



## ANTIPHONS & READINGS

### Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 16:15

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;  
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

### First Reading

Is 55:10-11

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 64:10-14. R. Lk 8:8

**R. red 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**

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

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

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**

### Second Reading

Rom 8:18-23

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

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

### Gospel

Mt 13:1-9

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!'

### Communion Antiphon

Cf Ps 83:4-5

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

### Next Week's Readings:

1st Reading: **Wis 12:13, 16-19**

2nd Reading: **Rom 8:26-27**

Gospel: **Mt 13:24-43**

### Men's Ministry - Invitation to the National Gathering

Due to COVID-19 (coronavirus) it was decided to postpone the ACBC Catholic Men's Gathering for 2020 to now take place on Saturday 31st July, 2021 at the Australian Catholic University, Strathfield.

Registration for this event will be free and the program will be delivered in four sessions, each of approximately 1 hour in length. The sessions will offer input from a variety of speakers, musicians, and bishops, along with a response and questions for group discussion or individual reflection.

For more information about the program and to register, please go to [bit.ly/cm2020event](https://bit.ly/cm2020event)

## REFLECTIONS ON MATTHEW 13:1-9

### Historical Context – Matthew's community

The gospel of Matthew is written at a time and particular context in which the community audience were feeling the effects of having been ostracised from the Jewish community. They were confounded by the fact that other Jews could not accept the reality of the Jesus message as they had. This parable, and the accompanying conversation with the disciples in which they are blessed for their understanding, would have been a comfort for the Matthew community. Although they were frustrated, they were being told through this story that not everyone is ready to hear the message that they had heard and accepted.

### Scriptural context – A Parable Chapter

The gospel of Matthew is nothing if not a well-crafted and highly structured piece of writing. Throughout the gospel there are five major 'discourses' or teachings. Chapter 13, which consists entirely of a collection of parables, is the central discourse of the five. It is the pivotal point of the entire gospel. The nature of the parables indicates that the message of Jesus has not been universally accepted and the parables present metaphors about the consequences for those who do and do not accept the message of Jesus about the reign of God.

### 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.

## Put Christ Before Everything

*From the Rule of Benedict, (Saturday, 11 July is the memorial feast of Saint Benedict)*

Whenever you begin any good work you should first of all make a most pressing appeal to Christ our Lord to bring it to perfection; that he, who has honoured us by counting us among his children, may never be grieved by our evil deeds. For we must always serve him with the good things he has given us in such a way that he may never – as an angry father disinherits his sons or even like a master who inspires fear – grow impatient with our sins and consign us to everlasting punishment, like wicked servants who would not follow him to glory.

So we should at long last rouse ourselves, prompted by the words of Scripture: Now is the time for us to rise from sleep. Our eyes should be open to the God-given light, and we should listen in wonderment to the message of the divine voice as it daily cries out: Today, if you shall hear his voice, harden not your hearts; and again: If anyone has ears to hear, let him listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. And what does the Spirit say? Come my sons, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. Hurry, while you have the light of life, so that death's darkness may not overtake you.

And the Lord as he seeks the one who will do his work among the throng of people to whom he makes that appeal, says again: Which of you wants to live to the full; who loves long life and the enjoyment of prosperity? And, if when you hear this you say, I do, God says to you: If you desire true and everlasting life, keep your tongue from evil and your lips from deceit; turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. And when you have done these things my eyes will be upon you and my ears will be attentive to your prayers; and before you call upon my name I shall say to you: Behold, I am here. What could be more delightful, dearest brothers, than the voice of our Lord's invitation to us? In his loving kindness he reveals to us the way of life.

And so, girded with faith and the performance of good works, let us follow in his paths by the guidance of the Gospel; then we shall deserve to see him who has called us into his kingdom. If we wish to attain a dwelling-place in his kingdom we shall not reach it unless we hasten there by our good deeds.

Just as there exists an evil fervour, a bitter spirit, which divides us from God and leads us to hell, so there is a good fervour which sets us apart from evil inclinations and leads us towards God and eternal life. Monks should put this fervour into practice with an overflowing love: that is, they should surpass each other in mutual esteem, accept their weaknesses, either of body or of behaviour, with the utmost patience; and vie with each other in acceding to requests. No one should follow what he considers to be good for himself, but rather what seems good for another. They should display brotherly love in a chaste manner; fear God in a spirit of love; revere their abbot with a genuine and submissive affection. Let them put Christ before all else; and may he lead us all to everlasting life.

## WHAT'S NEW?

### Relaxation of the COVID Restrictions

Now the number of people allowed inside the church will be determined by the 'one person per 4 square metre' rule, with no upper limit. This means we can have 90 people in our church. Going by last weekend's observation, the demands for attendance at the Masses are far below 90. Therefore, no pre-booking is necessary. Mass attendance will be controlled by 1st come first served basis. In case of too many turning up to the church, after the first 90 entered the Church, the door will be closed. Live streaming of the 8AM Mass will continue for the time being, for the benefit of those who cannot attend the Church in person. Each time you come to the church, you will be required to register your name and contact details. If you are feeling unwell you should not come to the Church. If are unwell, please consult your GP. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

The Children's Liturgy and Communion Run will take some more time to resume. There will not be any Choir practices allowed for the time being.

Volunteers are welcome to monitor the church after Mass hours. We need to make sure all those who enter the Church are registering their name and contact details as well as sanitising their hands.

Now we are also starting to get to recommence other pastoral and liturgical activities as much as we can. Saturday devotion of the Holy Hour will be on from 8.30 AM – 9.30 AM, starting with Rosary prayer. Bookings for Baptisms, anointing of the sick, marriages are welcome. Schedule for Confessions will be on at 8.30 AM to 9.30 AM on Saturdays. But you are also welcome to call and make an appointment for any other time.

The Sacramental Programs are also modified according to the demands of the COVID19 situation.

Many of you have been supporting the parish financially through this time of restrictions. There has been an increase in the use of direct debits and the use of the tap facility. Electronic means of paying is the preferred way of the parish. It reduces many risks. The overall income is less than half of the normal. I would like to thank all contributors for their support.

**New set of planned giving envelopes** are made available in the church foyer this weekend for you to collect. Please contact Lea should you require a copy of your receipt. The receipts will be emailed to those requested it as well as printed copies for those who prefer the hard copy.

### Printed | Published

COVID-19 Safety Plan for the Parish is now available on the Parish Website.

Catholic Weekly has resumed printing and copies are available in the church for \$2 each.

Printed copies of the Parish Bulletin are available after each of the weekend masses.

*~Fr Thomas Kurunthanam*

## OTHER NOTICES

### New Dates for Plenary Council

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic the National Plenary Council Assembly has been postponed to October 2021 (Adelaide) and April 2022 (Sydney). The discernment papers foundational to the development of the working paper and ultimately the agenda for the Assembly are available on the National Plenary Council webpage under the Discernment tab: <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/continuing-the-journey-of-discernment/>

### Feast of Our Lady of Terzito

This year, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Terzito will not be open to the

public. It will be live streamed from Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Gladesville with Mass at 1.30pm on 26th July. This will be followed by the Rosary and Benediction. Link: <https://YouTube.be/eDPK0nkIKXk>. In these difficult times we need to be innovative in our devotions. May Our Lady of Terzito continue to bless us and our families."

### Parent Line

Many families are in the midst of or are facing serious challenges in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and need extra support but don't know where to start. Parent Line can help parents by providing support and strategies to manage. Call us 7 days a week on 1300 1300 52.