

# NEWSLETTER

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## The Hidden Treasure

One of the shortest parables is both intriguing and relevant throughout the ages.

*"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field" (Mt. 13:44)*

Picture a man on a lifelong treasure hunt. When he finds it, he knows instantly that his search is over. He will not yearn for anything more – and therefore sells everything to hold on to this one meaningful treasure.

During Lent parables like this help us examine ourselves. How is our search for that which gives meaning to our lives progressing?

This parable is not about wealth and earthly possession. The treasure is the kingdom of God. It resonates with a later episode when Jesus tells the rich man that to follow him, he must give up all attachment to earthly possessions.

Sadly, many seek answers to the most important questions in life in earthly things – wealth, power, favours. All of these enslave us into wanting more, never satisfied – we never get to a stage where nothing else matters, were we willingly give up everything for the one thing that makes sense of our lives.

We see this all around us.

- The destruction of our environment and cultural identity through un-addressed legal loopholes in the planning process.
- Corrupt practices that flourish at the expense of the many for the gain of an anointed few.
- By turning a blind eye to tax evasion by businesses and individuals.
- Through abuse of position when dishing out jobs to those who do not merit it.
- By failing to address an increase in road accidents.
- By encouraging division through divisive speech – division intended to hide bad deeds.
- By allowing workers, especially foreign workers to be exploited – such as those couriers that were forced to go on strike to bring to light their plight for fair and just pay.
- By allowing a construction industry to be run like a syndicate – answerable to no one – an industry that digs graves for workers and bystanders. Deaths which are swept under the carpet of bureaucracy instead of being publicly scrutinised to ensure justice and change.

Why do people act in this way? What do they expect to achieve? A person no matter how callous knows they are acting wrongly. Out of fear of being caught they weave a web of lies to the point where their life becomes a lie.

All humans die – that is our nature. What about the earthly possessions we leave behind, those possessions that left us in want for more? When you are dead, those possessions are useless.

Our legacy is our actions (or lack of) and that is precisely what people will remember you by. A villain in life remains a villain after life. A corrupt cheat remains a cheat. The damage you do in your life is passed on to future generations that must clean-up the filth left by your greedy search for a false happiness – a search that tramples the rights of the weak in society, those which in your pitiable eyes are dispensable as collateral damage to greed and advancement!

The man in the parable is different. His search was not about a greedy fulfilment of self. He was in search for a meaning to life which persists after death – not for personal glory but to gain eternal life. One might protest that this is just religious nonsense – but even for the non-believer there is an eternal yearning for doing good, to leave a positive legacy which justifies one's existence – an existence which is just a tiny blip in the fabric of time.

We must work towards the common good to build a better world. A world that is fair, that ensures the welfare of all, a world where no one is refused the right to proper healthcare, to starting and ending their lives with dignity.

We need to harness the power and promise of our financial institutions and economic models so no one is left behind. Rather than thriving on division and manipulation thrive on unity and a common goal to do good.

Getting there requires courage, political will and leadership (very much missing from politics these days), but it can be done, it must be done; it is the only way to ensure we reach the end of our search, to give meaning to our short lives.

Be the change you want to see, be that change today.

**See - Judge - Act**

*It has been pointed out that the young are ready to engage in the field of politics so as to build the common good, something that the Church has not always been able to accompany by providing opportunities for formation and spaces for discernment.*

*With regard to the promotion of justice, the young ask the Church to show decisive and consistent engagement, stamping out any complicity with a worldly mentality.*

*(Final Document of the Synod of Bishops on Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment, par.46)*



## Journey to Easter Sunday

We hear a lot about Easter, especially in marketing. A visit to your local supermarket will present you with a never ending variety of easter eggs and figolli.

But getting to Easter Sunday and celebrating the heart of Christian belief is a journey. A journey starting with Ash Wednesday, followed by the 40 days of Lent, to its culmination in the Holy Week.

Also called 'Great and Holy Week,' or 'Passion Week,' Holy Week consists of five days of special significance, which start on Palm Sunday (a Sunday before Easter) - the triumphant entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem sat on a donkey and proclaimed as King, until Holy Saturday (Black Saturday). This year Holy Week starts on Saturday 2nd of April and ends on Saturday the 8th of April. With Easter celebrated on the 9th of April.

Since the early days of Christianity these days have been an integral part of being Christian. We invite you, even if you are a non-believer, as we gear up to the Holy week, and throughout Holy week to spend some time to reflect on the essence of your life, on what you are living for, what you want your life to translate to.

We urge you to find the time for Prayer, Penance and acts of Charity. We urge you not to turn a blind eye to those in need, whoever they are, and to seek refuge with your family in prayer.

Preparing for and celebrating Easter in this way, and why not with an Easter Egg and a Figolla as well, will make more sense, will leave you with a good after taste for the rest of the year.

## Press Release

The ZHN has released early last week a [press release](#) urging the authorities to start without further delay a public inquiry into the tragedy at a [construction site in Kordin](#) that led to the untimely death of the young Jean Paul Sofia.

