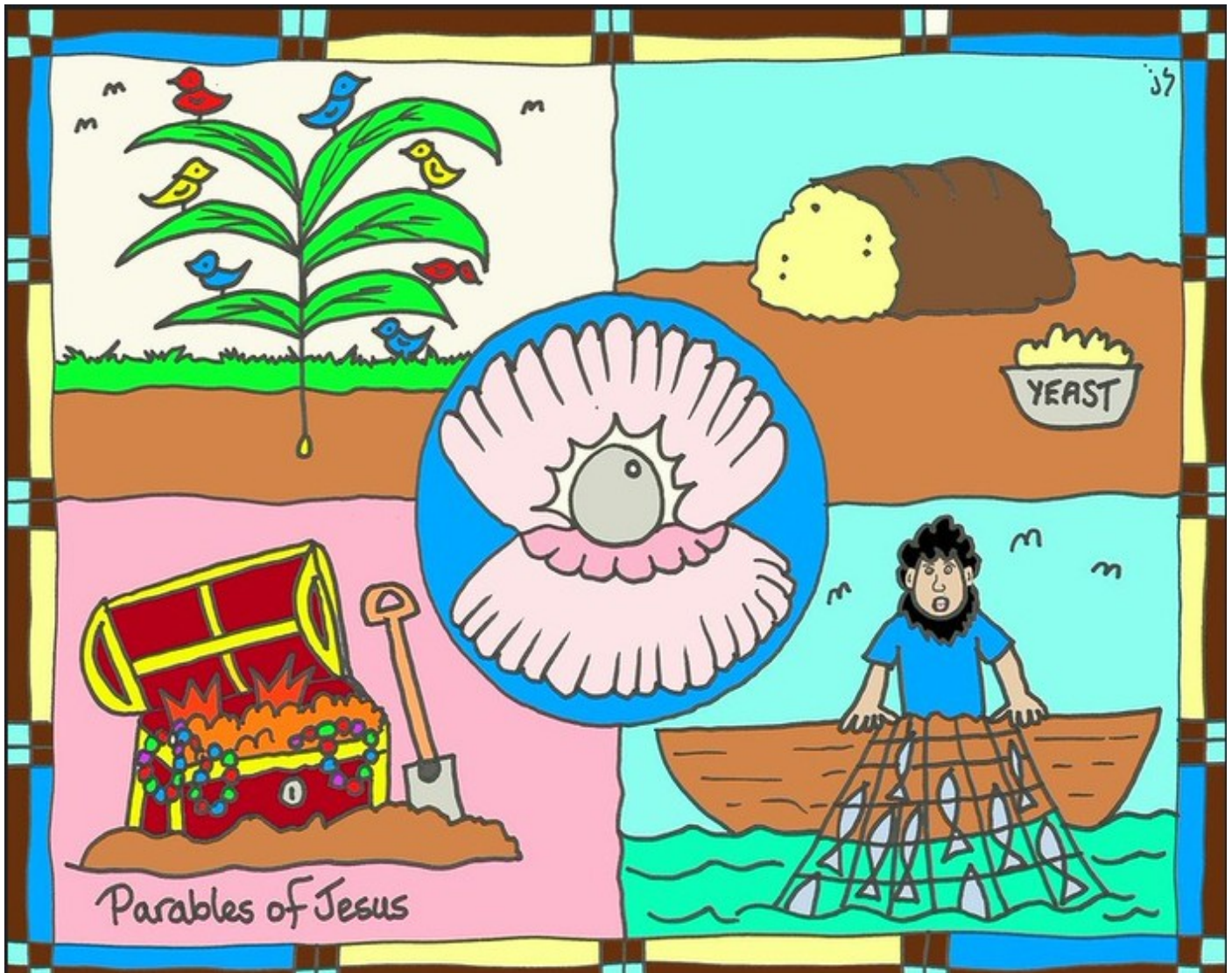




Worship at St Luke's this weekend

Sunday 7 am: Holy Communion

(Hymns: TIS 100, vv1-3, 7, MP 1214, TIS 599, TIS 380)

Sunday 9 am: Family Service (also streamed via ZOOM*)

(Hymns: MP 99, TIS 745, MP 348, MP 1082)

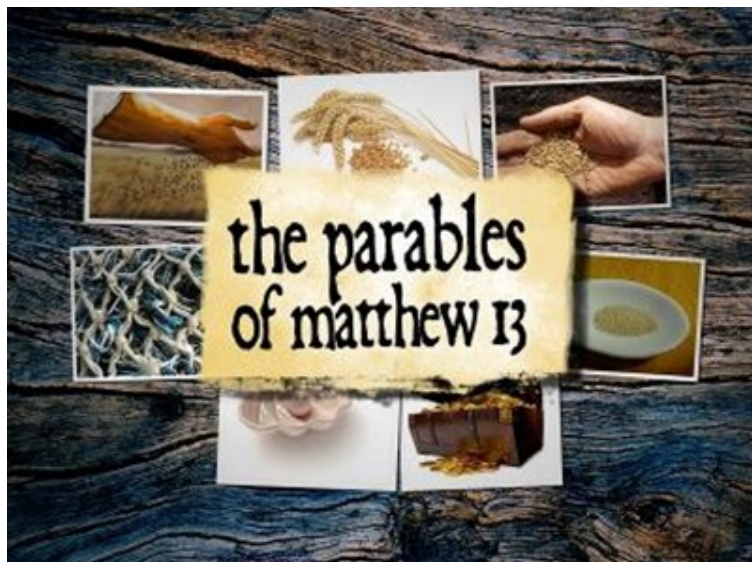
* <https://zoom.us/j/7210725462> or by telephone (07 3185 3730, meeting ID 721 072 5462).
Contact the office for the password.

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8.38-39

Rev'd Timothy writes...

The Kingdom of God is...? That's a difficult question. Even 'the kingdom of God is like...?' is a hard question and as we continue to read Matthew's collection of Jesus' parables we perhaps get a sense that they are trying their utmost to tell us something that cannot fully be expressed in human language (be it Aramaic, Greek, or English!).



What we can glean from the parables in this weekend's readings is that Jesus does not say 'the kingdom of God is like a such-and such', but rather 'the kingdom of God is like a such-and-such **which...**'. In other words it is action that is important. Each parable does not (and cannot) give the whole story, but together we can build up a picture. Also note that it is the nature of parables that what is important is what they say, not what they don't. For instance, one could surmise that the person who found the treasure in the field, has dubious ethics in what he then does. No comment is made about this; it is not relevant to the point that Matthew or Jesus are making.

For instance, the mustard seed grows where it will. It is not always welcomed (it was seen as a weed in first century Palestine) but as it grows it provides a prosperous future both for itself and other wildlife. It is not exactly a majestic old oak tree, but it creates local space for real life and in doing so creates a home without putting out banners. It is subtle, intuitive, generous.

Then the yeast. Perhaps the Realm of God is like the work of a someone doing the chores. This is a person who readies the place and provides for others, and the result is always greater than the effort put in (hopefully). Whatever the kingdom of God is, it grows.

Then, like a hidden treasure or a pearl that can be held in one's hand, those who have begun to experience the wonder of the kingdom's presence know that the kingdom is a reality that is worth everything. And thus they joyfully make it their one priority in life.

Children's Church

Children's Church is on TODAY Sunday 26th July

Next week (2nd August) we will be on Camp,
so no Children's Church at St Luke's.



Readings for the 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 29:15–28 Jacob arrives in Haran, having fled his brother's anger, and enters into a web of relationships shaped by love, expectation, and deception. The story that unfolds is marked by broken trust and complexity, raising questions that still resonate today. Yet even within these tangled lives, God's promise and purpose continue to unfold.

Psalms 105 recalls God's faithfulness across generations, remembering the promise made to Abraham and Sarah and carried forward through the descendants. It invites us to see our own lives within this ongoing story of God's steadfast love and purpose.

Romans 8:26–39 Paul reminds us that we are not alone, and do not journey on our own, as God's Spirit is at work within us, even in prayers too deep for words. Even in the unfinished and uncertain parts of life, we are drawn into God's unfolding purpose.

Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52 In these parables, Jesus describes the reign of God as something that may begin small or remain hidden yet is of great value—like a treasure waiting to be discovered. They invite us to trust that what is unfolding may be more than we can yet see.

First reading (7am & 9am)

A reading from the book Genesis

¹⁵ Then Laban said to Jacob, 'Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?' ¹⁶ Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. ¹⁷ Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful.

¹⁸ Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, 'I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.' ¹⁹ Laban said, 'It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.' ²⁰ So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

²¹ Then Jacob said to Laban, 'Give me my

wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.' ²² So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. ²³ But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. ²⁴ (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) ²⁵ When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, 'What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?' ²⁶ Laban said, 'This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn.

²⁷ Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me for another seven years.'

²⁸ Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Psalm 105:1-11

¹ O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name:
tell among the peoples what things he has done.

² Sing to him, O sing praises:
and be telling of all his marvellous works.

³ Exult in his holy name:
and let those that seek the Lord be joyful in heart.

⁴ Seek the Lord and his strength:
O seek his face continually.

⁵ Call to mind what wonders he has done:
his marvellous acts, and the judgements of his mouth,

⁶ O seed of Abraham his servant:
O children of Jacob his chosen one.

⁷ For he is the Lord our God:
and his judgements are in all the earth.

⁸ He has remembered his covenant for ever:
the word that he ordained for a thousand generations,

⁹ The covenant that he made with Abraham:
the oath that he swore to Isaac,

¹⁰ And confirmed it to Jacob as a statute:
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,

¹¹ Saying 'I will give you the land of Canaan:
to be the portion of your inheritance'.

Second Reading (7am only)

A Reading from the letter to the Romans

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit

intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

'For your sake we are being killed all day long;

we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor

anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:26-39

Gospel reading

A reading from the gospel of Matthew

⁴⁴ 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ 'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' ⁵² And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.' ⁵³ When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place.

⁵⁴ He came to his home town and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, 'Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? ⁵⁵ Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? ⁵⁶ And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?' ⁵⁷ And they took offence at him. But Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honour except in their own country and in their own house.' ⁵⁸ And he did not do many deeds of power there, because of their unbelief.

Matthew 13:44-58

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Word for the Day

In Haran, Jacob enters a story shaped by love, deception, and broken trust. These tangled relationships raise hard questions about injustice and the consequences of lives turned inward on themselves. Yet even here, God's promise and purpose continue to unfold, reminding us that our own lives, choices, and small acts are part of a larger story.

Ideas for Reflection

Genesis 29 raises questions that are still present in our world today—broken trust, exploitation, and the complexity of human relationships.

- When have you noticed fairness or unfairness in the way people are treated?

- ▶ When have you seen something small grow into something more than expected?
- ▶ Where in the world today do you notice exploitation or unfairness in the way people are treated?
- ▶ Where do you see people being limited, overlooked, or treated unequally because of who they are?
- ▶ As you hear the story of Jacob, Laban, Leah, and Rachel, what do you notice about the relationships between the people involved?
- ▶ Where do you notice trust being broken or relationships becoming complicated?
- ▶ In what ways might we, individually or as a community, be part of patterns that are unfair or harmful to others?
- ▶ Where might we notice God at work in small beginnings, and how might we join in?
- ▶ What small act of care, fairness, or faithfulness might we be invited to take this week?

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Parish Camp 2026

Our Parish Camp is nearly here! We will be at the Glengarry Boy's Brigade site by the beautiful Lake Atkinson once again next weekend from Saturday morning 1st August to Sunday afternoon 2nd August (or come just for a day). We have kept our prices the same as last year.



Book NOW via trybooking.com/DNHKI (or via booking form available in church).

Update of parish contact list and roll

We are renewing our Parish Roll and contact list as, over time, this has become out-of-date. We are also taking the opportunity to ascertain who are Parishioners and Electors in the parish. These have specific meanings according to the Canons (the rule book) of the diocese. In particular one needs to be an Elector to stand for office or vote at a meeting of Parishioners.

Forms to collect these data will be available in church, or you can complete it online at <https://tinyurl.com/stlukese kibin-roll>



For our Prayers

Prayer for the day

O God, the fount of wisdom, you have revealed to us in Christ the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price: grant us your Spirit's gift of discernment, that, in the midst of the things of this world, we may learn to value the priceless worth of your kingdom, and be ready to renounce all else for the sake of the precious gift you offer. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The World

Pray that the warring factions in the Middle East will return to the negotiation table.

The Anglican Communion

The Anglican Church of Tanzania

The Diocese of Wangaratta: †Clarence Bester; Clergy and People

The Parish of Tamborine Mountain: Helen Paget, John Corner

Anglicare SQ Symes Grove Residential Aged Care – Taigum

Our missionary partners

David and Zoë Browne, Bush Church Aid in Gladstone.

Local Schools and colleges

Marshall Road Primary, Salisbury Primary, Yeronga Primary

Our parish

Pray for the diocesan property team and the builders as the final defects are closed out on our campus.

Those who are sick, frail or emotionally stressed

Ryan, Sharon L, David F, Peter G, Lauren, Rita, Don, Margaret, Peter F., Maxine and Robyn McElnea, Glen and Rose, Mon McNeill, Ian Basham, Scott L, Tim Vassella.

From the Parish Book of Remembrance

28 July: Noel Augustus M Cole, Eunice Constance Gore; *29 July:* Freda Hall, Dorothy Louisa McIlwraith Garde, Bert Fisher, Betty Walker Alford; *30 July:* Elsie Millicent Clark; *1 August:* Mabel Maria McLaren, Flora Doreen Younger, Florence Iris Winifred Stein, Ida Margaret Winterbotham, Maxwell Leslie Robins.



St Luke's Connect

St Luke's Connect this week, 29th July, will celebrate **Christmas in July**.

Service at 9.30am, followed by morning tea and festivities.



Containers for Change

Donate your '10c refund' bottles and cans to St Luke's. Either bring them to church or take them direct to TOMRA (9/655 Toohey Road, Salisbury) and use the parish code: **C10686424**

Also part of St Luke's

**Little Angels
Tarragindi**

Anglican Childcare
opening soon:

littleangels.qld.edu.au



St Luke's Theatre Society:
stluketheatre.asn.au

Services This Week:

Tuesday-Friday

6pm: Evening Prayer on Zoom

Tuesday 28th July

1.30pm: Holy Communion at Regis
Salisbury

Wednesday 29th July

9.30am: Holy Communion at St Luke's

Sunday 2nd August:

10th Sunday after Pentecost

NO 7am Service

9am: Holy Communion at St Luke's

*Readings: Genesis 32:22-31 Psalm 17:1-7,16,
Romans 9:1-8, Matthew 14:13-21*

Keep in touch:

 priest@stlukesekibin.org.au
(Rector, Rev'd Dr Timothy Nicholson)

 admin@stlukesekibin.org.au (Office)

 families@stlukesekibin.org.au
(Children's church)

 3848 2123 (Rectory and Office)

 P.O. Box 79, Wellers Hill, QLD 4121

 www.stlukesekibin.org.au

 @stlukesekibin

Parish Warden:
Brian Wood (0466 656 149)

Offerings:

Bank details (internet banking):

Anglican Parish of Ekibin

A/C 0000 7820

BSB 704 901

Or scan the **QR
code** to give
online:



[https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/TIM/?
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