



MOYNE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

St Patrick's Parish, Port Fairy

Infant Jesus Parish, Koroit



Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 11th July and Sunday 12th July, 2020

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:10-11

The word that goes out from my mouth does not return to me empty.

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 144(145)

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/. The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

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

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

You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps,

in the pastures of the wilderness it flows.

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

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/. The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:18-23

The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons.

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 Mt 11:25

V/. Alleluia! R/. Alleluia!

V/. The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever.

R/. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 13:1-9

A sower went out to sow.

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!'

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

We commend to the Lord's mercy **Raymond Smith** who died recently. We remember too **Henk Groenewegen** and **Fr Bill O'Connell** whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in God's peace.



A RETURN TO PUBLIC MASSES

Preparations are underway to return to our Sunday Eucharist but the experience will be somewhat different. We are required to limit the number of people at Mass. There is the cleaning of the whole

church between Masses. We have to observe the one person per 4 sq metre rule. Names and phone numbers of attendees must be recorded (for contact tracing).

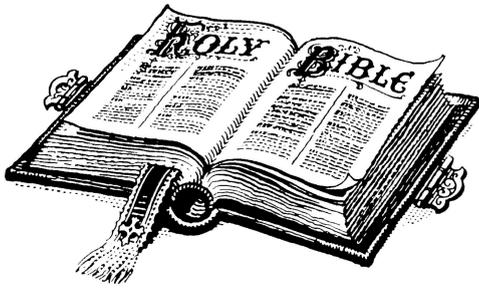
Some time in the next few weeks — and there will be plenty of notice! — parishioners will be invited to call the Parish Office to register for Mass. We will ensure equity and a 'fair go' enables as many people as possible the opportunity to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist.

A NEW 'MINISTRY DISTRICT'

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR has confirmed that when Fr Michael Linehan retires at the end of this year, he will not be replaced. Instead, the parishes of Warrnambool West and Dennington will be linked to the neighbouring parishes of Warrnambool, Koroit and Port Fairy, which together will constitute a new ministry district: a larger parish consisting of the various faith communities. This new ministry district will be served by two priests. More details to follow.

YAMBUK AND ORFORD CHURCHES

Both churches are under contract and due for settlement. It is important that all chattels are removed from the church before settlement. Parishioners can express their interest in any items in the church by emailing parish secretary Louise Dryburgh at portfairy@ballarat.catholic.org.au, or calling 0488 180 819. Interested parties are asked to state the amount they're willing to pay, from \$0 to any fair value. You may also indicate any reasons for the request ("*I put flowers in the vase for many years,*" "*I'd love a memento of the church,*" etc.) This is optional. If more than one parishioner expresses interest in an item, the decision on who gets the item rests with the parish administrators. Please submit your requests ASAP.



Reflection on this Sunday's Gospel

by Fr Francis Fernandez

LACK OF INTERIOR RECOLLECTION PREVENTS UNION WITH GOD

In Galilee, where the terrain tends to be uneven and hilly, it's only the narrow strips of land in the valleys and skirting the river banks that are sown with seed. The parable faithfully records for us the agricultural situation of that particular area. The sower scattered his seed broadcast, which is why some of it would fall onto the path. The seed that fell on those paths would soon be eaten up by birds or trodden underfoot by passers-by. The detail of the rocky soil, covered perhaps by only a thin layer of earth, was also true to reality. Because of the lack of soil-depth, the seed shoots up more rapidly, only to have the heat dry it up just as quickly, since it has no depth of root.

The soil on which the good seed falls is the whole world; it represents each individual person. We too are soil for the divine seed. Even though the sowing is carried out with great love – it is God who pours himself into our souls – the results depend largely on the condition of the soil on which it falls. Christ's words tell us forcefully about the responsibility man has to prepare himself to receive God's grace and to correspond with it.

Some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in his heart. The path is soil that has been

trodden on until it has become hard. These compacted areas are dissipated, empty souls, prepared to accept only external things. Such souls are incapable of recollecting their thoughts and guarding their senses. They have no order in their affections and are not particularly watchful over their feelings, so that they frequently allow their imagination to engage in useless thoughts. These souls are like ground that has never been tilled or cultivated, having always turned their face away from God. Their hearts are hardened, like those constantly trodden pathways. They hear God's word, but the devil easily snatches it away from them. *He is not idle; rather, he has his eyes always wide open and is always ready to spring and snatch away the gift that you do not use.*

We must ask our Lord for fortitude so that we never become like those who are like the path on which the seed fell – negligent, lukewarm and full of scorn. Negligence and lukewarmness are manifestations of a lack of contrition and repentance, and of our failure to put up a determined struggle against venial sins. The first time the divine Sower scattered his seed onto the soil of our soul was in Baptism. How often since then has he given us an abundance of his grace! How often has he passed close beside us, helping, encouraging and forgiving us! At this moment, in the intimacy of our prayer, we can say to him quietly: *O Jesus! If in spite of the poor way I have behaved you have done for me what you have done, what more would you do if I were to respond well?*

This truth will lead you to be generous without measure. Weep and show with sorrow and love how much it pains you, for Our Lord and his Blessed Mother deserve from you a different kind of treatment.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES IN THE WARRNAMBOOL REGION

Building on long standing engagement and consultation work conducted in Warrnambool in 2019, Catholic Social Services Victoria (CSSV) has released a report which outlines the social service and infrastructure needs of our region. Read the report at the diocesan website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au.

PLANNED GIVING

Anyone wishing to continue with their planned giving or Presbytery contribution can pay by direct deposit into the corresponding account. **Please put as your reference your full name and planned giving number** (that is, your envelope number).

St Patrick's Parish - Planned Giving

BSB: 633 000 Account: 163 466 790

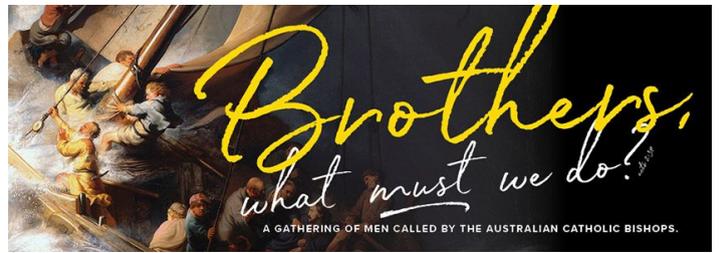
Infant Jesus Parish - Planned Giving

BSB: 633 000 Account: 163 466 881

Presbytery Contributions

BSB: 633 000 Account: 163 466 899

Alternatively, you are welcome to drop in and see Louise at the Port Fairy parish office, 10am - 12pm, Monday & Thursday.



CATHOLIC MEN'S GATHERING

The Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference National Catholic Men's Gathering for 2020 is now being offered as an online event for registered participants on Saturday 15th August. The aim of the program is to inspire and encourage all Catholic men with a vision for personal discipleship, service and mission in the family, parish, diocese and the world. 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. This is a free event. For the event program and registration go to www.catholicmensgathering.com.au

WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH

Our Child Safe Policies can be read at our church entrances and on our websites. Our safe-guarding officer is Peter Sanderson.

NEXT SUNDAY: **16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

First Reading. *Wis 12:13,16-19.* You will grant repentance after sin.

Second Reading. *Rom 8:26-27.* The Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words.

Gospel. *Mt 13:24-43.* Let them both grow till the harvest.

CANONICAL ADMINISTRATOR: Fr John Fitzgerald, john.fitzgerald@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Phone: 5562 2231. Warrnambool office hours: 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday.

ASSISTANT PRIEST: Fr John Corrigan, john.corrigan@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Phone: 0422 342 499. For urgent matters, please don't hesitate to call any time.

PARISH SECRETARY: Louise Dryburgh, portfairy@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Phone: 0408 681 223. Port Fairy office hours: 9am to 12pm, Monday and Thursday.
Parish postal address: PO Box 8, PORT FAIRY VIC 3284.