

Ballineaspig Parish Bulletin



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Recognising our Treasures

Protecting what we value and what we own is a priority in every generation. Stories abound about how people undertake that task. In our time, security firms seem to be multiplying. Business firms invest heavily in new protocols and entry codes. Cyber crime is a new threat. Home owners install alarms and security lights. Even the parish church has CCTV cameras.

In the time of Jesus, His peers had no such technology. Palestine was an extremely poor country. However, its strategic location linking the eastern Mediterranean Sea with Asia meant that throughout history it was repeatedly ravished by invading and retreating imperial armies. The Babylonians, the Greeks, the Egyptians and laterally the Romans all left their mark. Marauding armies took everything useful they could lay their hands on including its people taken into exile. When the Palestinians saw such a fate approaching again, they wrapped up whatever tools and "Valuables" they had and buried them in their little fields, hoping to retrieve them when they got back to normal. Many of them never got back. A new owner of the field was entitled to keep whatever was unearthed there under several years of debris.

In Sunday's gospel Jesus uses the common experience of his listeners to focus their attention and ours on the genuine treasures that mark all our lives. Often we may have to dig through the debris of a fashionable scepticism or pseudo intellectualism, of a decline of faith or lack of self-worth, of hurt or guilt, of failure or success, of suffering or betrayal, of busyness or apathy, to unearth and unwrap the pearls of goodness and love that the Lord has implanted in each of our hearts and our relationships. The time to search anew is now. Nothing ventured nothing won.



The Treasure of the Kingdom

Matthew 13:44-52

Lord, open the eyes of our hearts to rediscover and protect the pearls of great price that can lie hidden in our daily routine as you give us our daily bread of your love for us and our love of you and of one another.

Fr. Tom Clancy