

The Living Word

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

26 July 2020

First Reading 1 Kgs 3:5.7-12

You have asked for wisdom.

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.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 118:57. 72. 76-77. 127-130. R. v.97

(R.) Lord, I love your commands.

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.)
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.)
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.)
4. Your will is wonderful indeed; therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light and teaches the simple. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 8:28-30

He predestined us to become true images of his Son.

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.

Gospel Acclamation See Mt 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!

Gospel Mt 13:44-52

(or shorter form Mt 13:44-46)

He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

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 Fr Michael Tate

A burning rubbish tip in Jerusalem (Gehenna) provided Jesus with one image of Hell. Here is John Henry Newman's image.

Have you travelled to a foreign country and can't speak the language? There is lots of weeping and gnashing of teeth.

What if you were born with a good ear for languages, but had deliberately never learnt the language of that other place? You would only have yourself to blame. It would be a living hell.

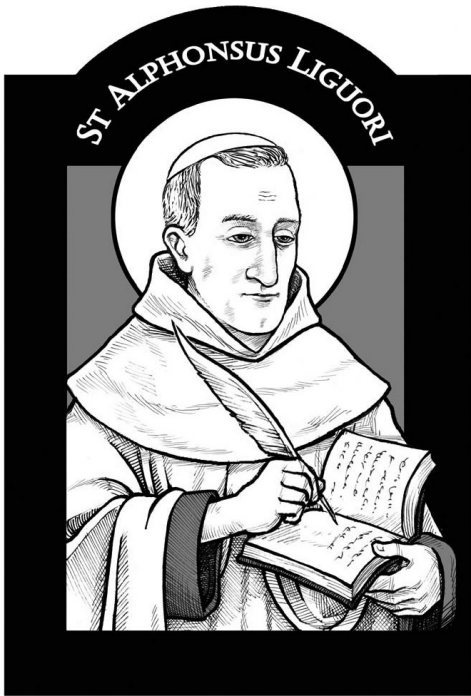
That is what happens at death. The soul is suddenly transported to a different dimension of existence, and it can be either heavenly or hellish depending on the choices and actions of a lifetime.

So, our lifetime project is to 'learn the language of heaven'. We can mainly do this by following the story of Jesus, the Word of God, the perfect conversation between humanity and God.

We could pause for a moment to move from incommunicado to communion by learning and practising the language of Heaven.

mtate@bigpond.com

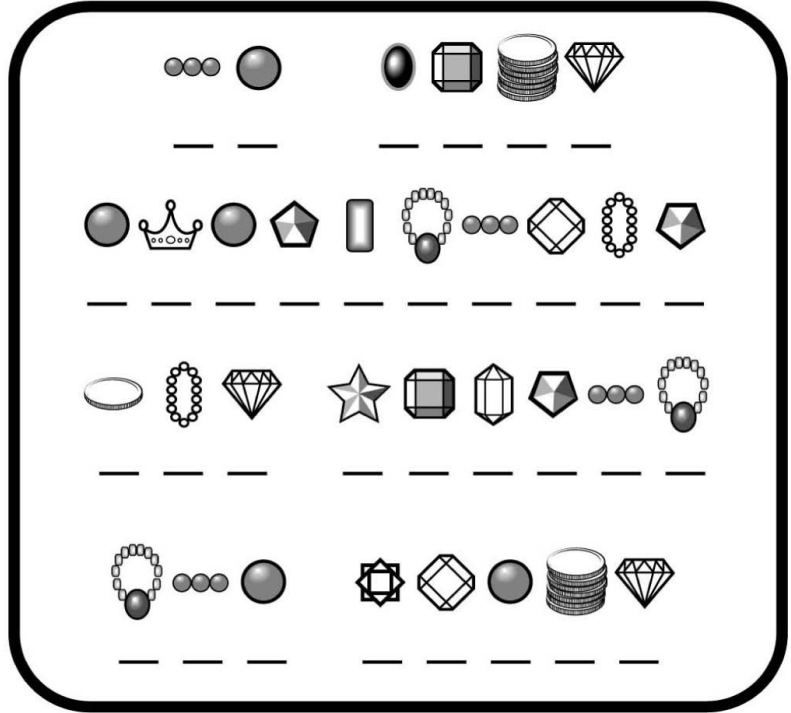
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St Alphonsus Liguori was born near Naples in 1696, and was the son of a nobleman. He was a successful lawyer before being ordained a priest at the age of 29. In 1731, Alphonsus refounded a community of nuns and a year later he founded the Congregation of the Holy Redeemer; a community of priests dedicated to preaching to the poor in rural towns. He was bishop of Sant Agatha dei Goti for thirteen years before retiring due to ill health. He published more than thirty theological and devotional works and as a result was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1871.

What did the man do after he found the treasure hidden in the field? Use the key below to decipher the code.

A	○	E	●	I	◊	R	◓		
B	☆	F	⊠	L	⌚	S	●	V	👑
D	💎	G	◓	N	📿	T	📿	Y	▮
		H	●●●	O	◻	U	⏊		



Wordsearch

Try to find these words:



- buy
- field
- find
- happy
- heaven
- hidden
- kingdom
- one
- pearl
- sell
- shop
- treasure

M	E	D	K	Z	M	G	E	Y	M	H	E	Y	I	Z	H	A
S	D	I	J	W	Y	T	L	K	U	U	J	X	U	J	J	T
A	J	U	T	T	U	V	Z	P	T	A	Q	P	O	T	Y	E
T	O	M	L	A	S	L	L	R	A	E	P	A	M	U	B	N
Y	V	H	L	S	H	D	J	L	T	A	Y	O	B	P	K	O
J	J	H	V	D	M	U	T	Z	M	F	X	A	T	U	U	O
C	F	U	L	D	N	G	Y	M	K	I	N	G	D	O	M	X
T	E	Y	G	Z	N	F	S	C	F	H	S	L	T	F	H	O
R	R	O	E	E	S	H	I	B	L	E	W	K	U	A	R	S
N	Q	E	D	P	G	G	G	N	L	A	B	W	P	X	Y	G
X	Y	D	A	M	Q	L	H	L	D	V	L	P	J	C	Q	B
Q	I	Z	Y	S	W	A	E	T	D	E	Y	Q	A	D	S	K
H	U	N	K	I	U	W	L	L	A	N	Y	V	U	Y	X	W
G	O	N	D	E	W	R	E	I	Q	T	Y	S	E	I	F	D
K	X	Z	B	S	C	I	E	V	X	D	P	D	R	E	N	Q
V	A	V	F	W	F	B	O	I	P	Z	V	P	T	V	I	H
R	V	K	L	Z	C	Y	E	M	P	O	H	S	K	G	O	O