



Parish Priest and Deacon

Fr Jason Antony MCBS

Dcn Des Neagle

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Dot Lomax

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Churches

St Joachim's Church

41 Yuletide Street

Holland Park

St Agnes' Church

1227 Logan Road

Mt Gravatt

Parish Office Hours

Monday – Friday

8:30am – 4:00pm

Parish Details

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Facebook:

st joachim's & st agnes' parish

Parish Schools and College

St Agnes' School

07 3349 5130

St Joachim's School

07 3397 9087

Seton College

07 3291-5333

St Vincent de Paul Welfare

1800 846 643

Safeguarding Officer

Dot Lomax 0428 172 224

(Safeguarding purposes only)

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

11th/12th July, 2020

We are: on the path

Chapter 13 of Mathew's gospel contains a number of parables, telling us what the Kingdom of Heaven is like. These provide variations on the shared theme of cultivation. That would appeal to farmers and gardeners.

Today's parable is one of the best known and is about someone sowing seed. Though this tells us much about growing wheat, it's not an extract from an ancient edition of farming or gardening manual. Here Jesus uses the experience of the Galilean farmer to teach us about the kingdom of heaven.

The Gospel presents us with two ways of understanding this parable. The first is contained in the parable itself. This describes the different threats to the seed, representing the word of God –there's the stony ground, the heat of the sun, the weeds choking the seed's growth, birds eating the some of the seed. But the punch line comes with God guaranteeing a bumper harvest, despite all the threats to his word taking root. This parable is meant to encourage the Church and each of us when we feel overwhelmed and depressed by so many threats to the growth of the seed of the Gospel. We must place our trust in God, the Lord of the harvest.

The second half of today's Gospel gives an explanation of this parable, which is very different from the one I've just given. The emphasis now shifts from God's activity in guaranteeing the bumper harvest TO US, AND THE DIFFERENT WAYS IN WHICH WE MAY RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD. What began as a parable of encouragement now becomes a parable of warning.

Does the word of God get choked by all our daily cares? God has given the freedom to push Him into the background of our lives if it suits us to do so!.

Again, it's easy enough to be enthusiastic Christians when nothing much is demanded of us. But our commitment can be so shallow; it can't withstand the heat of temptations and the opposition of persecution. It's when the going gets rough in following Jesus that our shallow commitment will shrivel and die.

And what about the birds of the air which eat the seed? These represent all the influences which undermine our faith –the secular values of the world in which we live, bad company, unsavoury material on TV or the Internet, what we read. All these different influences can prevent the Word of God taking root in our lives. For the Word of God to be fruitful in our lives it's must be sown in good, receptive soil.

The parable itself is meant to give us encouragement. The later explanation is meant to be a warning. When the going's rough we need to be confident that with God's help we can overcome the difficulties and be part of the harvest of the Kingdom of Heaven. But this will only happen when we don't take God and our salvation for granted. Jesus warns us very clearly of the consequences of not being receptive to the Word of God.

The Gospel raises uncomfortable questions. Jesus urges us to examine our approach to God. We should draw encouragement from God's power and desire to overcome all the obstacles to a successful harvest. If we will let Him, He can make our barren lives fertile. We can also prevent this happy outcome. He can protect us from the weeds which threaten to choke our Christian commitment, and from the pests and birds which seek to destroy the Good News of the kingdom. Let us confidently seek the kingdom of God and allow nothing to undermine our growth as followers of Christ!

Fr. Isidore Clarke

Readings: Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

Romans 8:26-27

Matthew 13:24-43

READINGS FOR 14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES

First Reading Isaiah 55:10-11

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

Responsorial Psalm

The seed that falls on good ground
will yield a fruitful harvest.

Second Reading Romans 8:18-23

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 13:1-23

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

PARISH NEWS

SUPPORT WHEN YOU NEED IT

The Parish Office continues to be open and we are available to help you. Your continued support of the Parish is much appreciated. If you have any questions please give the office a call.

WE REMEMBER

We remember Giuseppe Bono, Tomas Macaranas and Harvey Wallace. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

WE REJOICE

With the McMullen and Donsky family as they celebrate the baptism of Remy in the parish this weekend.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM - CONFIRMATION

Preparation for Confirmation will commence in July. All children in Year Three and above, who have been baptised in the Catholic tradition are invited to take part. If you have a child you would like to enroll please contact Rachel by phone the Parish Office, 3349 2280 or email her at sacpr.hpmq@bne.catholic.net.au.

PARISH FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/hpmgparish/>

ABUNDANCE YOUTH

<https://www.facebook.com/Abundance-Youth-114497676854096/>; https://www.instagram.com/abundanceyouth_/

The liturgy of the word is a decisive element in the celebration of each one of the sacraments of the church; in pastoral practice, however, the faithful are not always conscious of this connection, nor do they appreciate the unity between gesture and word... The relationship between **word and sacramental gesture** is the liturgical expression of God's activity in the history of salvation through the *performative character* of the word itself. In salvation history there is no separation between what God *says* and what he *does*. His word appears as alive and active (Heb 4:12), as the Hebrew term *dabar* itself makes clear. In the liturgical action too, we encounter his word which accomplishes what it says. By educating the People of God to discover the performative character of God's word in the liturgy, we will help them to recognise his activity in salvation history and in their individual lives.

Verbum Domini (2010) 53

Continuing on our faith journey during this time of isolation; when our faith will sustain us through challenging times. If our doors are closed, let our hearts be open

LIVESTREAMING OF MASSES FROM ST STEPHEN'S CATHEDRAL

Press Ctrl and click on www.archbne.org/bzw

MASS ON TV – CHANNEL 10

Mass for You at Home - Sunday at 6:00am.

EVANGELISATION BRISBANE – DAILY REFLECTIONS

For a theological reflection on the gospel of the day go to:

Press Ctrl and click on

<http://evangelisationbrisbane.org.au/daily-reflections/>

CATHOLIC LEADER – COMMITTING TO ACCESS OF STORIES

If you haven't already done so, [you can sign up to receive your weekly digital newspaper here.](#)

SURGERY SHIP FEATURE FILM TO AIR ON 7TWO IN GLOBAL FIRST!

The never-before-seen on TV director's cut feature-length film of the award-winning *The Surgery Ship* will air on 7TWO this Sunday, 12 July at 12pm (noon). The feature-length documentary was filmed in Guinea, West Africa and follows life aboard the world's largest non-governmental hospital ship, the MV *Africa Mercy*. The Surgery Ship premieres on 7TWO at 12pm this Sunday, 12th July and encores at 4.30pm on Wednesday, 15 July.

CLAIRVAUX MACKILLOP COLLEGE 2020 WINDOWS TOUR

Live Virtual Tour, Friday July 24th from 10:00 – 11:00am. To register please go to www.cvxmck.edu.au and select the Enrolments tab. A link will be emailed to you for the event. For information contact the Enrolment Secretary, 3347 9223 or visit www.cvxmck@edu.au

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BRISBANE CATHOLIC BUSHWALKERS CLUB

The Brisbane Catholic Bushwalking Club is happy to advise that they will be celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Mt Barney Mass near the base of the mountain on 12 August, 2020. For further details contact c.barneymass60@gmail.com or phone Graham on 07 3371 9623. Please spread the word.

Masses and Sacrament of Reconciliation

Dear Parishioners,

WEEKEND MASSES

I will be resuming the 6:00pm Sunday evening mass as of July 19th and the Saturday evening mass on August 1st. In the meantime, we are continuing to offer the two Sunday morning masses commencing 7:30am at St Joachim's and 9:00am at St Agnes'. St Agnes' Church can accommodate 48 people and St Joachim's can have 63.

Bookings will still need to be made prior to attending Mass and registrations **must** close at 4:00pm on Fridays. At this stage we still need to social distance so the number of places available for each mass will still be restricted.

WEEKDAY MASSES

Thursday at St Agnes' and on Friday at St Joachim's, both commencing 9:00am.

Bookings must be made prior to attending Mass. Registrations must close at 4:00pm on the Wednesday and Thursday respectfully.

THIS PROCESS WILL CONTINUE FOR ALL MASSES UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT ADVISES THAT CONTACT TRACING IS NO LONGER REQUIRED.

HOW TO BOOK

A TryBooking page has been opened to facilitate the booking of masses. All you need to do is click on your preferred venue:

St Joachim's Masses – <https://www.trybooking.com/BJVCV>

St Agnes' Masses - <https://www.trybooking.com/BJVFE>

and complete the online booking:

1. Select **Book Now**
2. Choose Mass, press **Select**
3. Choose Section you wish to sit in, press **Select**
4. Add tickets required, press **Next**
5. Fill our details for each person attending, complete **all** fields, press **Next**
6. Complete Booking details, this must be completed to finalise booking, press **Purchase**
7. If your booking is successful you will receive an email within a few minutes.

If you do not get a confirmation email or you have difficulty making a booking please the parish office. We will assist you. **If you do not have access to the internet please ring the parish office and we will make the booking for you.**

WHEN YOU ARRIVE

I ask you to arrive at the masses early to give yourself time to sign in and find your seats so that masses can start on time. Please sign the registration sheet at the front door. You must sit in the section which you chose or was allocated to you. If you have forgotten it will be noted on the sign-in sheets. Please sit between the crosses and remember to social distance within the pew.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is also being made available to anyone who is interested. I will offer Reconciliation after Mass on Thursday and Friday or by appointment. If you wish to make an appointment please ring the parish office.

With god's blessings

Fr Jason



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Mount Gravatt / Holland Park Areas
Contact: John
Phone: 0450 530 259
Email: jvell247@gmail.com



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