

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A 12th July 2020

HOW GOD'S WORD TAKES ROOT IN US.....

As Christians we know the parable of the sower so well, however although we have heard it so many times, we can't hear it again without being stirred. Jesus tells His disciples that the seed is the word of the Kingdom; that is, His own word, His own witness, ultimately Himself. We want to receive this Word. Yet how well we know that we are not the perfect soil we should be! How easily we allow our hearts to become messed up by our resentments, attachments, worries or temptations, so that the hoped-for fruits of holiness are not produced as they could be! Then also we reflect on how Jesus casts His seed in us, in order that we might continue His work in the world. So the parable of the sower is also a call to the Church, to all of us, to evangelise! Our calling is to find ways to proclaim Jesus in our own times. To communicate to people our own faith experience, itself a gift from the Holy Spirit that God exists; that He is good; that He has come to us in Jesus Christ, in order to forgive our sins, and to draw us to Himself; to give us eternal life.

One of the most effective ways we have of nurturing the seeds of the Kingdom is by coming to Mass. Here amid the assembly of the faithful we worship God in the power of the Holy Spirit. We listen to His word in Holy Scripture; we receive the sacrifice of our salvation, and meet Jesus Himself in the Blessed Sacrament. So today once again we surrender to the Lord and ask for the grace we need to connect with Him and to hear, truly see Him and understand, so that we can be enfolded by Him, and healed.

The parable of the sower challenges us to see how deeply the word of God takes root in our lives and in our day to day existence. Christ invites His followers to embrace the faith of the sower: to trust and believe that our simplest acts of kindness and forgiveness, our humble offer of help to anyone in need, our giving of only a few minutes to listen to someone's difficult situation may be the seeds that fall "on good soil" and yield an abundant harvest.

Jesus challenges us in the parable of the sower to be both sower and seed: to sow seeds of encouragement, joy and reconciliation regardless of the ground on which it is scattered, and to imitate the seed's total giving of life that becomes the harvest of Gospel justice and mercy. Each of us has many gifts and talents. Let us spend these doing the will of God and becoming more Christ-like. The opportunity is calling us. The parables of Jesus enlighten us if we approach them with an open mind and heart, ready to let them challenge and inspire us.

Blessings,
Fr. Dantus Thottathil

Quote of the Day:

When you focus on
problems
you will have more
problems.
When you focus on
possibilities
you'll have more
opportunities.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK: Karen Booker, Michael Gibbings, Mary Schmidt, Joyce Starkey, Pat Wilson, Sandra Wilson, Maddie Bell, Sr Teresa Geraghty, Mary Forrester, Krystyna Kelly, Sheila Petersen, Richard Pook, Violet Maureen Phillips, Ash Dean, Dennis Patterson, Carmen Phairs, Irene Gavril, Rosa Maria Santos, Dawn O'Sullivan, Leon and Roz Thomas, Maura Poots, Angela Geraghty, Hugo Callan, Joan Francis, Angela de Weger, Terry Coles, Margaret Brennan, Ted Chapman, Leslee O'Connell, Katherine Pickering, Stacie Stonier, Val Steeden, Mitchell Sweet

For a name to be included in the 'Prayer for our Sick' list, the Privacy Act now requires the personal permission of the nominee or a close relative.

ANNIVERSARIES: Albert Blackwood, Leonard Bourke, Frank & Eugene Clair, Raymond Connor, Oswald Copley, Isabella Devlin, James Dwan, Nancy Gleeson, Anne Henderson, Mervyn Iselin, Anne Keegan, Elizabeth Kinley, Sr Rose Lanigan, Rita Lloyd-Jones, Maureen Malone, Lesley McGregor, Mildred (Matie) Mattinson, Irene Milsom, Terry Morrison, Harold Nelson, John O'Donnell, Br Hilary (Chris) Peterson, John Ryan, Shirley Sibley, Merle Skinner, Baby Darcy Smith, Joseph Sorpassa, Monica Southern, Vittorio Stangherlin, Jack Still, Valma Tranter, Margaret Turpin, Mary Weis.

PASTOR: Fr Dantus Thottathil MCBS

(email: thottathild@bne.catholic.net.au)

ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Fr Prem Rethnamony

Parish Office: Cnr Ernest and Kooralgin Sts, Manly, 4179

New office hours: 8:30am – 2:00pm Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri

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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Les Sellwood (Chairperson), Joshua Walsh (Secretary)

Bruce Corrie, Helen McNamara

Paola Nunez, Maria Jones

Pam Chapman, Julia McLean

Archdiocesan Safeguarding Officer for Manly is:

Les Sellwood: 0401 235 739

STOPLINE Contact: AOB@stpline.com.au

This Parish is Child Safety Aware and also complies with

Australian Privacy Laws. A copy of the Child Safety and Protection of Vulnerable Adults policy is situated in the foyer of the church.

Mass Times

Wednesday 9:00am Rosary and Mass at St. John Vianney's Manly (no bookings necessary)

Saturday 5:00pm Vigil Mass at St. John Vianney's Manly

Sunday 7:00am Mass at St Jude's in Gumdale

Sunday 9:30am Mass at St. John Vianney's Manly.

For booking details please see 'Announcements' on the back side of this newsletter.

First Reading: *Isaiah 55:10-11*
The rain makes the earth fruitful.

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

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

Second Reading: *Romans 8:18-23*
All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.

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: Matthew 13:1-23
A sower went out to sow.

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.'

Announcements:

Mass Bookings: Mass bookings will now be made on a weekly basis using an online system called TryBooking. Bookings for mass attendance are essential due to Queensland Government COVID-19 restrictions. To book please visit <https://www.trybooking.com/eventlist/sjv?embed=1> which has a list of masses that are currently available for booking. Bookings close at 10:00am on the Friday before the mass you wish to attend. If you have any issues with booking or require assistance please contact the parish office on 3131 2610 or email us at manly@bne.catholic.net.au

Mass at St. Jude's: From the 12th of July mass will be offered at 7 am on Sundays. Attendance is limited to 20 people due to COVID 19 restrictions. Helen McNamara will take care of bookings via phone 0403 193 625 or e-mail: lmac11@optusnet.com.au

Mass Celebrations at St. John Vianney's: We are currently able to celebrate with 40 people in attendance with social distancing in place. People who attend will need to adhere to the following guidelines:

- **You must NOT**
 - Have been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 or have a fever or symptoms of respiratory infection such as a cough, sore throat or shortness of breath.
- **You must**
 - Maintain a distance of 1.5 metres between people
 - Refrain from handshaking or hugging
 - Clean your hands with the alcohol-based hand rub provided in the church when you enter and leave the Church
 - Record your name and contact details in the registry upon entry into the Church or in parish office if attending for private prayer
 - Sit in the pews in the spaces marked with green tape (x) in the Church.

Support Our Parish: Account Name: Manly Parish BSB: 064786 Account Number: 006716002. Thank you for your support of the parish.