

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 11th - 12th July 2020

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11

The rain makes the earth give growth.

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.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 64:10-14. R. Lk 8:8

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

Second Reading: Romans 8:18-23

All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

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 13:1-9 (Short Form)

A sower went out to sow.

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!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Many of us hear the Word of God but understanding God's word,
growing in grace and in wisdom, allowing that seed to grow,
and nurturing that growth, is a life-long journey.**

**It is only the disciples who are concerned with being the best possible soil
to receive God's grace in his Word, that bears any fruit at all.**

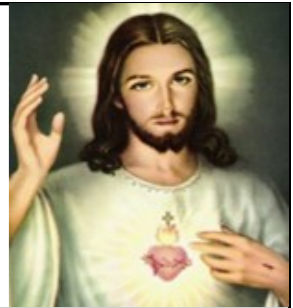


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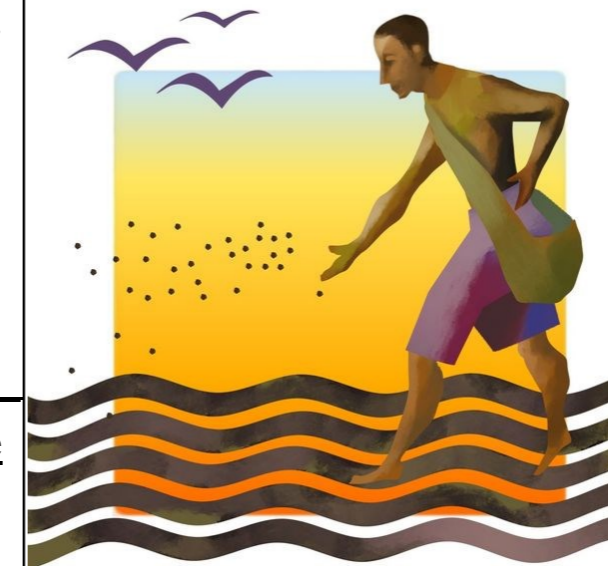
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Being Open to God's Message

If we have ever had the experience of planting seeds, we do it with the greatest expectations of a good harvest or flourishing bloom. We take time to turn the soil, give it water and nourishment, sow the seeds and wait for the plants to grow. If they don't, we might ask what went wrong? Was it the sower or the soil?

In the first reading prophet Isiah preaches about the word of God falling like spring rain to soften the soil so that seeds will grow. The word will not return empty. In essence, God means what God says and this was the basis of Israel's hope through exiles and captivity. The second reading likens human beings to seedlings planted by God to ultimately share in the glory destined for all who play their part in living as faithful people of God. Such is the hope to which they are called.

The story of the Sower featured in the Gospel is one of many parables that characterised Jesus' teaching. Parables were short stories with open endings or double meaning that used images that were part of people's everyday lives to draw them into thinking more deeply about the ways of God. Jesus' parable today relates a simple scene of someone flamboyantly sowing seed in all directions such that some fall on pathways, or rocky ground, some amid plants that choke growth, and some fall on good soil where it flourishes to produce an abundant harvest. As Jesus told it nothing extraordinary happens and yet through this imagery he invited his hearers then, as he does us, to reflect on our experience and see what it might be saying about where and how God is at work in our lives and how we are responding to him.



Every day God gives us signs, trying to get our attention. It might be in the form of a flourishing garden, a piece of music, a newspaper story, a chance meeting with a friend. God may speak to us in the readings at Mass, a homily about them or through our community gathered in prayer. God may call to us through a child who is lost, a stranger who lends us a helping hand, a neighbour struggling to make ends meet. If only we have eyes that see, ears that hear and hearts open to respond to him!

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Creating God, unceasingly at work in the field of humanity; sowing the good seed and awaiting its yield. Let your spirit move in power over us to transform our hearts into the good soil you seek. Then may your word bear fruit a hundredfold as your love in us becomes active and real through deeds of justice compassion and peace.

Office Hours:

Tues to Fri: 10.00am - 12.30pm

Parish Priest:

Fr Jan Szweda, SVD

Assistant Priest:

Fr Aloysius Nato, SVD

Priest in Residence:

Fr Ennio Mantovani, SVD

Deacon:

Yousef Meda, SVD

Parish Office: Cristina Agius

School Principal: Mark Tierney

School Phone: 9487 1001

Sacrament Co-ordinator:

Ylenia Useli

shpcatechists@gmail.com

Child Safety Officers:

Kay Dufty: 0431 376 212 and

Robert Dullard: 0433 401 958

Child Safety Committee:

Robert Dullard (Chair)

Parish Council Members:

Catherine Zanatta (chairperson),

Kay Dufty (secretary), Tony Eley,

Gerard Grant, Ophelia Swai,

Anisasio (Pauline) Veamatahau,

Mark Tierney, Ben Fortuna and

Natalie Baran

Parish Finance Committee:

Peter Constable (Chair)

0425 779 831

St. Vincent de Paul Society:

Pauline O'Day (President)

Ph: 9484 2445

Parish Mass Schedule

**No Masses
until
further notice**

Please see
Online Mass
Schedule
on the next page



07 July 2020

Dear friends in Christ,
Today's decision to place metropolitan Melbourne and the Mitchell Shire areas back into Stage 3 lockdown for the next six weeks from 11.59pm Wednesday 8 July is sobering news. It is truly disheartening, and will bring renewed distress to so many families and individuals.

These words from Psalm 22 have come immediately to my mind (words that were on the lips of Jesus as he was crucified): My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest. (Ps 22.1-2)

Yet, I want to encourage you in grace, trusting in the abiding closeness of our loving Lord, who promised to be with us always.

In returning to Stage 3 restrictions in those specific areas, sadly the public celebration of Mass, which we have only just re-commenced, will need to go back to live-streaming; churches will need to be closed again to any private prayer; and the numbers allowed for funerals and weddings will be severely limited.

We expect specific details around the restrictions will be released by the civil authorities over the next 24 hours, and will be communicated to you as soon as possible. I ask for your patience in the meantime.

Now is a time for attentiveness to the care of one another. In the face of our own despondency and fears, our fatigue and anxieties, may we learn to hold firm in faith and hope, and experience sustaining moments of love. As the writer of the Letter to the Hebrews encouraged: Let us be concerned for each other, to stir a response in love and good works. (Heb 24.10)

Friends, while the Psalmist knew struggle and pain, there were also words of confidence that came from the heart: In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame. (Ps 22.4-5)

May our Lord Jesus be with you, and may His Blessed Mother accompany us all.

With every grace and blessing, I remain,
Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne

Please click on the following link for:
[A Word of Encouragement to the Catholic People of Australia from the Bishops of Australia](#)

Sacred Heart Parish Prayer

Loving God, we honour the heart of Jesus, your beloved Son. We remember how he opened his heart in love to all people. Open our own heart to receive the gifts that continue to flow so richly from the heart of Christ, who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.
Amen.

Sacred Heart Bulletin

The Sacred Heart Bulletin is available online and if you would like to have a copy emailed to you, please send an email to sacredheart3072@gmail.com or call the office on 94803398 to be added to the email list.

Resources for the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Please share these online resources with your families.

The first resource contains the [Sunday readings](#). It is suggested that families gather to read the Scriptures aloud together.

The [family resource](#) is designed for families with young children.

Online Masses

St. Patrick's Cathedral - Live Streaming at:

<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

Monday- Friday: 1pm, Saturday: 8am, Sunday: 11am

Recorded masses can also be viewed at:

www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass

Or: <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>

TV Masses

Channel 44 (31): Live telecast from St. Patrick's Cathedral, Sunday at 11am

Channel 10: Mass for you at home, Sunday at 6am.

RAI: Italian Mass from the Vatican, Sunday at 8:30am

Enjoy weekly Catholic Radio Reflections:



Visit www.jcr.org.au or
<https://podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/journey-catholic-radio/id970818039>

where you can listen anytime

Collections

1st Collection: \$1396.00

2nd Collection: \$455.00

Thank you for your kind generosity!



God Listens to Everybody

God listens to everybody - sinner, saint, victim or killer, Pope Francis said during his weekly general audience at the Vatican on June 24, 2020. "Everyone lives a life that is often inconsistent or a contradiction" because people can be a sinner and a saint, a victim and a tormentor. No matter what one's situation is, people can put themselves back in God's hands through prayer. Prayer gives us nobility; it is able to protect one's relationship with God, who is the true companion along humanity's journey, amidst thousands of hardships in life, good or bad, but always with prayer," he said.

Seafarers Sunday

Each year, the Church celebrates Sea Sunday (12th July) - an opportunity to recognise the important work being done by seafarers across the world. Now in its 100th year, the Stella Maris ministry (Apostleship of the Sea) focuses on the ongoing welfare and pastoral care of seafarers—regardless of their colour or creed. Pope Francis recently sent a message of support to maritime personnel and seafarers, acknowledging their important contributions to the movement of essential goods during this time of the pandemic. 'Know that you are not alone and that you are not forgotten,' Pope Francis said.

A Prayer to St Joseph

You were receptive to God working in your life. Help us by your prayers at the time of trial.

You kept Jesus and Mary under your watchful care: may your prayers assist our local Church to respond to those in need.

You taught the Christ Child your trade and prayers: help us to follow his example of love.

You were part of God's plan for all humanity: assist us to be vigilant and responsible this day.

You spent your life in service:

May we be mindful of others, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, caring for them in these difficult days.

You trusted in the clear primacy of God over all history and every situation: help us grow in faith and pray to the Father, *thy will be done.*

Amen



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



Tell us what you would like to see on our Parish Page!



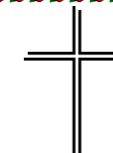
WE PRAY FOR:

The elderly and the sick
*Lopisoni Amato, Peter Bourke,
Maria Crocco, Lilia Crupi,
Nicola D'Orazio, Anthony Joseph &
Bronislawa Slobodzian*

Those who have died recently
Nerina Cigagna (Italy) & Pasquale Tropeano

We Commemorate

O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.



'Emotions as Guardians of our Soul'

Reflection event via Zoom, Saturday 18th July 2020, 10am-1pm. Facilitated by Rev Dr Peter Bentley, this event offers participants the opportunity to explore which emotions are inviting us to pay attention to our authentic self. We will focus on some of the core emotions that regularly arise in everyday life and see how they contribute to alerting us to key areas of transformation. Cost \$25. Bookings and payment via Trybooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/BKJOS>. For more information, contact holsc@bigpond.com or telephone 9890 1101.

Daily living of the loving



We have a rare opportunity to celebrate love and God in a very public way at a wedding, but how about in everyday life?

A sign of the presence of God is the presence of love, but how we choose to celebrate love in our relationships is different for everyone.

"When I see you playing with the children, I see God in you. When you fill the dishwasher after a hard day at work, I see God in you. When you smile and encourage me when I am feeling overwrought, I see God in you."

[Click here](#) to discover ways you can make daily living of the loving truly present in your life, and check out our free couples worksheet on dreams and aspirations!

Catholics For Renewal

Will dioceses and the Plenary Council itself be guided by the Church's 'principle of subsidiarity', a principle endorsed by Vatican II and every recent Pope? Articles on subsidiarity, Media Release from Australian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform and other interesting topics you may find in the Catholics For Renewal Inc. newsletter:

<https://www.catholicsforrenewal.org/>