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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years.

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YR A

**25TH & 26TH JULY,
2020**

WEEKEND MASSES

With the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions more people are allowed to attend Mass.

You are now invited to attend Mass **every week** at the time you were allocated by Fr Chris.

WEEKDAY MASSES

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS AT 6PM (NO ADORATION)

THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS AT 9.10AM

You are welcome to attend any of these Masses without a phone call or email invitation.

Fr Chris will record attendance at these Masses as per government guidelines.



**PLEASE PRACTISE SOCIAL DISTANCING BEFORE, DURING
AND AFTER LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS.**

THANK YOU



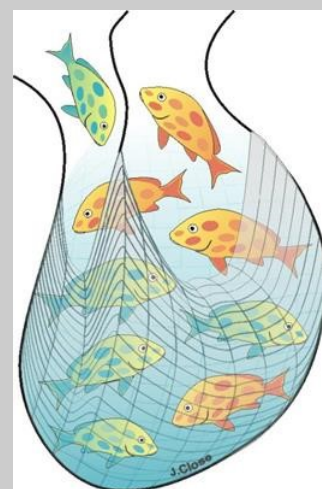
1.5M



**As per government regulations,
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**Please note that hand sanitiser is available at the Church entrances
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BE COVIDSAFE



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Email: parissteam@corpuschristi.org.au

Presbytery: 4730 6258

Office Hours: 9am - 3.30pm (Tues-Fri)

PARISH TEAM:

**Fr Christopher Antwi-Boasiako -
Parish Priest**

Christopher.Antwi-Boasiako@parracatholic.org
Mobile: 0415 505 594

Deacon Owen Rogers
- owen.rogers7@bigpond.com

Mrs Marie Cottey - Parish Secretary
- mc@corpuschristi.org.au

Mrs Sue Weekes - Office Support
- sw@corpuschristi.org.au

**Mrs Joanne Hocking - Sacrament
Support**

SCHOOLS OF THE PARISH:

Corpus Christi Primary - ph 4726 2200
(Principal - Mrs Sarah O'Rourke)

Xavier College - ph 4777 0900
(Principal - Mr Michael Pate)

The Living Word

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

26th July 2020

First Reading

1 Kgs 3:5.7-12

A reading from the first book of the Kings

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.

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.)*

Second Reading

Rom 8:28-30

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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.'

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Gospel Focus – The Kingdom is like...

Throughout the gospels, Jesus consistently uses the figures of speech of simile and metaphor to describe the kingdom. He never directly describes the kingdom. It is always described as being like some situation or person or as if... This figurative use of language means that we have no single clear picture of what the kingdom is like but we do have a multitude of metaphors and descriptions. This style of description adds to the paradoxical nature of the kingdom – it is like many things yet we don't really know what it is like at all.

Scriptural context – Matthew Ch 13

Over the last few weeks we have now heard Matthew Chapter 13 almost in its entirety. We heard first the parable of the sower then last week three short parables about weeds amongst the wheat, the mustard seed growing into a great tree and leaven in the flour. Finally, today we have had these additional pithy parables. The entire chapter seeks to paint metaphoric images of the kingdom. Woven through these images is a suggestion that the kingdom is open to all – all are presented with the invitation – but not everyone will accept that invitation or respond to it in the same way.



REFLECTION *by Fr Michael Tate* The Language of Heaven

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 incommunion to communion by learning and practising the language of Heaven.

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSS



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.

Solomon chose to be of service to others. In this he is a model for disciples to follow. 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.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for July *Our Families*



We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.



REFLECTION FOR ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS

Questions for Adolescents

- * What evidence suggests that the parables of the treasure and the pearl were always intended as a couplet?
- * Why might Jesus have given dozens of different descriptions of what the kingdom is 'like'?
- * In what ways can we get 'glimpses' of the kingdom?
- * In what ways can you be a 'glimpse of the kingdom' for others?

Questions for Adults

- * Why did the man who found the treasure in the field have to hide it again rather than keep it?
- * What argument might be made that the explanation of the third parable is an editorial addition?
- * How does this passage speak to our modern reality that not everyone accepts the message of Jesus?
- * Who do you know who has discovered the 'great treasure' and done all they could to gain it?



This is an opportunity for parents to discuss today's Gospel with your children. The following questions and worksheet are a beginning point to assist with the discussion.

- * In today's Gospel what precious things did the people find?
- * What did they do when they found them?
- * Why do you think they sold everything to buy their treasure?
- * Jesus says God's kingdom is like a treasure that makes you happy.
- * What makes you happy about being part of God's kingdom?
- * How can we share this happiness with others?

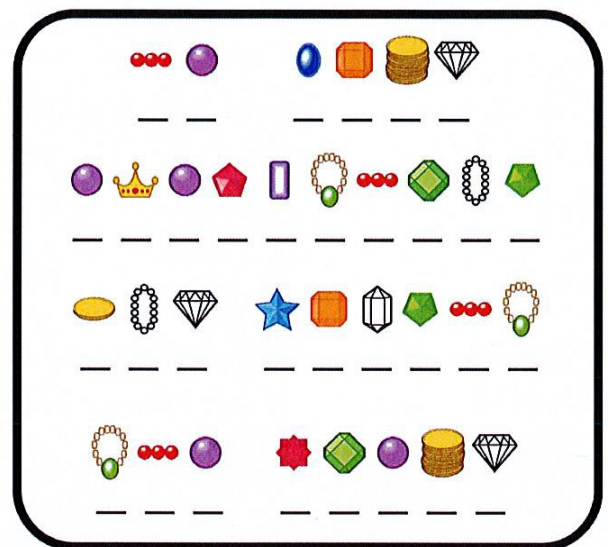
Finding the hidden treasure

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Jesus tells us that the Kingdom of God is so valuable that we ought to be prepared to give up everything for it. What are some things in your life that you would be prepared to give up or change in order to enter God's Kingdom?

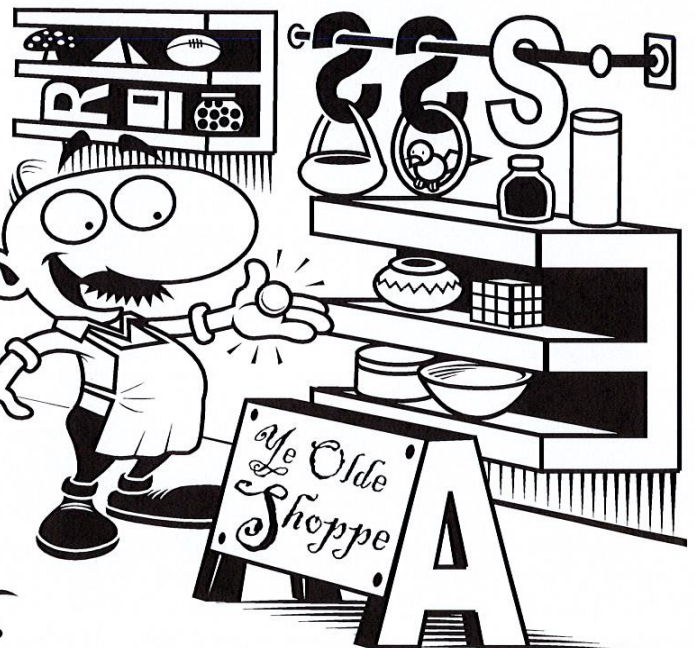
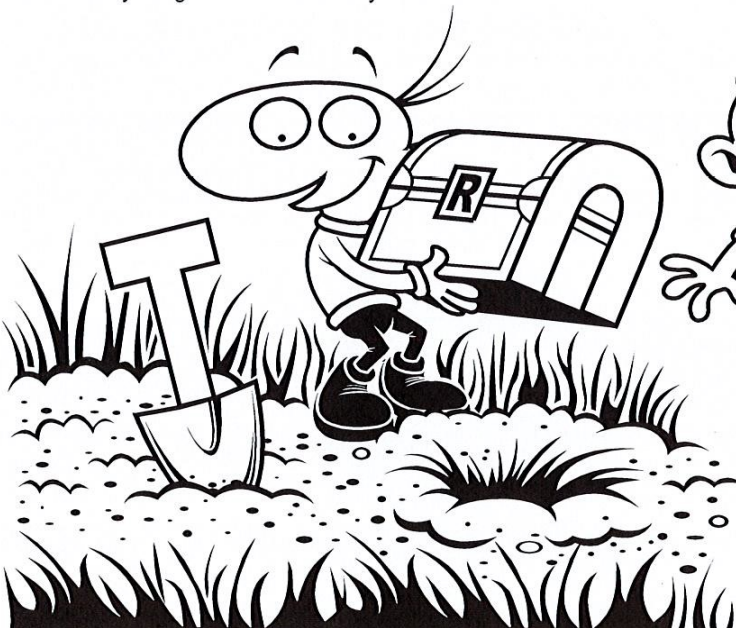
What did the man do after he found the treasure hidden in the field? Use the key below to decipher the code.

A	●	E	●	I	◆	R	◆		
B	★	F	◆	L	●	S	●	V	◆
D	◆	G	◆	N	●	T	●	Y	◆
		H	●	O	◆	U	◆		



Can you find the letters that spell the word **TREASURE** hidden in the picture below?

"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."



"The kingdom of heaven is also like a shop keeper looking for fine pearls. When he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it."

Sacrament of First Eucharist



Plans have been made to continue with the 2020 Sacrament Program under Covid-19 government restrictions. Letters regarding First Eucharist have been forwarded to all families whose children completed the Sacrament of First Reconciliation this year.

Parents are required to pick up Eucharist Information Packs on Wednesday 5th August between 6.30pm & 7.30pm in the church..

**We, the people of Corpus Christi,
seek to grow in living
a Christ-centred mission,
sharing our gifts to foster welcome,
justice and community in today's world.**

**Thank You dear parishioners for your
ongoing financial support to the parish.
Your generosity is helping with the ongoing
running expenses of our parish.**

Ministry Roster

A Ministry Roster has been drafted until the end of August and emailed to volunteers. We are currently in the process of completing a roster until the end of October, which will be emailed in due course.

Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy is still suspended until further notice.

Parish Office Hours

At this stage, the Parish Office operating hours have not returned to normal. If you need to visit the office please call first to ensure that someone is there. Please leave a message if we don't answer and we'll get back to you. You are also welcome to email. In the case of an emergency please contact Fr Chris on his mobile, 0415 505 594.

Let us Offer Gifts of Prayer:

Anniversaries:

Bibiana Zahra (22/07/17)

Mass Intentions:

Cameron Hargreaves

Recently Deceased:

Paul Xiberras (07/07 – dear father/father-in-law and grandfather to many of our parishioners)

And for those who are sick:

Joan Schneider

If any parishioner would like Fr Chris to offer Mass for someone who is recently deceased, a loved one's anniversary or if someone is sick, please email the Parish Office. We can also include the person in The Net so everyone can pray for them.

PARISHES OF THE DIOCESE WHO ARE STREAMING MASS

PARISH	LOCATION	LINK TO LIVESTREAM
PADRE PIO PARISH	Glenmore Park Parish	Streaming through Facebook – https://www.facebook.com/gsk2223
ST JOSEPHS CHURCH	Kingswood Parish	Recording/streaming through YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIjpl5JI6H8TrHkEB6ISdw/featured
ST ANDREW THE APOSTLE	Marayong Parish	Streaming through Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/standrewsmarayong/
ST MARGARET MARYS	Merrylands Parish	Recording/streaming through YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6FezbQbHtuMSyWUSnaAcA
ST NICHOLAS OF MYRA	Penrith Parish	Streaming through Facebook Live - https://www.facebook.com/SNOMPenrith/
THE GOOD SHEPHERD	Plumpton Parish	Streaming through Facebook Live - https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdparishplumpton/ https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdparishplumpton/videos/163690304720839/
OUR LADY OF LOURDES	Seven Hills Parish	Streamed Mass over weekend to Facebook Live https://www.facebook.com/LOL7Hills/videos/206449013914284/
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY	St Marys Parish	Streamed to Facebook https://www.facebook.com/OLRparishstmarys/

Act of Spiritual Communion

*My Jesus,
I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment, receive you sacramentally,
please come spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you now as if you were already there and I unite myself wholly to you.
Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen*



Parramatta Diocesan News

PROJECT COMPASSION UPDATE

Due to COVID-19, Project Compassion has been extended and you are invited to return your boxes or envelopes to Mass or the Parish Office.

If you are unable to do this please contact 1800 024 413 or go to lent.caritas.org.au. A video message from Caritas Australia on how they are helping around the world can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zk7AvhdL0IM>. For any further support, please contact Patrice Moriarty 0409 399 505 or patrice.moriarty@parracatholic.org

Plenary Council Discernment Papers Released

You are encouraged to take the discernment papers from the six national Plenary Council writing groups for your own discernment about how to bring to life a Christ-centred community in your area. These papers can be found at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/continuing-the-journey-of-discernment/>. The Pastoral Planning Office can accompany you in reflecting on these papers. Please contact pastoralplanning@parracatholic.org to discuss ways to engage with these discernment papers.

Institute for Mission - Reflective Ministry Program available online

The Institute for Mission's Reflective Ministry Program (Word and Mission) is going ahead starting from 18 August. Register here to participate ONLINE <https://www.ifm.org.au/reflective-ministry> or contact Sr Grace on grace.roclawska@ifm.org.au.

Office for Worship

Liturgical Ministry Formation Course

The Office For Worship's Liturgical Ministry Formation course will recommence in August at both the Institute for Mission, Blacktown and St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith. Two workshops on Liturgical Ministry will also be provided in October at St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook. Note: due to restrictions there are limited places available. For more information, contact the Office for Worship on anne.alimangohan@parracatholic.org

Office For Worship Resources Available

The Office For Worship has a range of resources available for purchase for individuals and parishes. Resources such as parent material for baptism or a collation of prayers can be purchased by contacting (02) 8838 3457.

CatholicCare is Still Open and Operational

CatholicCare Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains services remain open and operational during the current COVID-19 outbreak. Individual offices have been closed to clients, but the service continues to operate with care and support offered via phone, video conferencing/telehealth and online. To make a referral, call 8843 2500 (Mon-Thu 8.30am-8pm, Fri 8.30am-5pm, Sat 9am-1pm), email - enquiries@ccss.org.au or visit ccss.org.au.

Saturday Sessions

Join with others as we create community online to share and grow faith, every Saturday from 11am - 12pm with Saturday Sessions, hosted by the Pastoral Planning Office. Listen to the pre-recorded presentation about a topic of faith and then join an online group discussion via Zoom. Visit the Diocese of Parramatta's Facebook page each week for details. Contact Lisa Bright on lisa.bright@parracatholic.org to join the mailing list to receive session information.

Catholic Youth Parramatta

Catholic Youth Parramatta has established a dynamic schedule of networking opportunities, formation and resources to support ministry and engagement with young people of the Diocese in new ways. From inspiring quotes and scripture references on Mondays, to faith-filled live performances on Wednesday to launching new home-grown resources on Friday. Check out CYP's Facebook and Instagram pages and <https://www.parracatholic.org/cyp/> to download and share the resources.

SRE Learning From Home

During the school shutdown, CCD designed some faith resources for families to access for their children as they learned from home. These lessons are fun and prepared specifically for each age group 5-13. The lessons can be found at <https://www.cress.org.au/learning-from-home-sre-lessons/>. For more information contact cecilia.zammit@parracatholic.org

Share your Good News Stories!

Thank you for all that you continue to do to share the love and peace of God. Our Pastoral Planning Office welcomes your good news stories of hope and encouragement during COVID-19 to share with parishes and communities across our Diocese. If you have a good news story to offer, please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/goodnewsstory>

Positions Vacant:

- Human Resources Adviser - Diocese of Parramatta
- HR Project Officer - Payroll and Talent - Catholic Diocese of Parramatta Services Limited - **Applications close Monday 20th July**
- Head of People and Culture - CatholicCare Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains - **Applications close Tuesday 28th July**

More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

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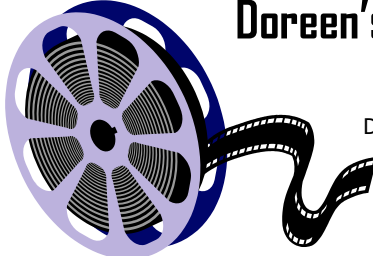
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Jessie O'Connor
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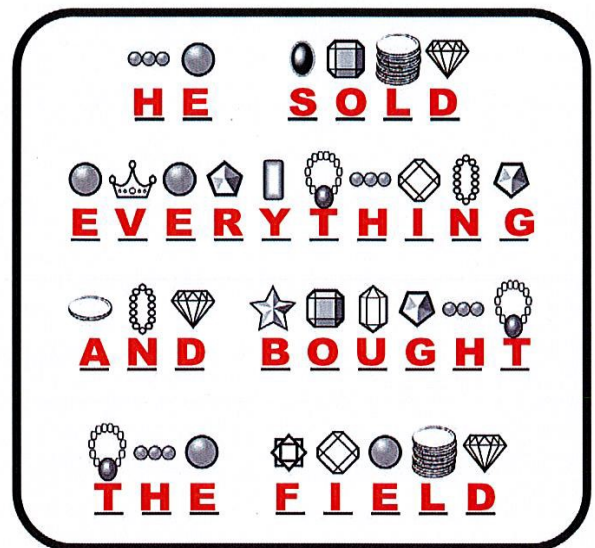
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Solutions

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

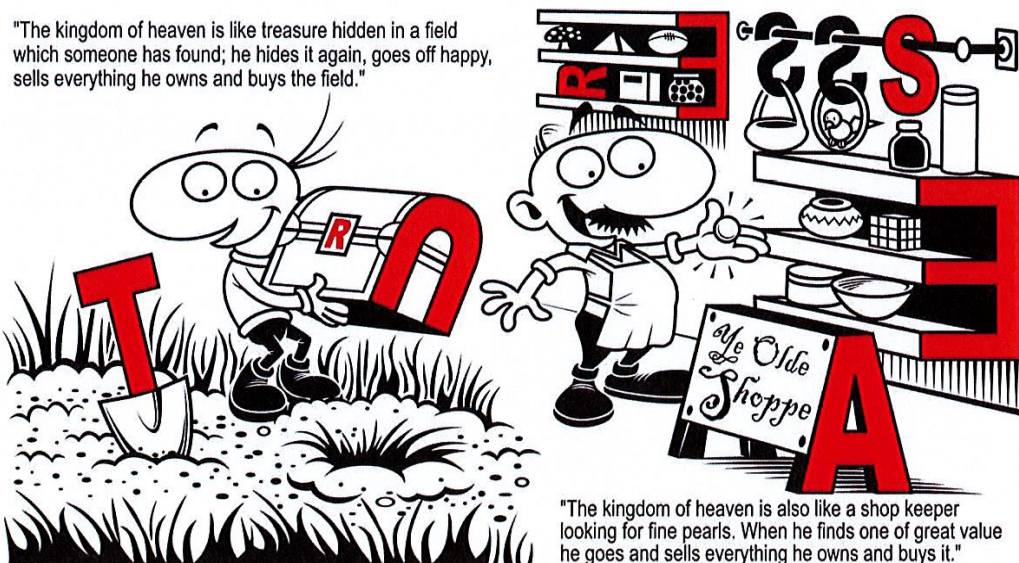
What did the man do after he found the treasure hidden in the field? Use the key below to decipher the code.

A		E		I		R			
B		F		L		S		V	
D		G		N		T		Y	
		H		O		U			



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