

The Catholic Parish Christ the King & St Joachim

15th Sunday in
Ordinary Time
11/12th July 2020

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**“As for what was sown
on good soil, this is he
who hears the word and
understands it.”**

Dear Friends,

When we hear this parable read at Mass we are already part way through. The sower has already gone out into our lives to sow the seed. That we are here at Mass suggests that we are not the seed sown on the path. The faith has taken some root in us. But how can we be sure that we are the seed in the good soil?

In the parable the seed didn't really get a choice of where it landed, and once it was there it had no option other than to grow - perhaps to be choked by weeds, perhaps to wither in the hot sun, or perhaps to grow strongly nourished by the good soil. Unlike that seed, we can influence what our soil is like - if we feel that we have weeds around us, or if we can feel the stones among our roots we can seek to move into better soil, soil which will allow us to grow.

We are given a very explanation of the parable by Christ, and so we have no excuse if we do not seek to respond to it. We are not like the crowds who first heard it, and were clearly scratching their heads to figure out what it all meant. This means that we do need to look at ourselves, at our lives, and especially at our relationship with God. For most of us there will be various weeds around us, and there will be rocks preventing our roots from going as deeply as they should. We need to discern these, and to work with God to remove them from the soil so that we have good deep roots, and the freedom to grow strongly in the faith - so that we can bear good fruit.

When we look at our lives, can we honestly say that the cares of the world have no impact on us? Can we honestly claim that we are free of attachment to the various things and people around us who will try to pull us away from God? There are all manner of different types of cares - our desire for money, for popularity, for an easy life. Many of these are things which are good in themselves, but which can gain a power over us if we do not place our relationship with God above them. When we see these things in our lives, we need to hand them over to God - he knows well what we need, and he is generous to us beyond our imagining.

By passing these cares of the world to God, we allow him to displace them - we allow him to become the most important element in our lives. We gain the freedom which can only come from serving God.

When we look at our roots too, there may well be rocks which get in the way. The key point here in Christ's parable is that a plant growing up cannot feed itself - it needs to have roots which draw up the water from the soil to allow it to grow. So too, our relationship with God is not something which we create by ourselves. It is something which can only flourish if we receive the water which we need from Christ. Our roots need to reach out into the word of God, so that we can come to know what he is like from his revelation of himself to us. They need to reach out into the Sacraments, so that we can receive his grace - his strength to live our lives well. It is when we have this proper relationship with God. Putting him above all other cares and concerns, and being rooted deeply in his strength, that we can grow. That good soil is Christ's Church - here we are given the pure word of God, here we are given the grace of his Sacraments. We are being offered the chance to bear that good fruit, the means to do so are around us. Let us hear that word, and let us strive to grow with God, nourished by his grace, so that we can bear a hundredfold.

Every blessing, Fr. Thomas.

Fr Barry will be celebrating his Golden Jubilee as a Priest on Thursday 16th this coming week.

I am sure that everyone in the Parish would like to join together in wishing him warm congratulations and every blessing for his 50 years of service to the Church and for the many years that he served here as Parish Priest.

The Masses over the coming weekend will be offered for him in thanksgiving and for his continued good health and well-being.

If anyone wishes to send a personal message to Fr Barry they can do so by posting it in the letter box at the rear of CTK Church or leaving it in the sacristy at either Church.

Fr Neil

CELEBRATIONS OF PUBLIC MASSES IS NOW PERMISSIBLE

Mass will be celebrated publicly and those present, and are in a state of grace, will be able to receive our Lord in the blessed sacrament.

There are strict regulations around how we celebrate and receive while keeping people as safe as possible. This situation isn't perfect and we have to do the best we can with the limiting restrictions in place. Below are the mass times that we are planning to put on.

Mondays	10am
Tuesdays	7.30am (Latin)
Wednesdays	10am (St Joachim's)
Thursdays	6pm for adoration mass at 7pm
Fridays	12noon after mass adoration till 5pm
Saturdays CTK	adoration 9-11am
Saturdays CTK.	5pm
Sundays, CTK	9.30am & 11.30am
Sundays, St Jo's	9.30am
Sunday St Agnes	4pm

Toilets: there will limited access to a single toilet in each church as the toilet will have to be cleaned after each use. The kitchens will not be open or refreshments given until notified otherwise.

Church opening times will now be inline with the times laid out above.

Garden Visits

Under new regulations you can now have a visitor come and sit in the garden or park with you while staying 2 Metres apart. If you'd like a garden visit from one of the priests, then please let us know. Fr Neil

Live streaming of Mass in the Parish

Will continue but in a reduced form. The new times for streamed mass will be;
Monday 10am (Ordinariate FB page)
Wednesday 10am (parish FB Page)
Friday. 10am (Parish FB Page)
Sunday. 9.15am (Parish FB Page)

Gift Aid Envelopes at CTK: David Cockett will be handing them out to the individuals that use them rather than leaving them at the back of the church.

Zoom parish prayer meeting:

We will continue to have our Fridays evening prayer meeting at 7.00pm.
Meeting ID: 343 302 3105
Password: 340767

it is possible now to join by phone:
0203 481 5240 United Kingdom

We pray for : Chris Gimmons, Don Wilkins, Mary Bateman, Thelma Kemp, Stuart McCarthy, Sheila Douds, Helena Sagnelia, Pauline Sollis, Frankie Farrell, Daisy Kelly, Sue & Mick O'Driscoll, Eddie Burke, Rene Cook, Gill Cooke, Jan Blake, Sandra McMeekin, David Dwyer, Eileen Kehoe, Diana Smith, Pat Raper, Colleen Stock, Sr Mary Keiley, Charles El Mawas, Jane Hollands, Kirina Blaty, & Moira Morrison.

For the deceased -who have died recently: Rose Swift, Terry North, Peter Sollis and Sidonia Camacho and for all our deceased relatives & friends.

Fifth Sunday after Trinity ■

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

Psalm 64(65):10-14

Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop.

You care for the earth, give it water,
you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over
to provide its grain. **R**

And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows;
you level it, soften it with showers;
you bless its growth. **R**

You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps,
in the pastures of the wilderness it
flows. **R**

The hills are girded with joy,
the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy, yes,
they sing. **R**

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 **Matthew 13:1-23**

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such large 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!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied, 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled: You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive. For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the

man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial
with the Father; through him all things
were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Parish Clergy:

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