



# Society of African Missions

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Visit our website  
[www.smafathers.org](http://www.smafathers.org)



## Administration:

**Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,**  
Provincial Superior  
**Fr Dermot Roache,**  
House Superior

## Mass Schedule

### Sundays

8:00 am; 10:00 am; 12 noon

### Weekdays & Holy Days

8:00 am; 9:30 am; 11:45 am

### Christmas & New Year's Day

8:00 am; 10:00 am; 12:00 noon

### Confessions

Saturdays 4:30 pm to 5:00 pm

### Bereavement & Visit to the Sick

Contact Fr. Dermot Roache  
201-567-0450 Ext. 212

### Our Lady of Perpetual Help

#### Rosary

Every Wednesday at 11:00 am  
Followed by Mass, Adoration  
and Benediction at 5:30 pm

### The Little Way of St. Therese of Lisieux

2nd Sundays after 12 pm Mass

### Bible Reflection Group

Thursdays: 7:30 pm in the hall

### Perpetual Mass Association

Office open Monday-Friday  
from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

### S.M.A. Vocation Office

Fr. Julien Esse, SMA  
551-449-4357

### Sunday Collection: \$855

Thank you for your support.  
Please remember to support  
your local parishes.

## SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Masses for the week of July 26— August 1, 2020

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
<b>Sun.-Sat.</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Liv &amp; Dec Benefactors of the SMA</b>	
Sun. July 26	10:00	John & Edythe Sheehy+	
	12:00	Esther Lozada+	Rosanne Ambulo
Mon. July 27	9:30	Dec. Members of Guiney & McCarthy Families	
	11:45	Olga Mosciaro+	Flynn Family
Tue. July 28	9:30	Michael Neary+	Neary Family
	11:45	Neil Labay (Liv.) Birthday	Family
Wed. July 29	9:30	Happy Birthday Katie G. Neill (Liv.)	
	11:45	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
Thurs. July 30	9:30	Robert Doonan+	Susan Murphy
	11:45	Enrico G Jr. & Anny Saliturno+	Enrico & Filomena Saliturno
Fri. July 31	9:30	Rev. Anthony De Maria S.J. +	
	11:45	Silveria Ascrate+	Erly Cortez
Sat. Aug. 1	9:30	Special Intentions Neill & Forgrave Families	
	11:45	Michael R. Desrochers+	

**Please note** that the Mass Intentions are being honored in private by  
our Priests.

## **Today's Readings: *First Reading* 1 Kings 3:5. 7-12**

*Solomon did not pray for riches or for a long and trouble-free life. Closest to his heart was this: to be a good king to his people.*

## ***Second Reading* Romans 8:28-30**

*God our Father cherishes as his children all those who love him.*

## ***Gospel* Matthew 13:44-52**

*The greatest treasure in life is God's friendship. Those who realise this will go to any lengths to possess what they know to be most precious of all.*

## ***“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field.”***

### **Illustration**

The people of San Francisco were taken by surprise when in March 1848 a newspaper vendor started shouting, “Gold! Gold!” The discovery of gold in California became a Gold Rush, though not immediately. These were the days before air travel. It took four or five months to get from the east coast to the “Wild West”, whether you went by ship around the tip of South America; by mule through the jungle of Panama; or by wagon across the prairies. By the following year, however, gold-diggers were arriving in huge numbers: these were the so-called “forty-niners”.

Hundreds of thousands left their jobs, homes and families in Europe, China and other parts of America in the hope of getting rich. Many died on the journey; others in mining accidents or violent disputes. With no law enforcement, anyone could stake a claim to land, only to have it grabbed from them as soon as they struck lucky. Unbridled greed and savage competition reduced human life to its most primitive. Were fortunes made? Many early gold-diggers made thousands of dollars, but lucky strikes became less common as time went on. “Forty-niners” had to endure all the hardships of the trail: life in a shack; grinding toil; and the company of gamblers, crooks and gunslingers, with no certainty of finding gold. Yet they were prepared to give up everything they held dear in the dream of getting rich.

### **Gospel Teaching**

Gold Rush towns were full of lawless, reckless people – not the kind you might expect to find in God’s kingdom, you might think. However, in today’s Gospel we hear a parable about some shady dealings following the discovery of gold, and Jesus is not talking about California, but the kingdom of heaven. Imagine, he says, a man finding buried treasure in a field. Furtively, he puts it back. Then what does he do? Sells everything to buy the field. That treasure must have been worth having, if the man was willing to give up everything he owned, though it does sound rather unethical to keep quiet about the true value of a piece of land in order to secure its purchase. Can Jesus *really* be saying that God would welcome such an unscrupulous person into the kingdom? He is exaggerating to make a point, perhaps, but the message is clear. It is not respectability that will get us into heaven, but how much we desire to be there.

Jesus’ description of the kingdom overturned expectations. Religious leaders like the Pharisees thought that only pious people deserved the reward of God’s friendship. They hadn’t reckoned on God’s mercy; nor on the deep longing of sinful people for the chance to turn their lives around. Such are the people God desires: those, that is, who truly desire God, especially those for whom God’s friendship matters more than anything else.

### **Application**

We heard the psalmist say today that God’s law “means more to me than silver and gold”. How true is that for us? When Solomon was granted a wish, he did not choose wealth or health or popularity. Some people, however, are preoccupied with those things. Their heart is set on making money, improving their looks and prolonging their years.

Faith may be what many of us hold most dear; knowing that heaven is waiting for us when we die. Faith, however, is more than investing in a comfortable afterlife. When Jesus was describing the kingdom of heaven, he was also talking about the enrichment of our lives in the here and now. Every morning and evening it is the Jewish tradition to recite the commandment: “You shall love the Lord our God with all your heart and soul.” That is what Jesus meant by “selling everything”. God’s kingdom is about wholehearted commitment: making the daily choices that please God; doing what God asks of us. Jesus is urging us to let God reign over us if we wish to find true happiness.

Treasure is not found lying on the surface. Superficial things like finery or celebrity are never worth as much as people think. Many “forty-niners” gave up everything to search for gold, only to find disappointment. So it is today: some people spend their whole lives chasing dreams. The most valuable treasures are buried deep. If our life with God does not seem as important right now as money or appearance or popularity, then Jesus challenges us to rethink our priorities: “Set your hearts on [God’s] kingdom first” – and every other good thing will be added to you.

*The Living Word*

**CONDOLENCES:** The SMA Community is saddened by the death of James Whelan our long time friend. He passed away July 13, 2020. Our prayers are with his wife Mary, family and friends.

MAY GOD GRANT HIM ETERNAL REST.