

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 18th - 19th July 2020

First Reading: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

In the place of sin, you give repentance.

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there. By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 85:5-6. 9-10. 15-16. R. v.5

R/ Lord, you are good and forgiving.

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-27

The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: See Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43

Let them grow together until the harvest.

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn." He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.' In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfill the prophecy: I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

The parable of the weeds is starkly simple and yet widely ignored. To the question "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" the answer of Jesus is a categorical "No." And the reason is self-evident. Only God has eyes sufficiently discerning and fingers sufficiently gentle for this job. Weeding out is God's prerogative. Life would be so much better for everybody, if only we would leave it to him.



Sacred Heart Parish Preston

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Office Hours:

Tues to Fri: 10.00am - 12.30pm

Parish Priest:

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Fr Aloysius Nato, SVD

Priest in Residence:

Fr Ennio Mantovani, SVD

Deacon:

Yousef Meda, SVD

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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

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 18th - 19th July 2020

Wheat or Weeds?

We live in a very diverse world of extremes. Leaders of nations have sent their young people to war intending to make life better at huge losses of young lives. As with many great ideals things can have unconsidered consequences, there is much about our nation that is good and bad. The Church too is imperfect - 'always in need of reform and renewal' (Vatican 2). The same is true of our personal lives.

In the Gospel today, Jesus speaks about wheat and weeds growing together - occupying one world. A perfect image of the world we live in and the church of which we are members. He also uses two other very important images: a tiny mustard seed and a measure of yeast used to making bread.

The kingdom of God, present in the world, is like a field in which wheat has been planted. It's in the ground growing but hasn't matured yet. In the meantime, an 'enemy' sneaks in and sows weeds so that good and bad sharing the same growing space are inseparable for a time. To try to remove the weeds prematurely could result in destruction of the wheat as well and the end of an entire crop.

God has a broader vision for the role of human beings in the spreading of the kingdom. A tiny mustard seed, draws nourishment from the soil to grow into a sturdy bush sheltering birds in its branches: again, God's kingdom is like the yeast a woman mixed with flour. Through patient kneading, came bread to feed many. Just as the yeast, though small in quantity, was the active ingredient transforming the flour to provide bread for the hungry, and the tiny mustard seed became a shelter from the elements, so we too as followers of Jesus are called to slowly transform the world from within. It would be a mistake to think that big projects and actions ultimately bring about change. Our smallest of actions can have a huge impact that spreads beyond ourselves.

Jesus' mission and message was saying fight evil, not by acts of retaliation, but by effecting changes of heart, according to God's values of compassion, love and respect for humanity. Feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, speak up for the oppressed and the poor, protect the vulnerable, support the abused and excluded, accompany the dying and grieve with the mourner. The kingdom of God is not far away and beyond your reach, it is within you. Share it with others and it will grow. Mother Teresa put it well. "We can do no great things: only small things with great love"

It is love in action that will change the world.



Small Beginnings

Fr Donal Neary, S.J

Everything starts small. The mustard seed was a tiny seed that grew into a flowering bush; it was not mustard as we know it, but only a bush to give beauty and shelter. It can remind us of the beauty of creation, and of the caring shelter we can give to others. It is also a reminder that each of us began as a seed in the mother's body, and grew with the plan of God. The love of God grows like that – it begins small with birth and with baptism, and then grows wide so that we share our love of God. It is the same with marriage – love begins and then grows so that children and grandchildren and others may shelter in love. Love grows when love is given, in our immediate circle, and in our care for the wider world. Good friendship and love spreads out to many.

We want the kingdom of God on earth and God is saying that it grows slowly. It grows as we try to grow love, peace, justice and compassion. The shelter of the mustard bush is the mercy of God, encouraging our parish to be 'an oasis of mercy' (Pope Francis). It is not easy, as love and care for the really needy of-ten meets with opposition. The kingdom of God grows with the help of God, and without this help, our efforts are in vain.

Recall something in your life that began small and has now grown; thank God for it.

Lord, may your kingdom come among us.

Letter from a Parishioner

"This is Mercedes. Father, I want to thank you for the livestreaming of the daily Mass. It means so much to me. Of course, I miss receiving Our Lord in the Holy Communion but being able to attend Holy Mass daily really completes my day. I also wish to thank Fr Ennio, Fr Aloysius and Deacon Yosef. Please extend my heartfelt thanks to them.

I am leaving for the US this Saturday. Yes, I finally got a booking. Please pray for my safe journey.

It was a wonderful experience being part of Sacred Heart Parish community; even if it was only for a short while. Praying that our paths may cross again one day. When this pandemic is over, I know that Melbourne will always be part of my travel itinerary. See you again one day".

Thank you, Mercedes, for being part of our Parish community and faithfully attending every day Mass for all the months you were with us. We will miss you! We pray that God will protect you and bless you in your life.

Dates to Remember

Wednesday, 22nd July: Feast of St. Mary Magdalene

Saturday, 25th July: Feast of St. James

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 16th 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: \$558.70

2nd Collection: \$275.00

Thank you for your kind generosity!

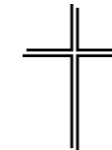


We Hope in God's Forgiveness

Today's gospel passage may prompt some to ask: "Why doesn't God just do away with all the bad people in the world? The world sure would be a lot nicer place to live in if He did, and maybe we'd even have lasting world peace".

But if God somehow took all the "bad" people out of the world, how many would be left? In fact, if God actually applied His perfect standard to the human race, no one would be left—because His standard is nothing less than perfection. We all have within us a spiritual disease—a disease called sin. At times it overwhelms some people and they become moral and spiritual monsters, oppressing and killing vast numbers of people. Most of us aren't like that—but we still are filled with jealousy, envy, anger, and a host of other evils. The Bible rightly says, "There is no one righteous, not even one" (Romans 3:10).

But the amazing truth is that in spite of our sin, God still loves us! If He didn't love us, we'd have no hope; He might even do exactly what some suggested, and destroy us all. But we can have hope—and the reason is because God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to make our forgiveness possible.



A Prayer to St Joseph

You were receptive to God working in your life. Help us by your prayers at this 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
**Anthony, Lopisoni Amato,
Peter Bourke, Maria Crocco,
Nicola D'Orazio, Charlie Fragiacomio,
Anthony Joseph, Steven Meese, Valeria McGuire
& Bronislawa Slobodzian**

Those who have died recently
Margaret Leovold & Pasqualina Solima

We Commemorate
John Bourke (2nd Anni.) & William George Phair

O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen.



Laudato Si (2015) 218



... a healthy relationship with creation is one dimension of overall personal conversion, which entails the recognition of our errors, sins, faults and failures, and leads to heartfelt repentance and desire to change...

"we must examine our lives and acknowledge the ways in which we have harmed God's creation through our actions and our failure to act. We need to experience a conversion, or change of heart."

General Guidelines COVID-19 Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne



As of 11.59pm Wednesday 08th July 2020 the following will apply for places of worship for 6 weeks, or otherwise directed, if you live in the Melbourne metropolitan area and the Shire of Mitchell - you must stay at home.

PLEASE NOTE: The Government has indicated that police patrols will be present. Additional restrictions have also been put in place:

- Weddings limited to 5 people (the couple, two witnesses and the celebrant).
- No Baptisms unless there is an urgent and grave pastoral need. (Can. 857; 860). In that instance, limited to 5 people (the child, couple and godparents within the total of 5 limitations) + celebrant.
- Funerals restricted to 10 people plus those required to conduct the funeral.
- Religious services and private worship will need to be streamed online
- Priests may celebrate Mass privately in a closed church, including for the purposes of live streaming. In doing so all precautions such as physical distancing and hygiene measures must be modelled and met.
- Masses in family homes or other such private or domestic locations are not permitted until further notice.