.

Our Team

Administrator:

Fr Sibichan Kaippanplackal

Secretary: Mariz Fletcher

Mission Leadership Team Chair:

Jill Farinelli

Mission Council Chair:

Mandy Ayers

Mission Finance Council Chair:

Chris Lane

St. Martin's Committee Chair:

Lynne Erricker

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St Catherine's Church

126 Main Street, Proserpine, Qld

St Martin's Church

4 St Martins Lane, Cannonvale

St Catherine's Catholic College

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[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/StCatherinesCatholicCollege)

StCatherinesCatholicCollege

Principal: Sam Hinton

THE HOLY SEE

MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIV

ON SAFEGUARDING THE HUMAN PERSON
IN THE TIME OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Responsibility^stransparency and the governance of AI

107. We cannot be satisfied with merely calling for the moralization of machines – the so-called “alignment” of AI with human values – without also having the courage to insist on a further condition: the possibility of openly discussing the ethical frameworks involved and subjecting them to shared standards of social justice. Otherwise, those who control AI will impose their own moral vision, which will become the invisible infrastructure of these systems. A more moral AI is not enough if that morality is determined by a few. What is needed is a more active political involvement that is capable of slowing things down when everything is accelerating, and of protecting the opportunities for communities still to be able to participate and ask questions.

108. In fact, as with every major technological shift, AI tends to amplify the power of those who already possess economic resources, expertise and access to data. In light of the common good and the universal destination of goods, this raises serious concerns, since small but highly influential groups can shape information and consumption patterns, influence democratic processes and steer economic dynamics to their own advantage, undermining social justice and solidarity among peoples. For this reason, it is essential that the use of AI, especially when it touches on public goods and fundamental rights, be guided by clear criteria and effective oversight, grounded in participation and subsidiarity. Communities and intermediary organizations must not be reduced to passive recipients of decisions made elsewhere; they must be able to contribute to discernment and oversight. Moreover, ownership of data cannot be left solely in private hands but must be appropriately regulated. Data is the product of many contributors and should not be treated as something to be sold off or entrusted to a select few. It is necessary to think creatively in order to manage data as a common or shared good, in a spirit of participation, as Saint John Paul II already suggested regarding collective goods. [128]

© <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/encyclicals/documents/20260515-magnifica-humanitas.html>

Life messages:

We should live every moment in view of our precious goal. Most of the time, we are chasing false treasures such as money, power, social status, or worldly pleasures. Thus, the really valuable “pearl” of sharing in God’s life through Jesus here on earth and later in Heaven, is never found. Let us always remember that Heaven is within the reach of all of us who try to do the will of God, following the ordinary vocations of life and enjoying this world’s joys and pleasures within the framework of God’s Commandments. When we do this, we are already living in the Kingdom of Heaven while we are still on earth.

<https://frtonyshomilies.com/blog/>