

## OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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Special Parish Events (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals) Phone: Bernadette Franc 0427678830

Parish Support - *If you need help with anything, please phone one of our members:*

Gail Hall: 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc: 0427 678 830

## SUNDAY – 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2023 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

### **ANNIVERSARIES:**

Keith Torney, Lorna Norbury, Bill Gustus, Lawson Lyttle, Eileen Stewart, Frank & Peggy Wise, Beryl Thompson, Don Bartlett, Joseph Ross Ford, Neville Wright, Mary Collins, Mick McCarthy & Marjory Oddie.

### **PRAY FOR THE SICK:**

Pat Byrne, Margaret MacDonald, Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy, Fr Adrian McInerney, Graeme Trethowan, Bernie Duffy, Tony Collins, Eileen McManus, Ena Frichot and all those in need of prayer.

### **ROSTER:**

#### ***Introduction & Reading***

Today: Jim Mahony  
July 30<sup>th</sup>: Angela Gerrard

#### ***Prayers of the Faithful***

Today: Carita Clancy  
July 30<sup>th</sup>: Genevieve Johnston

#### ***Assembly Leaders***

July 30<sup>th</sup>: Sue & Jim Mahony

#### ***Special Minister***

July 30<sup>th</sup>: Clarrie Johnston

#### ***Music***

Today: Sue Mahony  
July 30<sup>th</sup>: Sue Mahony

#### ***Church Cleaning, Linen, Flowers***

23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> July: Bernadette Franc & Therese Jess

#### ***Church Grounds***

23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> July: Bill Franc & John Jess

#### **Newsletter**

July: Bernadette Franc 0427 678 830

### **MASS TIMES**

July 30<sup>th</sup>: **10.00 AM LLA** (NB Aug 6 also LLA)

### **PILGRIMAGE:**

#### **IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY MACKILLOP**

The pilgrimage will begin in East Melbourne on October 17 and conclude at Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney on October 28. Along the way pilgrims will visit historic sites and towns including Portland, Penola, Robe and the Mary MacKillop Chapel in North Sydney. Register at <https://www.marymackillop-place.org.au/retreats-spirituality/australian-national-pilgrimage/>

### **Diocesan e-News**

Read about news and events of the diocese in the latest edition of e-News <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/>

A reminder that there are a couple of relevant articles for us in this edition. Firstly, a recap and photos of our get – together for Sr Helen's recent 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

Secondly, an excellent article following Sr Shelia's recent passing.

### **Pope's intention for July – For a Eucharistic Life:**

We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and be opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters. Lord, hear us.

### **St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust**

The St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust offers scholarships to enable lay people to further their understanding and skills in leadership/ministry or a specialised activity, such as promoting faith enhancement, social justice and pastoral care. More information and Applications Forms are available at <https://pallottine.org.au/svpscholarship>. Closing date is August 4, 2023.

### **Today is World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly:**

“His mercy is from age to age” (Lk. 1:50) is the theme chosen by the Holy Father for the third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. The Day is marked near the Feast of Sts Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus.

Following is a part of the prayer from the Diocese for Grandparents and the Elderly.....

*Help me to transmit the tenderness and Love of God to the grandchildren and youth so that, in addition to praying for them, we can pray*



*with them.*

a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all 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 fulfil 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.

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

23 JULY 2023

## THE SPIRIT COMES TO US IN OUR WEAKNESS

It has been said that nothing is as strong as gentleness and that nothing is as gentle as real strength. Oftentimes gentleness is interpreted as a sign of weakness or indecisiveness. If God is all powerful, how is it that God does not judge our world? The book of Wisdom gives a glimpse into how the people of Israel reflected on this question in the centuries immediately preceding the birth of Jesus. What the surrounding people saw as God's weakness they had come to see as God's gracious strength which provides a model for our own lives.

The parable of the darnel addresses a similar question for the community of Matthew. In a time of opposition, they may have impatiently wondered why God had not forcefully intervened to establish the kingdom on earth. Jesus' parable of the darnel calls them to understand that the time of judgement will come when each person receives what their actions deserve. In the meantime, the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast are timely reminders that while the kingdom's beginnings may be humble and hidden the final outcome is assured.

Like Matthew, Paul saw that the period between the resurrection of the Lord and his return at the end of time was a time of struggle between good and evil. This struggle continues, and Paul reminds Christians of every age that we are not alone in this struggle since the Spirit is the one who carries our prayers and pleas to our gracious and loving God.

Christopher Monaghan CP

## 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.

#### ■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

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

**R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.**

1. 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.**
2. 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.**
3. 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.

#### ■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. 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 13:24-43

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."

He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which