

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 3rd August 2025

	Gospel (Luke 12:13-21)	First Reading (Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23)	Second Reading (Colossians 3:1-5.9-11)
Context	Luke's gospel describes Jesus' birth, childhood and development. Luke tells us that Jesus sometimes used parables to teach people, including the Parable of the Rich Fool in today's gospel.	Solomon wrote Ecclesiastes near the end of his life to help future generations to discover true purpose in their lives. Such wisdom teaches us that life without God is meaningless.	Paul wrote to the Colossians to correct errors in the church and show that believers have everything they need in Christ.
Key verse	<i>"...this hoard of yours, whose will it be...?"</i>	<i>"...what does he (man) gain for all the toil and strain he has undergone...?"</i>	<i>"...you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is..."</i>
Key themes/ messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In responding to the man's instruction, Jesus chose to address a higher issue – the need to have a correct attitude towards the accumulation of wealth. • Jesus teaches us that having a good life is not about being wealthy. Life is a blessing from God, and therefore having a good relationship with God is much more important than material possessions. • The rich man in Jesus' story died before he could use what he had stored for himself. If we store wealth to enrich ourselves without helping others, we will enter eternity empty-handed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solomon refers to himself as the Preacher, and a person who took a leadership role in assembling the people to hear messages of wisdom. • Although Solomon had everything (wisdom, riches, power, etc.), he realised the emptiness of all this world has to offer. • Despite a commonly held belief that good people prosper and wicked people suffer, Solomon found that nothing apart from God brought him happiness. • For those who might rely on hard work or material possessions, Solomon suggests that such reliance is vanity. In other words, it is completely meaningless without God. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul teaches us that our new lives in Christ changes us from who we once were. • By accepting Christ, our earthly nature is dead. Christ changes our moral and ethical behaviour. • Focusing our thoughts on heavenly things means concentrating on what is eternal rather than what is temporary. • As Christians, we are called upon to rely on Jesus to guide our hearts and minds. • When we think about our values, we must always try to see things from God's perspective. Doing so offers us a wonderful antidote to desires for material possessions and immoral behaviour.
Questions/ application to our lives	<p>Why do we save money and material possessions? What motivates us?</p> <p>How does Jesus challenge us to think beyond our personal goals?</p> <p>What can we do to "save up" for an eternal life with God?</p>	<p>How often do we look for true meaning in our lives and when we do, how can the Bible help?</p> <p>Do you think Solomon is teaching us that we shouldn't work hard? Or do you think his message of wisdom is more about the true value of serving God? Explain.</p>	<p>Why does Paul teach us to kill everything that solely belongs to our earthly life? What blessings await us if we do as Paul says?</p> <p>What does Paul mean when he teaches us to "put on a new self"? How does this change us?</p>
Further reading	Catechism 2535-2540,	Catechism 2547, 2728	Catechism 661, 1042-1050, 1821

