

# LITURGY OF THE WORD

## 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time

### FIRST READING from the book of Wisdom

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.

The Word of the Lord

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

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.

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.

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

Lord, you are good and forgiving.

### SECOND READING from St Paul to the Romans

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.

The Word of the Lord

### 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 reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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."

He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfill the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

The Gospel of the Lord

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### FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

Q. What purpose might the gospel writer have had in placing these three parables so close together?

Q. What difference does it make to interpret the three parables together rather than individually?

Q. In what ways do these parables challenge 'conventional wisdom' of the time?

Q. What does this passage tell us about how we should try to bring about the kingdom today?

## 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



16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

23rd 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:

Monday: 10.00 am Funeral Mass Lorna Kennedy  
Tuesday 10.30 am Funeral Mass for Maria Lolicato.  
5.30 pm Mass

Wed: 10.00 am

Thurs: No Mass— Fr Matt has a Vocations Meeting in Ballarat

Friday: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
12.00 noon

### Mass Intentions:

Tuesday: Charlie Taverna  
Saturday: Leonardo Caccaviello



**Recently Deceased: We commend to God:** Lorna Kennedy and Maria Lolicato.

**Anniversaries:** We remember: Leonardo Caccaviello, May Lewis, Grace Scalora, Kathleen Phyland, Sheila, Dorothy & Kath O'Bryan, Adrianna Klabbers, Michael Tuohy, Jim Curran.

**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.**

### 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: Josephites Knitting Day 10.00 am  
7th August: Divine Mercy Devotion. 1.45 pm  
8th August: Feast of 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  
17th August: Josephite Meeting 1.30pm  
21st August: Baptism Preparation. 7.00pm  
22nd August: Distribution Meeting; Stewardship Program 10.00am  
27th August: Lake Boga Mass 8.30am



**Josephite Associates Knitting Day**  
Monday 7th August in the Parish Function Centre from 10.00 am. Raffles and lunch supplied. All welcome.



### Parish Stewardship Program

This weekend after each Mass, all Parishioners will be able to pick up their personalized envelopes which contain a letter from Father Matthew, an Invitation to our **Parish Information Meeting on Wednesday the 9th of August**, a Parish Brochure and a Time & Talent sheet. The Envelopes are in **Surname Alphabetical** order

at the back of the church. **To save on postage**, if you know of anyone in your street or area, who is not at Mass this weekend, please be kind enough to take their envelope and deliver it during the weekend. If there is **no envelope with your name**, please fill out a census card and we will be in contact.

Thank you to the wonderful people who helped with the **Working Bee** on Tuesday. A wonderful effort....

**If anyone can help deliver left over letters, we would love to see you at the PRESBYTERY, from 2.00pm - 3.30pm on Monday the 24th of July. The more volunteers, the less postage will be needed.**

### Parish Office

Over the next few weeks the Office will be not opened at the normal hours as Glenda will be away, sorry for any inconvenience this may occur. Fr Matt will follow up any messages on the phone or emails ASAP.

**ST MARY'S MINISTRIES for 30th July 2017**

**Ministers of the Word:**

**Vigil:** Margaret Hoare, Mary Nolan.

**10.30am:** Yvonne Richardson, Josie Caccavello

**Ministers of Communion:**

**Vigil:** Josh Klabbers, Mary Kennedy, Kerry Hoare, Kath Hogan

**10.30 am:** Sam Colombo, Robert Jager, Margaret Foott, Elizabeth Milazzo, Yvonne Richardson, Josie Renda

**Presentation of Gifts:**

**Vigil:** Daniel & Mary Kennedy

**10.30am :** Joseph Chand

**Music Ministry:**

**Vigil:**

**10.30am:**

**Counters:** Patsy McDonald, Kerry McCosh

**STATE OF THE NATION**

Presbytery Account: (1st Basket)		\$ 1,507.65
(Support of Priests & Bishop)		
Parish Account: (2nd Basket)	Envelopes	\$ 765.00
(Support of the Parish)	Credit Card	\$ 0.00
	Direct Debit	\$ 0.00
	Loose Plate	\$ 105.00
		\$ 870.00

Thank-You!

**READINGS NEXT WEEK 30th July Year A**

1st Reading : 1 Kings 3:5.7-12

2nd Reading: Romans 8:28-30

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

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.

**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 Mildura on Saturday August 26. This free event is being hosted by the Social Justice Commission of the Diocese of Ballarat together with many workshops provided by Centacare. Please register your attendance at : <http://2017familymatters.weebly.com/> contact Danielle Peters or Tony Haintz - [social.justice@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:social.justice@ballarat.catholic.org.au).

**Reflection**

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.

by Michael Tate

[mtate@bigpond.com](mailto:mtate@bigpond.com)

**The Italian Festa—Our Lady of Mt Carmel**

Just a note of thanks to everyone for welcoming Fr Angelo and all our visitors to the parish, last week-end. It was a great celebration for Our Lady and also for the local Italian Community.

**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 judgement. (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.*

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 and find the path to the wheat. Keep a look out for weeds!

