

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

12 July 2020



Readings for this
week:

Isaiah 55:10-11
Romans 8:18-23
Matthew 13:1-23 or 1-9



Readings for
next Sunday:

Wisdom 12:13,16-19
Romans 8:26-27
Matthew 13:24-43



Liturgical Jottings

Length of Scripture Texts

A via media is followed in regard to the length of texts. A distinction has been made between narratives, which require reading a fairly long passage but which usually hold the people's attention, and texts that should not be lengthy because of the profundity of their teaching. In the case of certain rather long texts, longer and shorter versions are provided to suit different situations. The editing of the shorter version has been carried out with great caution. (General Introduction to the Lectionary n 75)

Today's Gospel has such a shorter version comprising of the parable of the Sower and the Seed. The longer version (about two-thirds) contains the purpose of parables and then an allegorical meaning of this parable.

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Looking at the Gospel

This Sunday we begin Matthew's collection of parables of Jesus contained in Chapter 13 which we read over three weeks. Matthew carefully arranges the discourse with an introduction and conclusion, reason for telling parables, he places longer ones first and shorter ones last. He includes two explanations of the parables. We have the first in today's gospel: the parable of the Sower and the seed.

The First Reading and Responsorial Psalm set the scene of a fruitful earth where plants flourish and animals thrive. Isaiah prophesies that these natural images are sign of God's plentiful and effective word.

The Parable of the sower introduces to the listener blockages and distractions to God's providence and bounty. Jesus warns how God's word is stolen, choked or withered way but in turn offers us grace and power to hear his Word and be productive disciples.

When I visit farming communities and this Gospel is proclaimed I ask the wheat growers after Mass what yield should we expect? Is Jesus prospects of thirty, sixty or hundredfold realistic. It certainly was unheard 2000 years ago. Answers to my questions are allusive. They speak of all the variables to be considered: soil, sun, rain, seed, timing etc. But all agree that a hundredfold would be miraculous. And that is what we should expect: The miracle of God's Word planted with our spirits.

Prayer for the week

God of the heavens, God of the earth,
all creation awaits your gift of new life.
Prepare our hearts to receive the word of your Son,
that his gospel may grow within us
and yield a harvest that is a hundredfold. Amen.

Quote for the Week

"Since happiness is nothing else than the enjoyment of the Supreme Good, and the Supreme Good is above us, no one can enjoy happiness unless he rises above himself." *St Bonaventure, The Journey of the Mind into God. (Died 15.7.1274, Feast day 15 July)*

On the Lighter Side

A group of neutrons walk into a bar and order drinks and sit down.

The leading neutron asks the barman, "How much do we owe you?"

The barman replies, "For neutrons, no charge!"

Charles Dickens walks into a bar and orders a martini. The barman asks, "Olive or Twist?"

The barman says, "We don't serve time travellers in here." A time traveller walks into a bar.



	Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving	
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	Jim Hamilton, Vince Newman
	Our sick and their carers	Sue MacDonald

ACBC National Catholic Men's Gathering for 2020

"They were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other Apostles, Brothers - what then must we do?" Acts 2:37

The ACBC National Catholic Men's Gathering for 2020 is now being offered as an online event for registered participants. This modified program will be delivered in four pre-recorded sessions of approximately 1 hour in length. Each session will offer input from a variety of speakers and musicians, along with a response and questions for group discussion or individual reflection. The program offers flexibility so that you may participate individually or gather with others from your parish/diocese or men's ministry group.

Aim: To inspire and encourage all Catholic men with a vision for personal discipleship, service and mission in the family, parish, diocese and the world.

Cost: FREE

Registration: Open now

Event Program: Available from Saturday 15th August, 2020

Go To: www.catholicmensgathering.com.au

Catholic Church's National Appeal for SEA SUNDAY 12 July 2020

Today is Sea Sunday, when the church prays for those who live and work at sea. There will be a national Appeal for Stella Maris, Apostleship of the Sea, the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church. Donations will provide practical and spiritual support to seafarers in these challenging times of COVID-19. There is no special collection at the parish this year. If you would like to donate to this special cause please go to their website

Go to: <https://aos-australia.org/sea-sunday-appeal/>

PLEASE HELP GET THE MESSAGE OUT

Please let all your family and friends know about our Mass timetable. If they would like to come to Mass and cannot booking on line or having trouble please encourage them to call Mary on 0484 332 397 or Debbie on 0417 051 366

Mass Timetable

Wednesday: 9:15 am (rosary starts at 9am)

Saturday: 6:00 pm

Sunday: 9:30 am

You need to book on-line or by calling Mary 0484 332 397 or Debbie 0417 051 366

Sandhurst Diocese 'Wheel of Prayer Day' 2020 Saturday 8th August 2020 10.00 am – 3.15 pm.

Live via Zoom (diocesan website video available later) including: **Prayer of the Church** led by Bishop Shane Mackinlay; **Family Prayer**, Anthony & Rosey Kilmartin; **Taize Prayer**, Ruth Lawlor; **Devotional Prayer**, Fr Stephen Bolling; **Praying with Scripture**, Lyn Breen.

Go to TryBooking to register and leave your email address for Zoom meeting link to be sent to you. <https://www.trybooking.com/BJUOP>. To learn more go to 'News & Events' at sandhurst.catholic.org.au.

Please note the Church will no longer be open on Friday mornings for private prayers.