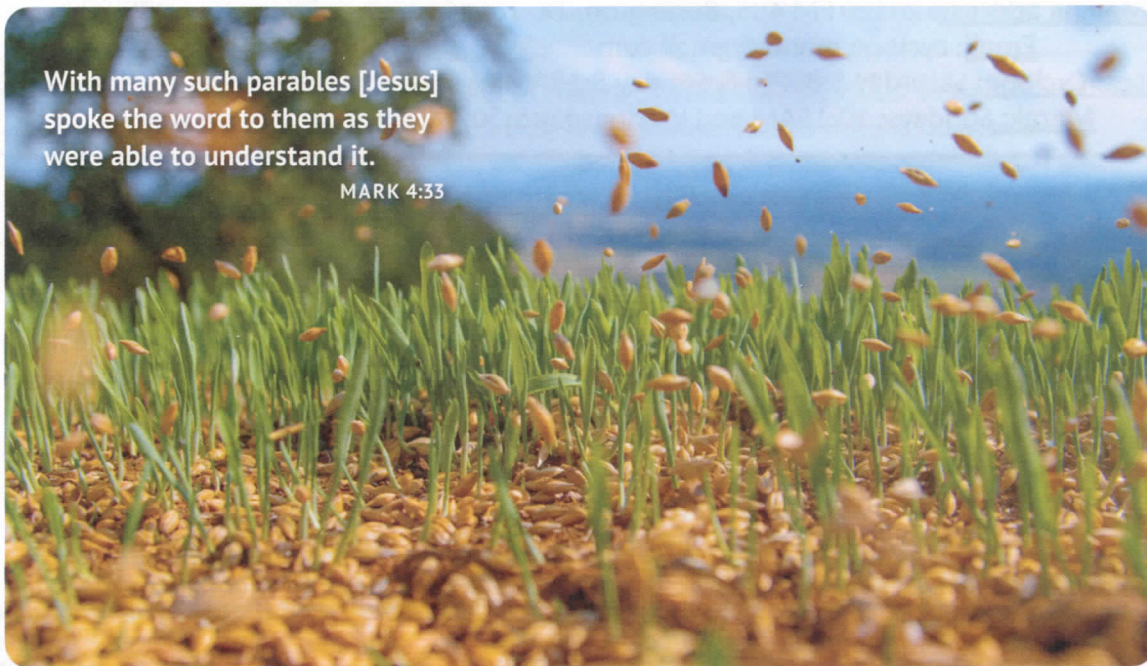




With many such parables [Jesus] spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it.

MARK 4:33



Life Happens

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

The adage that “life is what happens to us as we’re busy doing other things” seems to be a rewording of this week’s Gospel about the kingdom of heaven, namely about God’s reigning activity in our lives. It is a parable about a man who sows seeds in his field. The seeds sprout, grow, and bear fruit, all without his knowing how. In effect, the message says that it is *God* who happens to us as we’re busy doing other things.

We tend to convince ourselves that we have complete control over our lives, when in reality that is somewhat of an illusion. Though we may decide what we will have for dinner, what TV program to watch, or what we will wear, we have much less control over the portions of life that so often give meaning and shape to who we are. The person someone marries

is dependent upon the mutual commitment of the two people in love. The degree of job satisfaction we eagerly hope to find can partly depend upon the people with whom we work and the expectations of others. “We walk by faith and not by sight” reveals that we recognize the reigning presence of God bringing us to a life we’d never imagined. In reality, the one thing we do have control over is how we respond to life’s events, which can then open us to the ways by which God brings us to fruitful abundance. ●

Reflect

**Think of three of your blessings:
How much did you have to do
with their coming about?**

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF CYCLONE—MARAK
St. Joseph, Cyclone & Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak

Pastor: Rev. RanJan Cletus

Mailing address: 20120 FM 485, Burlington, TX 76519.....**Phone** 254-985-2280

Email: cyclone.marak@gmail.com

Website: marakchurch.org

Masses: Cyclone: Saturday 5:30PM & Sunday 8:15AM; Weekdays: Tues., Thurs & Friday: 7AM

Marak: Sundays: 10:15AM and Wednesday 5:30PM(unless otherwise stated)

The Sacraments:

Baptism: On Sundays after Mass. Please contact the pastor to schedule a meeting with him; a preparation program may be needed. Parents must be registered parishioners of St. Joseph, Cyclone or Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak.

Confessions: Before Mass on the weekend and anytime by appointment.

Marriage: Couples planning to be married should contact the pastor at least six months in advance before you set the date of the wedding. Completion of required paperwork and a preparation program needed.

JUNE 16, 2024 ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

In the cryptic message of the prophet Ezekiel, long centuries before the Lord's coming, God gave His people reason to hope. Ezekiel glimpsed a day when the Lord God would place a tree on a mountain in Israel, a tree that would "put forth branches and bear fruit." Who could have predicted that the tree would be a cross on the hill of Calvary, and that the fruit would be salvation?

Ezekiel foresees salvation coming to "birds of every kind"—thus, not just to the people of Israel, but also to the Gentiles, who will "take wing" through their new life in Christ. God indeed will "lift high the lowly tree," as He solemnly promises.

Such salvation surpasses humanity's most ambitious dreams. And so we express our gratitude in the Psalm: "Lord, it is good to give thanks to you." It is indeed good, and better still to give thanks with praise. The Psalmist speaks of those who are just upon the earth, but looks to God as the source and measure of justice, of righteousness. Like Ezekiel, he evokes the image of a flourishing tree to describe the lives of the just. The image, again, suggests the Cross as the measure of righteousness.

The Cross is a sign of contradiction to those who would rather "flourish" in worldly terms. As St. Paul emphasizes to the Corinthians, we need courage. Our faith makes us strong, and it is proved in our deeds. He reminds us that we will be judged by the ways our faith manifests itself in works: "so that each may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil."

God Himself will empower the works He expects from us, though we freely choose to correspond to His grace. In the prophetic oracles, He scattered the seed that sprang up and became the mustard tree, large enough to accommodate all the birds of the sky, just as Ezekiel had seen. He gave this doctrine to His disciples in terms they were able to understand, and He provided a full explanation. In the sacraments He provides still more: the grace of faith and the courage we need to live in the world as children of God.

Bulletin Information: **MARAK:** Anna Givens (512-809-9889) marakchurch@yahoo.com

CYCLONE: Nancy Posvar (254-913-2696)

Bulletin Deadline: Please call or e-mail info by Wednesday before the weekend!

MINISTRIES FOR JUNE 23, 2024

Rosary: Liz Jungmann

Eucharistic Minister: Jeannine Dohnalik

Lector: Ronald Kaulfus

Offertory: Richard & Betty Brenek

Ushers: Adolph Vansa & Robert Vansa

Servers: Gracie, Carter, and Bella

Sanctuary Light: June 17th-23rd: In Memory of August & Mary Hubnik by Liz & Arvell Jungmann

Prayer Chain... Please pray for Anton Vrazel, Barbara Vansa McNeill, Martha Hubnik, Brandon Lewis (Cousin to the Tomek Family), Dorothy Vansa, Laddie Dohnalik, Kay & Ed Moraw, and Paulette Foster, and those in need in the Book of Prayers. Prayers are powerful as we pray daily for those in need.

To be added to the prayer chain:

Please contact: Merlene Slavik—254-697-1247 or email—Slavik@farm-market.net

MARAK MASSES—June 16-23, 2024

Date	Time	Mass Intentions
Today—6/16	10:15am	+ Stanley Hubnik by James & Jeannine Dohnalik + Clem Tomek by Adolph & Dorothy Vansa + Jerry Wade by Anna & Kevin Givens + Stanley Hubnik by Chester & Margaret Hays
6/19—Wednesday	5:30pm	+ Clem Tomek by Mike & Janice Marek + Joe & Stefina Vansa by Robert & Debbie Vansa
6/23—Sunday	10:15am	+ August and Mary Hubnik by Liz & Arvell Jungmann + Helen Moriaty by Chester & Margaret Hays + In Thanksgiving of Alfred & Bernice Vrazel's 63 rd Wedding Anniversary

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

PICNIC RAFFLE: We would like to thank everyone who has donated a prize for the raffle this year. We are continuing to take donations through today. To donate, contact Kelly Laurence (254-931-5992) or Julie Motyka (254-722-0394).

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY: Our condolences to the family of Joseph Taylor Ribar and Verna Vansa. May God provide you comfort and healing.

THANK YOU: Thank you to Arvell, Ray, Kevin, and Bryce for cutting down the dead tree in front of the church and hauling it off.

KC MEETING: The Knights of Columbus will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, June 18th at 7 PM.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL OF OUR DADS.

6-9: Sunday Offering: \$2,175.00

Children's Offering: \$8.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Dear Padre,

*Why did Jesus always speak in parables?
Why didn't he give us clearer answers?*



RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL SON, GUERCINO / WIKICOMMONS

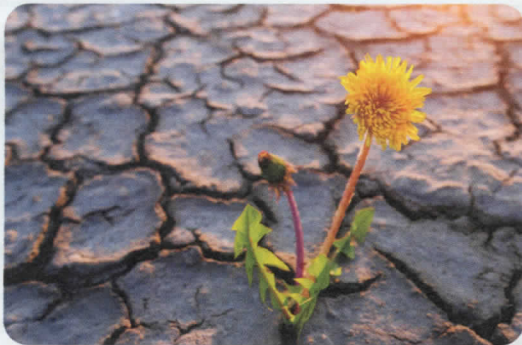
Parables are short, relatable stories. Their simple images or comparisons convey a moral or religious lesson and put us in touch with the mystery of God and ourselves. Thus, parables confront the hearer or reader with a radical choice to enter God's kingdom: "One must enter the kingdom, that is, become a disciple of Christ, in order to 'know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 13:11). For those who stay 'outside,' everything remains enigmatic" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 546).

About a third of Jesus' recorded teachings are in parable form. After the Pharisees rejected Jesus (Matthew 12:14), he immediately changed his straightforward preaching to parables. This fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables, I will announce what has lain hidden from the foundation [of the world]" (Matthew 13:35; see Psalm 78:2).

Parables are intended to reveal as much about us as they do about God. As John Shea writes in *Stories of God*, "God not only loves to hear our stories, God loves to tell stories. And, quite simply, we are the story God tells." In the telling, we ourselves are told. The timeless, universal stories of Jesus speak to us at different stages of life and provide multiple levels of meaning to the openhearted. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
June 17	June 18	June 19	June 20	June 21	June 22	June 23
Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	St. Aloysius	Weekday	Twelfth Sunday
1 Kgs 21:1-16	1 Kgs 21:17-29	2 Kgs 2:1, 6-14	Sir 48:1-14	Gonzaga,	2 Chr 24:17-25	in Ordinary Time
Mt 5:38-42	Mt 5:43-48	Mt 6:1-6, 16-18	Mt 6:7-15	Religious	Mt 6:24-34	Jb 38:1, 8-11
				2 Kgs 11:1-4,		2 Cor 5:14-17
				9-18, 20		Mk 4:35-41
				Mt 6:19-23		



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

It may happen that we get discouraged, because we see the weakness of good as compared to the apparent power of evil.... The Gospel asks us to take a fresh look at ourselves and at reality...to discover the presence of God who as humble love is always at work in the soil of our life....

ANGELUS, ROME, JUNE 13, 2021

VARUNA / SHUTTERSTOCK



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