

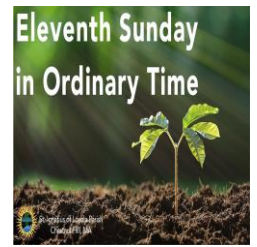


Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

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Website: northeastmallee.org.au

Incorporating the Communities of St Mary's Sea Lake, Sacred Heart Culgoa, St Joseph's Nandaly, S's Peter & Paul Quambatook & St Mary's Swan Hill as well as the Lake Boga Families & Faith Group



16TH JUNE 2024

11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A TALE OF TWO SEEDS: PATIENCE & TRUST BEFORE THE MYSTERY

We have two parables today for the price of one! Both start with seeds, and both help us understand the mysterious growth of God's Kingdom. We can freely apply them on two different levels: both personally and communally. Applying them to ourselves personally, they can speak to the way God's word takes a hold in our own hearts and brings about growth as individuals.

Applying them communally, they can help us understand how God's work unfolds in the world around us, and in particular how he builds up his Church.

So back to the parables themselves... what can they teach us? The first is about a man who scatters seed, then stand back and waits for the land, the rain and the sun to do its thing. He doesn't fully understand *how* the growth comes about, but he *trusts* that it will, and is ready to reap the fruits when they come. The growth is almost imperceptible. You can't actually see it happening in the moment, you just catch glimpses of the stages as they emerge; "first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear." By the end though the fruits become abundantly clear. So the man needs patience and trust. And so do we. He also needs a bit of humility before the mysterious workings of God. Even with all our growth in scientific knowledge, nature itself is still a wonder that fills us with amazement. We can observe its growth, make some predictions and explain some of the mechanics, but in the end life still continually catches us unawares. And if God's Creation leaves us stumped and lost for words, should we be surprised if we can't always understand his workings in us? Again, we are called to trust and patience before the mystery.



The second parable of the mustard seed is similar, but this time there is a bit more of an emphasis on scale-how can something so small grow to something so big? Just to be clear, we aren't talking Red-Gum-big here, it is still only a shrub or bush, but nonetheless the growth is surprising. If left unchecked the mustard bush can even take over whole paddocks, like an invasive weed. So, as well as the growth being surprising and somewhat mysterious, it is also tenacious and ultimately beyond our control. And that helps to remind us that we aren't the masters here. God is. We can cooperate with his plans, and take a real part in his works, but in the end he is the one in control. And as far as I'm concerned, thank goodness for that!

And finally, let's not forget the bit about the birds... the surprising growth of the mustard seed brings them shelter and safety. Many have seen in this a beautiful image of all the peoples of the world being able to find a home in God's Church. I like that. But maybe we can take this lesson as well; God can have an end or purpose in mind that we never expected. Someone plants a mustard seed with a particular need in mind, it gets out of hand and all of the sudden he has a great whopping bush to deal with, but then the birds are all happily chirping away in their new home. Is this just a happy accident, or was it God's plan all along? Just like we cannot always see God's work as it is happening, so too we cannot always know where it is heading. But we can trust that he has something beautiful in mind.

Parish Contact Details:

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Office Hrs: Tues, Thurs and Fri 10:30 -2:30

Parish Priest

Fr James Kerr

Parish Office:

Glenda Klabbers & Mary Kennedy

Child Protection Officers:

Damian and Karen Kelly

Child Safe Church

Here in the Parish of Holy Family North East Mallee we follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed by the Ballarat Diocesan Office.



**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS
RECENT DEATHS+**

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Betty Day, James Kiley, Rosina Sheldon Collins
Mary "Maisie" Maher, Margaret Jirik, Mary Flannery
Guiseppe "Joe" Sapuppo, Des O'Sullivan,
Isabella Rinaldi, Margaret Cloonan, Edna Parsons.
Margaret Ritchie, Veronica Gleeson, Ellen Giddings
Mavis O'Halloran, Immacolata Capone

SICK LIST

Pat Croft, Yvonne Richardson, Paul Donohue,
Jayden Williams, Margaret Foott,
Jarrod Crimmins, Michael Bourke, Jack Donohue,
Jude Lewis, Susan, Yvonne Annan,
Bridget Phyland, Carmel Ryan, Peter Amezdroz

**THIS WEEKEND 15TH/16TH JUNE
11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Culgoa
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday 5.30pm
Wednesday: 10am Mass
Thursday: Confessions 5pm, 5.30pm Mass, Adoration
Friday: 11.30am Mass

**NEXT WEEKEND 22ND/23RD JUNE
11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Sat 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Quambatook
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

NOTICES



WELCOME TO GOD'S FAMILY!

We are blessed to have a big weekend for baptisms, and are delighted to be welcoming five children into our Church family. We thank Jarrod and Melissa for presenting Otto, Andrew and Courtney for presenting Reef and Joey, Anika and Rudy for presenting Aven and Brittney and Jayden who are presenting Sonny. We ask God to bless you all with his love and grace, and welcome to God's family!



CLOTHING DONATIONS & VOLUNTEERS WANTED

St Vincent de Paul Society, Vinnies Shop located in Curlewis St, opposite the Big Cod, is seeking support from parishioners in donations of clean men's clothing and children's clothing. Donated clothes can be taken to the shop during business hours.

The Vinnies shop is also seeking volunteers. Any parishioner interested are requested to speak to shop manager Katina, Monday – Friday between business hours 9.30am-3pm



**SAVE WITH CDF COMMUNITY FUND
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By opening a savings account or Term Investment, not only will you receive a competitive financial

Our Parish Schools

St Mary's Primary School Sea Lake

Principal: Kate Nunn
47 Hannon Street, Sea Lake
Ph: 03 5070 1272

Principal@smsealake.catholic.edu.au

St Mary's Primary School Swan Hill

Principal: Kate Quin
2 Murlong St Swan Hill
Ph. 03 5033 2541

principal@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au

St Mary MacKillop College

Principal: Michelle Haeusler
53 McCrae Street, Swan Hill
Ph: 5032 9771

Principal@mackillopsh.vic.edu.au

return, your savings will also help build parishes, classrooms, hospital wings, aged care homes and social service facilities. With competitive interest rates available across a range of savings accounts, including 5.35% p.a.* on a 12-month Term Investment or 5.05% p.a. on a 6 Month Term, it's a way to save while doing good. To find out more, visit www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund/offer, scan the QR code, or speak to us on 1800 134 135.



**Interest rates subject to change. View current rates on the CDF website.*



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Have you been considering whether an overseas professional placement with **Palms** is for you? Wanting to share your skills to develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions while living authentically in another culture?

If you're happy for the trip, come to Palms' Discovery information session at St Patrick's Cathedral MacKillop Hall on 9 July. Meet Soraya, Brendan and other Palms participants to discover more about Assignments Aboard. For more info see palms.org.au/event/discovery-ballarat/

Venue: MacKillop/Glowrey Hall, Cathedral Precinct

Address: 3 Lyons Street South, Ballarat

Date: Tuesday 9th July 2024, 5:30pm to 6:30pm

0422 472 567

palms@palms.org.au

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What comparison is being made between the kingdom of God and the seed growing night and day?

What is a literal interpretation of the parable of the mustard seed?

Why do you think Jesus so often taught through parables?

Why might Jesus have avoided a direct description of the kingdom of God?



BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

Today's Gospel Reading consists of two parables about seeds. In the first, Jesus tells those gathered that this is "how it is with the kingdom of God." A man scatters seed which over time sprouts and develops. Then when the grain is ripe, the man harvests his crop. The emphasis in the parable is on the seed, which seemingly has the power to grow on its own. In this it is like the Kingdom of God. While on earth, Jesus planted the seeds of the kingdom by his life, miracles, teaching, and suffering. However, the kingdom is not yet fully established. Although already present in Jesus and his group of twelve, it has yet to come to fruition; just as the seed in the parable needs time to grow, so does God's kingdom.

The second parable focuses on the tiny mustard seed. Though not the smallest of all seeds, it is most likely the smallest that a first-century farmer in Jesus' part of the world would have sown. Small as the mustard seed is, it develops into a tree. Though the mustard tree generally averages only nine to twelve feet in height, it has a wide expanse and provides a nesting place for birds. Just as the tree welcomes the birds, so is God's kingdom welcoming and open to many.

These parables help us discern something about the kingdom of God and our own faith. In God we live and move and have our being, but God is a mystery and his kingdom, though present, has not yet come into its fullness. Today, the Kingdom of God is present in the Church. The mission of proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom given to the Apostles is now given to us. But just as seeds need time to come to fruition, so does the Kingdom of God. That is why in the Lord's Prayer, we pray, "thy kingdom come." We know that it will come in its fullness at the end of time. All we need is faith. © *Loyola Press*

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

12th Sunday in Ordinary time

First Reading: Job 38:1. 8-11

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:14-17

Gospel: Mark 4:35-41

FIRST READING Ezekiel 17:22-24

*A reading from the prophet Ezekiel
I have made the small tree great.*

The Lord says this:

'From the top of the cedar,
from the highest branch I will take a shoot
and plant it myself on a very high mountain.
I will plant it on the high mountain of Israel.
It will sprout branches and bear fruit,
and become a noble cedar.
Every kind of bird will live beneath it,
every winged creature rest in the shade of its branches.
And every tree of the field will learn that I, the Lord, am
the one
who stunts tall trees and makes the low ones grow,
who withers green trees and makes the withered green.
I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.'

The Word of the Lord. ALL: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 91:2-3. 13-16. R. see v.2

(R.) Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning
and your truth in the watches of the night.

The just will flourish like the palm-tree
and grow like a Lebanon cedar.

Planted in the house of the Lord
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just.

In him, my rock, there is no wrong. **(R.)**

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

*A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians*

*Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we
are intent on pleasing the Lord.*

We are always full of confidence when we remember that
to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going
as we do by faith and not by sight – we are full of
confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the
body and make our home with the Lord. Whether we are
living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on
pleasing him. For all the truth about us will be brought
out in the law court of Christ, and each of us will get what
he deserves for the things he did in the body, good or bad.

The Word of the Lord. ALL: Thanks be to God.

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 Mark 4:26-34

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
The mustard seed, the smallest of all the seeds, grows into
the biggest shrub of all.*

Jesus said to the crowds, 'This is what the kingdom of God is
like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he
sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing;
how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces
first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And
when the crop is ready, he loses no time; he starts to reap
because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like?
What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed
which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all
the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the
biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that
the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.'

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them,
so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not
speak to them except in parables, but he explained
everything to his disciples when they were alone.

The Gospel of the Lord. ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

*[The kingdom of God] is
like a mustard seed,
which, when sown upon
the soil, though it is
smaller than all the
seeds that are upon the
soil, yet when it is sown,
it grows up and becomes
larger than all the
garden plants and forms
large branches; so that
the birds of the air can
nest under its shade.*

Mark 4:31-32

