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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years.

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YR A

**18TH & 19TH 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



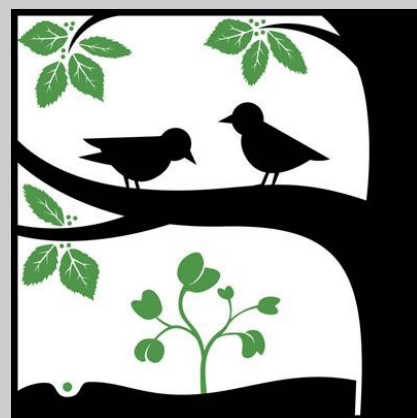
1.5M



**As per government regulations,
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**Please note that hand sanitiser is available at the Church entrances
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BE COVIDSAFE



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Email: parishteam@corpuschristi.org.au

Presbytery: 4730 6258

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

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

19th July 2020

First Reading

Wis 12:13.16-19

A reading from the book of Wisdom

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.

Responsorial Psalm

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

(R.) Lord, you are good and forgiving.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving full of love to all who call.

Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer and attend to the sound of my voice. **(R.)**

All the nations shall come to adore you and glorify your name, O Lord: for you are great and do marvellous deeds, you who alone are God. **(R.)**

But you, God of mercy and compassion, slow to anger, O Lord, abounding in love and truth, turn and take pity on me. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Rom 8:26-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

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.

Gospel Acclamation

See Mt 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

Mt 13:24-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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."

Scriptural context – Matthew's explanation

In the gospel passage, following the presentation of the three parables, Jesus explains the parable of the wheat and darnel to his disciples. It is explained in terms of a final judgment. (Compare it with Matthew 25: 31-46.) The parable of the weeds, or darnel, and its explanation only appear in the gospel of Matthew – although the parable does occur in the non-canonical gospel of Thomas. The interpretation belongs to Matthew more than it belongs to Jesus. It is an unapologetic direction to his community that living a righteous life in the midst of wickedness will be rewarded.

Have you thought? – Leaven

The parable of the woman placing leaven in three measures of flour is an intriguing one. In some translations, the text reads, 'The kingdom of heaven is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.' Whilst you might initially hide yeast in some dough, it doesn't take very long for the yeast to become apparent as it makes the dough rise. Such a large quantity of flour suggests the bread is being prepared for a festival – perhaps Passover when only unleavened bread was used? That would put a different spin on the woman's action!

Living the Gospel – Agents of change

We often hear that to fully live out the kingdom message of Jesus is to be counter-cultural. These parables are a perfect example of that call. Jesus himself acted in contrast to his cultural context and often used examples in his teaching that flew in the face of cultural expectation. What does it mean to be counter-cultural today? Our world is driven by an emphasis on the individual; an emphasis on acquisition; an emphasis on consuming. The kingdom parables of today's gospel call us to be the agents of change that 'irritate' in our own small way to make a difference in the world.

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REFLECTION *by Fr Michael Tate*

When words fail

One loves someone so much – a child, a parent, a spouse or partner – yet when one tries to pray for that person the words seem only a pale shadow of the intensity of feeling and total love one feels. Stop! Simply put the person or situation before God and say nothing. The Holy Spirit will express our heartfelt prayer for us.

One's heart is breaking with grief for someone close who is very ill or dying. Or one feels a terrible anxiety or anguish. Words don't come easily even though one wants to pray. Stop! Put the person or situation before God and say nothing. The Holy Spirit will express our heartfelt prayer for us.

Perhaps accentuated by the constant messaging of social media, when trying to pray we can get anxious when there is a lull in the noise and no words come.

We could pause for a moment to relax and to allow the Spirit to express our plea in a way which could never be put into words.

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSS

Today we hear how the Spirit of God dwells in all of us, helping us in our weakness. The first disciples had Jesus to explain the parables; we have the Spirit to enlighten us. It is the Spirit who helps us to interpret the teaching of Jesus and to be receptive to the challenges that they pose.



The presence of sinners in the kingdom of God is often a stumbling block to good people. There will be a time for separation and judgment, but the time is not now. This means that the righteous will have to live with the sinner and, even more challengingly, show them the same kind of concern that they show to others. The presence of sinners does not necessarily erode the quality of the kingdom. Rather, it provides disciples an opportunity to rise to the occasion of generosity and forgiveness.

There are two images of judgment in the readings. The one in the gospel is terrifying and decisive. The wicked are bound together into bundles and readied for burning. We must remember that this is a parable. In the first reading and in the psalm response the justice of God is said to be lenient, clement and kind. The power of God is demonstrated not in retribution but in mercy. God is said to be 'merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in kindness and fidelity', and repentance is a very real possibility. This is the image that gives us hope.

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 purpose might the gospel writer have had in placing these three parables so close together?
- * What difference does it make to interpret the three parables together rather than individually?
- * In what ways do these parables challenge 'conventional wisdom' of the time?
- * What does this passage tell us about how we should try to bring about the kingdom today?

Questions for Adults

- * What new perspective/s have you gained about the three parables of today's gospel?
- * Why is this particular gospel writer keen to demonstrate Jesus as fulfilling prophecy?
- * What does today's passage reveal about the way the gospel writer went about his task?
- * What problems may arise from quoting a short gospel extract out of its intended context?



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 seen weeds in a garden?
- * What is the difference between a weed and a plant?
- * When you care for a plant the weeds still grow.
- * In today's gospel what did the farmer do when he found weeds in his crop?
- * The farmer didn't want to damage the good crop by destroying the weeds
- * God is like the farmer. What are the good things God looks for in us?



The farmer scattered good seed

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

What are some of the “weeds” in our lives that stop us from growing?

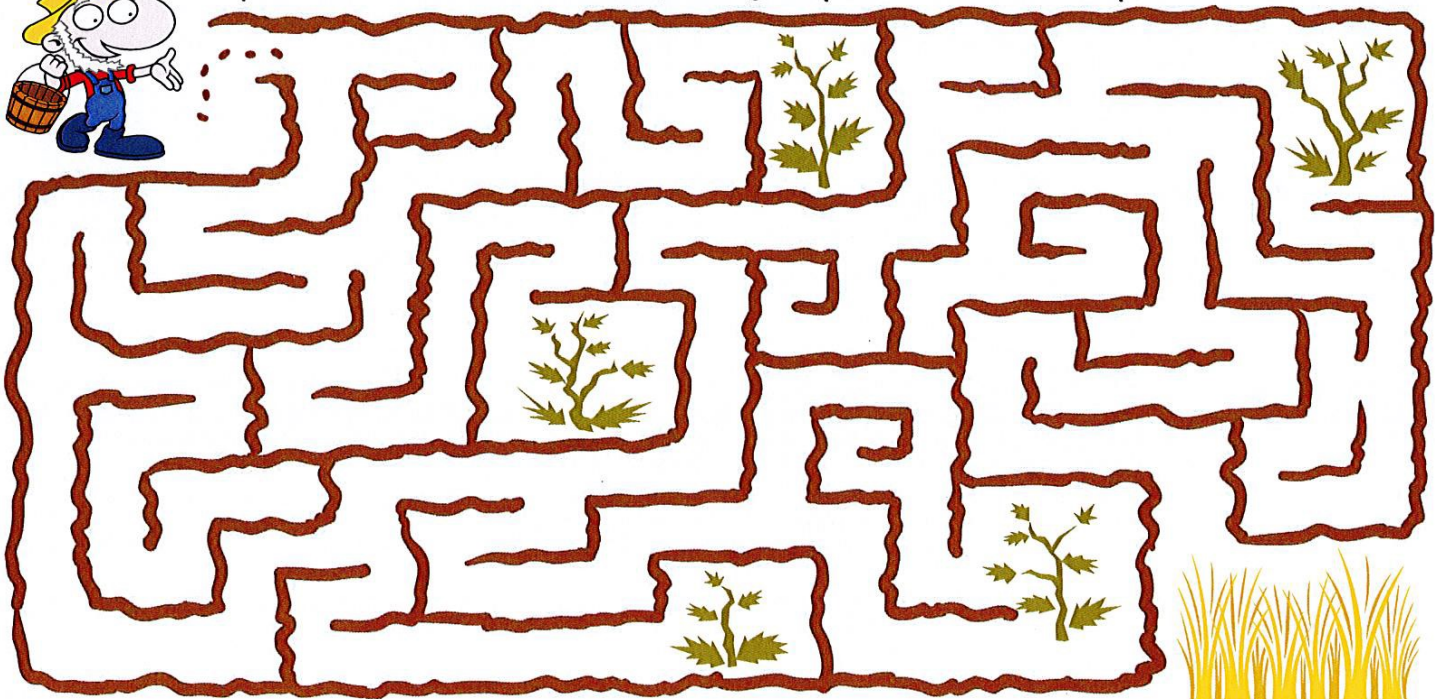
Circle the things plants need in order to grow.



Write down or draw some of the things we need to make ourselves grow.



Help the farmer scatter the seed by finding the path to the wheat. Keep a look out for weeds!



Sacrament of First Eucharist



Plans have been made to continue with the 2020 Sacrament Program under Covid-19 government restrictions. Letters regarding First Eucharist have been forwarded to all families whose children completed the Sacrament of First Reconciliation this year.

Parents are required to pick up Eucharist Information Packs on Wednesday 5th August between 6.30pm & 7.30pm in the church..

**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.**

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.

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/UCIjpl5JI6H8TrHkEB6ISdw/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
 - HR Project Officer - Payroll and Talent - Catholic Diocese of Parramatta Services Limited - **Applications close Monday 20th July**
 - Head of People and Culture - CatholicCare Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains - **Applications close Tuesday 28th July**
- 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, to book and pay for your preferred course, visit www.parracatholic.org/pmp or call (02) 8838 3460.

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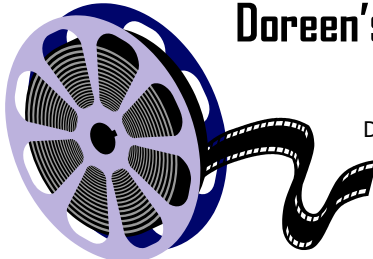
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A cartoon illustration of a boy with a basket and a maze with a red dotted path. The boy is on the left, holding a basket and pointing towards the maze. The maze is a complex network of black lines forming a path. A red dotted line traces a path through the maze, starting from the boy and ending at a small tree on the right. There are several small trees and a patch of grass scattered throughout the maze.