



LITURGY OF THE WORD
15th Sunday of Ordinary Time

FIRST READING from the prophet Isaiah

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.'

The Word of the Lord

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

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.

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

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

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

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

SECOND READING from St Paul to the Romans

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.

The Word of the Lord .

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 reading from the holy Gospel according to

Matthew

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 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 Gospel of the Lord

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ST MARY'S PARISH SWAN HILL
BULLETIN

Priest: Fr. Matthew Thomas PP

Parish Secretary: Glenda Klabbers

Parish Council Chair: Michelle Haeusler

Parish Safeguarding Officers:
 Karen & Damien Kelly

St Mary's School Principal: Greg Lane

St Mary MacKillop Principal: Michelle Haeusler

Parish Office: Tuesday 10.00am - 2.00pm
 Friday 10.00am - 2.00pm



15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A

16th July 2017

Presbytery: 62 Splatt Street Swan Hill 3585

Phone: 50324144

Email: swanhill@ballarat.catholic.org.au

The Parish of Swan Hill comprises of the faith Communities of:
 St Marys Swan Hill,
 St Joseph's Lake Boga

Mass Next Weekend:

Saturday 6.30 pm Vigil Swan Hill
 Sunday 8.30 am Lake Boga 10.30 am Swan Hill

Mass this Week:

Tuesday: 5.30pm
 Wed: 10.00 am
 Thursday: 10.00 am
 Friday: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 12.00 noon



Mass Intentions:

Italian Festa Week: Fr Angelo Cagna

Sunday : Mass 10.30am
 11.30 am Procession with Statue of La Madonna
 12.30 pm BBQ & Pasta Lunch Italian Social Club
 followed by cultural and social activities,, traditional food and entertainment .

DATES TO REMEMBER IN JULY:

22/23rd July: Stewardship Renewal Program
 23rd July: Lake Boga Mass 8.30am
 30th July: Lake Boga Mass 8.30am

AUGUST:

6th August: Cuppa after Mass
 7th August: Divine Mercy Devotion. 1.45 pm
 8th August: Feast if St Mary MacKillop
 CWL Meeting 1.30pm
 9th August: Stewardship Information evening. 7.00pm
 12th August: Rosary in the Park: 10.00am
 14th August: Over 60's meet. 1.30pm
 21st August: Baptism Preparation. 7.00pm
 22nd August: Distribution Meeting; Stewardship
 Program 10.00am
 27th August: Lake Boga Mass 8.30am

Parish Stewardship Program This year we are renewing our Stewardship Program given that it has been 3 years since the Parish renewed it's Planned Giving Program.

The Program will be pre-empted by two weekends dedicated to the updating of our Parish Census.

The weekends dedicated to the Stewardship Program will be: **July 22nd/23rd; July 29th /30th and August 5th/6th and August 12th/13th.**

Recently Deceased: We commend to God Rosaria Taverna

Anniversaries: We remember: Margaret Williamson, Jack Meehan, Ian Smyth, Sam Marsolino, Jack Phylant, Frank Mangiamelli, Kathleen Livingston, Charlie Taverna, Bernard Foott, Patrick Hogan.

Prayers for the Sick: Erin Coburn, Jude Lewis, Ronald Duryea, Brian Mulcahy, Brooke Kennedy, Jarrod Crimmins,

If you would like a sick person prayed for, please ask for their permission. After one month names will be deleted from the list unless otherwise advised.

Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide Proposals

In April this year, the bishops of Victoria published a pastoral letter in response to proposals to introduce legislation allowing euthanasia and assisted suicide. As a follow-up to that letter, a group of lay people has prepared a flyer encouraging people to write to parliamentarians and express their opposition to such legislation. Copies of the flyer have been made available for your consideration and are available at the back of the church. You are invited to write to parliamentarians as suggested.

Youth Synod Questionnaire:

The second part of the Youth Synod 2018 preparatory consultation with our Diocese is a Questionnaire. Groups and individuals of all ages are invited to respond. Pope Francis wants to hear from Dioceses around the world and responses to the Questionnaire will form part of the preparations for the world-wide **Ordinary Synod on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment** in Rome in October 2018. The Questionnaire is available on the Diocesan website (*Latest News* on home page). Please email responses by 15 August 2017. For more info contact youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au or 5337 7125.

ST MARY'S MINISTRIES for 23rd July 2017

Ministers of the Word:

Vigil: Brenda Grace, Barb Patterson

10.30am: Kate Quinn, Ginny Gook.

Ministers of Communion:

Vigil: Claire Billing, Chris Hoare, Gladys Bryant, Lyn Stutley

10.30 am: Dorothy Bishop, Raelene O'Halloran, Damien Kelly, Breda Ford, Graeme Learmonth, Jim Meehan.

Presentation of Gifts:

Vigil: Michelle Haeusler, Glenda Klabbers.

10.30am : Jim & Rona Bookham.

Music Ministry:

Vigil: Joe Taverna

10.30am: Bernice Murray & Brenda Grace

Counters: Ralph Hoare & Felicity Power.

STATE OF THE NATION

Presbytery Account: (1st Basket)	\$ 716.00
<i>(Support of Priests & Bishop)</i>	
Parish Account: (2nd Basket)	Envelopes \$
<i>(Support of the Parish)</i>	
	Credit Card \$ 0.00
	Direct Debit \$ 2882.00
	Loose Plate \$ 149.20
	\$ 3031.20

Thank-You!

READINGS NEXT WEEK 23rd July Year A

1st Reading : Wisdom 12:13,16-19

2nd Reading: Romans 8:26-27

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43

Family Matters - Strengthening Respectful Relationships Forum

All are welcome to attend this Forum with Fr Frank Brennan SJ as the guest speaker which will be held in Ballarat on June 24, Warrnambool July 22, and Mildura August 26. These free events are being hosted by the Social Justice Commission of the Diocese of Ballarat together with many workshops provided by Centacare. Please register your attendance at one of the venues listed: <http://2017familymatters.weebly.com/> Details about workshops will be released soon. Alternatively, contact Danielle Peters or Tony Haintz - social.justice@ballarat.catholic.org.au.

Reflection

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.'

by Michael Tate
mtate@bigpond.com

FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

Q. What explanation does Jesus give for speaking in parables?

Q. What reason/s can you suggest for Jesus not teaching in a more explicit way?

Q. What are the 'thorns' in your life that fight for your attention with your faith?

Q. What is a contemporary metaphor that might adequately replace the image of a sower?

Questions for Adults

Q. What is suggested by the final line of the parable, 'Listen, anyone who has ears'?

Q. What experiences of pathways, rocky ground, thorns and rich soil have you had in your life?

Q. What might it mean to receive the word and produce a rich harvest?

Q. What opportunities exist in your life to be the sower who scatters the seed?

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.

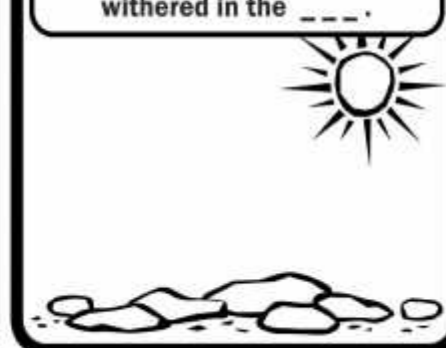
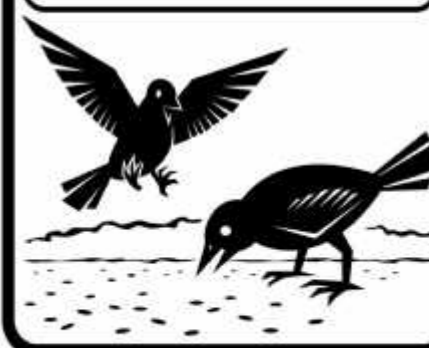
Help Jesus tell the story of the farmer sowing the seed. Add words and pictures to the story.



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 ____.



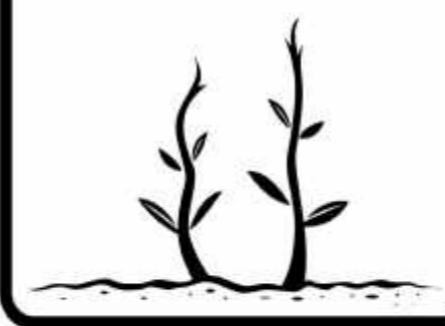
Draw the farmer sowing seed.

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.

But some seed fell on good ground and...



Draw thorns choking the plants.

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?