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15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YR A

**11TH & 12TH JULY,
2020**

WEEKEND MASSES

With the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions more people are allowed to attend Mass.

You are now invited to attend Mass **every week** at the time you were allocated by Fr Chris.

WEEKDAY MASSES

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS AT 6PM (NO ADORATION)

THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS AT 9.10AM

You are welcome to attend any of these Masses without a phone call or email invitation.

Fr Chris will record attendance at these Masses as per government guidelines.



**PLEASE PRACTISE SOCIAL DISTANCING BEFORE, DURING
AND AFTER LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS.**

THANK YOU



1.5M



**As per government regulations,
please observe the 4 square metre rule.**

**Please note that hand sanitiser is available at the Church entrances
for use upon entering and exiting the Church.**

BE COVIDSAFE



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Office Hours: 9am - 3.30pm (Tues-Fri)

PARISH TEAM:

Fr Christopher Antwi-Boasiako -

Parish Priest

Christopher.Antwi-Boasiako@parracatholic.org

Mobile: 0415 505 594

Deacon Owen Rogers

- owen.rogers7@bigpond.com

Mrs Marie Cottey - Parish Secretary

- mc@corpuschristi.org.au

Mrs Sue Weekes - Office Support

- sw@corpuschristi.org.au

**Mrs Joanne Hocking - Sacrament
Support**

SCHOOLS OF THE PARISH:

**Corpus Christi Primary - ph 4726 2200
(Principal - Mrs Sarah O'Rourke)**

**Xavier College - ph 4777 0900
(Principal - Mr Michael Pate)**

The Living Word

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

12th July 2020

First Reading

Is 55:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The rain makes the earth fruitful.

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

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

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

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

Rom 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

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.

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

Mt 13:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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 hundred-fold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

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Historical Context –

Matthew's community

The gospel of Matthew is written at a time and particular context in which the community audience were feeling the effects of having been ostracised from the Jewish community. They were con-founded by the fact that other Jews could not accept the reality of the Jesus message as they had. This parable, and the accompanying conversation with the disciples in which they are blessed for their understanding, would have been a comfort for the Matthew community. Although they were frustrated, they were being told through this story that not everyone is ready to hear the message that they had heard and accepted.

Scriptural context – A Parable Chapter

The gospel of Matthew is nothing if not a well-crafted and highly structured piece of writing. Throughout the gospel there are five major 'discourses' or teachings. Chapter 13, which consists entirely of a collection of parables, is the central discourse of the five. It is the pivotal point of the entire gospel. The nature of the parables indicates that the message of Jesus has not been universally accepted and the parables present metaphors about the consequences for those who do and do not accept the message of Jesus about the reign of God.

Living the Gospel – Scatter that seed!

The teaching of the parable of the sower is as true for us today as it was in its original context. The word of the kingdom continues to fall on people who are at various stages of readiness to receive it. What Jesus suggests to his disciples – and to us – is that the 'good soil' can't always be predicted. Jesus doesn't tell his disciples to only sow the word in people who are receptive. Rather, he wants them – and us – to scatter the word everywhere and to rejoice when it does find good soil and yields a rich harvest.



REFLECTION *by Fr Michael Tate* Creation Set Free

Here is Jesus telling another story about nature, in this case about soil good enough to bear a crop. Is he just a keen observer of the farmers of his time? No.

Throughout the Gospels there is a harmony between Jesus and the natural creation of a profound kind.

But St Paul intuited that link at a profound level in the case of the Risen Lord. This led him to make the most amazing claim that:

'The creation itself would be set free from its slavery to decay in order to share the freedom associated with the glory of the children of God.'

We, and the whole cosmos, share the legacy of a common destiny brought about by the powerful victory of Christ over the final instance of decay, destruction and every type of death.

We could pause a moment to pray with the angels as we do at every Mass:

'Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven *and earth* are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.'

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSS

The readings for this Sunday call us to self-examination. The gospel describes various levels of receptivity, the willingness to allow ourselves to receive from another, to be influenced by another, perhaps even to be transformed. The more independent we are, the less likely we will be open to others and, consequently, less receptive to their ideas. By definition disciples are receptive to the one they follow. To be a disciple of Jesus requires receptivity, so it is important that we scrutinise ourselves to discover the extent to which we are open. To what should we be receptive? To the words of Scripture, the words of the liturgy, the words of the sacraments, the living tradition of the community. God's word is sown in many forms and under many guises. It makes little difference who sows the seed. How will we receive it?

Besides the word of God, the readings speak of the world of God. The people of biblical times were aware of the revelation of God in and through the natural world. Isaiah teaches about the effectiveness of the word of God through the metaphor of rain. The psalmist uses the natural world to describe God's work of salvation. Paul claims that eschatological fulfilment will include all of creation. Finally, Jesus' parables are rooted in stories about nature. We cannot afford to close our eyes to the needs of the natural world, or stop our ears to the cries of the earth, or harden our hearts to the world of which we are a part, for the word of God will accomplish the end for which God sent it.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for July *Our Families*



We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.



REFLECTION FOR ADULTS AND ADOLESCENTS

Questions for Adolescents

- * What explanation does Jesus give for speaking in parables?
- * What reason/s can you suggest for Jesus not teaching in a more explicit way?
- * What are the 'thorns' in your life that fight for your attention with your faith?
- * What is a contemporary metaphor that might adequately replace the image of a sower?

Questions for Adults

- * What is suggested by the final line of the parable, 'Listen, anyone who has ears'?
- * What experiences of pathways, rocky ground, thorns and rich soil have you had in your life?
- * What might it mean to receive the word and produce a rich harvest?
- * What opportunities exist in your life to be the sower who scatters the seed?



This is an opportunity for parents to discuss today's Gospel with your children. The following questions and worksheet are a beginning point to assist with the discussion.

- * Who has ever grown a plant from a seed? What happened?
- * What do seeds need if they are to grow into a plant?
- * Where did the farmer sow the seed in today's gospel?
- * Why didn't some of the seed grow?
- * The seed is like the word of God wanting to be planted in us.
- * How can we become the 'good ground' so it can grow in us?

The seed fell on good ground

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Help Jesus tell the story of the farmer sowing the seed. Add words and pictures to the story.



A farmer scattered
_____ in a field.

Some seed fell on the road
and was...



Some seed fell on rocky
ground where the soil was not
deep; the plants that grew
withered in the _____.



Draw the farmer sowing seed.

Write down what happened to the seed.

Draw what happened to the seed
which fell on rocky ground.

Some seed fell among thorns,
which choked the plants that grew.

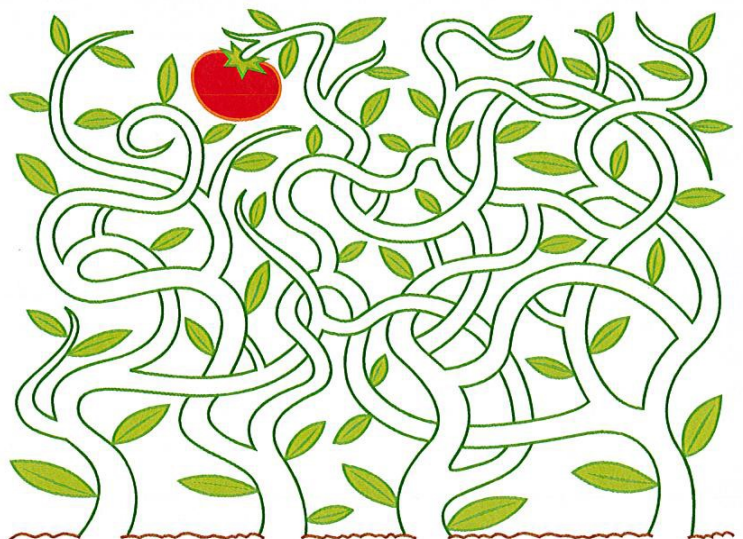


Draw thorns choking the plants.

But some seed fell on good ground and...

Write down what happened to the seed that fell on good ground and draw a picture of it.

The Word of God is like seed that needs good soil.
How can we be like good soil for this seed?



Which of these four plants is the one bearing fruit?

Church Cleaning Roster

As the Church is now being used the Church Cleaning Roster is up and running. A new roster has been prepared and distributed. If you have not received your copy of the roster please contact the parish office by email. Thank you to those who continue to volunteer for this ministry.

Counting Roster

Counting of the weekly collections has now recommenced and the roster has been emailed to volunteers.

Ministry Roster

A Ministry Roster has been drafted until the end of August and emailed to volunteers. We are currently in the process of completing a roster until the end of October, which will be emailed in due course.

Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy is still suspended until further notice.

Parish Office Hours

At this stage, the Parish Office operating hours have not returned to normal. If you need to visit the office please call first to ensure that someone is there. Please leave a message if we don't answer and we'll get back to you. You are also welcome to email. In the case of an emergency please contact Fr Chris on his mobile, 0415 505 594.

**We, the people of Corpus Christi,
seek to grow in living
a Christ-centred mission,
sharing our gifts to foster welcome,
justice and community in today's world.**

**Thank You dear parishioners for your
ongoing financial support to the parish.
Your generosity is helping with the ongoing
running expenses of our parish.**

Let us Offer Gifts of Prayer:

Anniversaries:

Bibiana Zahra (22/07/17)

Mass Intentions:

Jane Micallef (10/06/14), Cameron Hargreaves

Recently Deceased:

Paul Xiberras (07/07 – dear father/father-in-law and grandfather to many of our parishioners)

And for those who are sick:

Joan Schneider

If any parishioner would like Fr Chris to offer Mass for someone who is recently deceased, a loved one's anniversary or if someone is sick, please email the Parish Office. We can also include the person in The Net so everyone can pray for them.

PARISHES OF THE DIOCESE WHO ARE STREAMING MASS

PARISH	LOCATION	LINK TO LIVESTREAM
PADRE PIO PARISH	Glenmore Park Parish	Streaming through Facebook – https://www.facebook.com/gsk2223
ST JOSEPHS CHURCH	Kingswood Parish	Recording/streaming through YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIjpl15JI6H8TrHkEB6ISdw/featured
ST ANDREW THE APOSTLE	Marayong Parish	Streaming through Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/standrewsmarayong/
ST MARGARET MARYS	Merrylands Parish	Recording/streaming through YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6FezbQbHtu-MSyWUSnaAcA
ST NICHOLAS OF MYRA	Penrith Parish	Streaming through Facebook Live - https://www.facebook.com/SNOMPenrith/
THE GOOD SHEPHERD	Plumpton Parish	Streaming through Facebook Live - https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdparishplumpton/ https://www.facebook.com/goodshepherdparishplumpton/videos/163690304720839/
OUR LADY OF LOURDES	Seven Hills Parish	Streamed Mass over weekend to Facebook Live https://www.facebook.com/LOL7Hills/videos/206449013914284/
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY	St Marys Parish	Streamed to Facebook https://www.facebook.com/OLRparishstmarys/

Act of Spiritual Communion

*My Jesus,
I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment, receive you sacramentally,
please come spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you now as if you were already there and I unite myself wholly to you.
Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen*



Parramatta Diocesan News

PROJECT COMPASSION UPDATE

Due to COVID-19, Project Compassion has been extended and you are invited to return your boxes or envelopes to Mass or the Parish Office.

If you are unable to do this please contact 1800 024 413 or go to lent.caritas.org.au. A video message from Caritas Australia on how they are helping around the world can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zk7AvhdL0IM>. For any further support, please contact Patrice Moriarty 0409 399 505 or patrice.moriarty@parracatholic.org

Plenary Council Discernment Papers Released

You are encouraged to take the discernment papers from the six national Plenary Council writing groups for your own discernment about how to bring to life a Christ-centred community in your area. These papers can be found at <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/continuing-the-journey-of-discernment/>. The Pastoral Planning Office can accompany you in reflecting on these papers. Please contact pastoralplanning@parracatholic.org to discuss ways to engage with these discernment papers.

Institute for Mission - Reflective Ministry Program available online

The Institute for Mission's Reflective Ministry Program (Word and Mission) is going ahead starting from 18 August. Register here to participate ONLINE <https://www.ifm.org.au/reflective-ministry> or contact Sr Grace on grace.roclawska@ifm.org.au.

Office for Worship

Liturgical Ministry Formation Course

The Office For Worship's Liturgical Ministry Formation course will recommence in August at both the Institute for Mission, Blacktown and St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith. Two workshops on Liturgical Ministry will also be provided in October at St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook. Note: due to restrictions there are limited places available. For more information, contact the Office for Worship on anne.alimangohan@parracatholic.org

Office For Worship Resources Available

The Office For Worship has a range of resources available for purchase for individuals and parishes. Resources such as parent material for baptism or a collation of prayers can be purchased by contacting (02) 8838 3457.

CatholicCare is Still Open and Operational

CatholicCare Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains services remain open and operational during the current COVID-19 outbreak. Individual offices have been closed to clients, but the service continues to operate with care and support offered via phone, video conferencing/telehealth and online. To make a referral, call 8843 2500 (Mon-Thu 8.30am-8pm, Fri 8.30am-5pm, Sat 9am-1pm), email - enquiries@ccss.org.au or visit ccss.org.au.

Saturday Sessions

Join with others as we create community online to share and grow faith, every Saturday from 11am - 12pm with Saturday Sessions, hosted by the Pastoral Planning Office. Listen to the pre-recorded presentation about a topic of faith and then join an online group discussion via Zoom. Visit the Diocese of Parramatta's Facebook page each week for details. Contact Lisa Bright on lisa.bright@parracatholic.org to join the mailing list to receive session information.

Catholic Youth Parramatta



Catholic Youth Parramatta has established a dynamic schedule of networking opportunities, formation and resources to support ministry and engagement with young people of the Diocese in new ways. From inspiring quotes and scripture references on Mondays, to faith-filled live performances on Wednesday to launching new home-grown resources on Friday. Check out CYP's Facebook and Instagram pages and <https://www.parracatholic.org/cyp/> to download and share the resources.

SRE Learning From Home

During the school shutdown, CCD designed some faith resources for families to access for their children as they learned from home. These lessons are fun and prepared specifically for each age group 5-13. The lessons can be found at <https://www.cress.org.au/learning-from-home-sre-lessons/>. For more information contact cecilia.zammit@parracatholic.org

Share your Good News Stories!

Thank you for all that you continue to do to share the love and peace of God. Our Pastoral Planning Office welcomes your good news stories of hope and encouragement during COVID-19 to share with parishes and communities across our Diocese. If you have a good news story to offer, please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/goodnewsstory>

Positions Vacant:

⌘ Human Resources Adviser - Diocese of Parramatta
More details at: parracatholic.org/employment

Life, Marriage and Family Office

The Life, Marriage and Family Office will recommence their pre-marriage education courses from the weekend of 24th and 26th July 2020. Social distancing and hygiene measures will be in place, with other arrangements to be made if government requirements change. To view course dates for the remainder of 2020 and to book and pay for your preferred pre-marriage course, visit www.parracatholic.org/pmp or call (02) 8838 3460.



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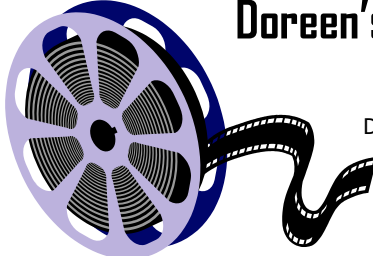
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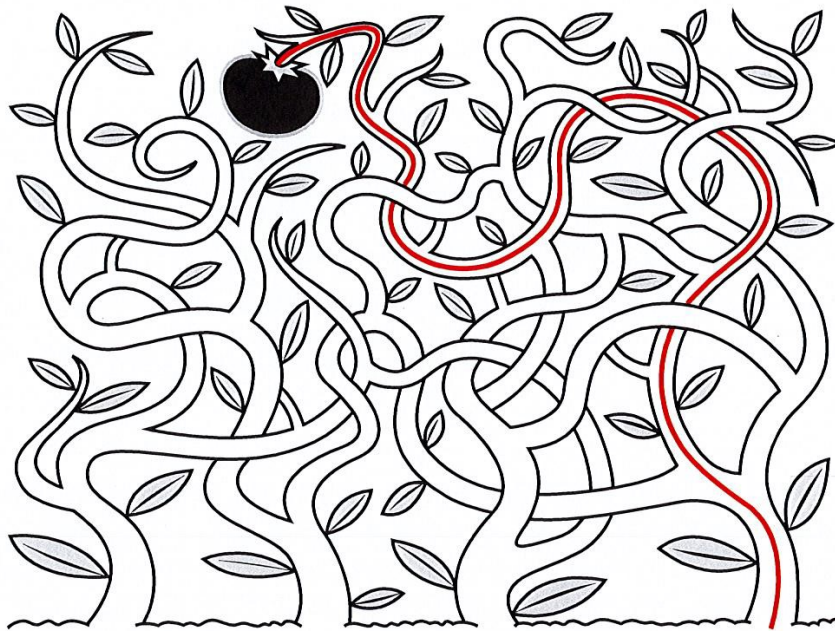
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Solutions

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A



Which of these four plants is the one bearing fruit?