



# Catholic Parish of Blackfriars

Issue 35  
16th July 2017

Under the care of the Dominican Fathers

Year A



## VERITAS

## FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

*Parish Priest*

**Fr Kieran Adams OP**

*Assistant Priests*

Fr Rafael Cabezon OP

Fr Bernie Maxwell OP

### Holy Rosary Church

Cnr Phillip Avenue and

Antill Street, Watson ACT

Postal Address

PO Box 900, Dickson

Ph. 6248 5925 Ph.6248 5085

Fax 6248 7564

Email: [watson@cg.org.au](mailto:watson@cg.org.au)

<http://www.cg.org.au/watson>

### *Office Staff*

Jacque Cortese

Jim Smith

### *Parish Council*

Andrew Blakey

### *Office Hours*

Monday, Tuesday,

Thursday, Friday

9.00am—12.30pm

### *Mass times*

Wed 5.30pm

Tues & Thurs 6.45am

Fri 5.30pm

Saturday 6pm (Vigil)

Sunday 8am, 10am & 6pm

Saturday & Public

Holidays Mass excluding

Mondays 9am

### *Pray the Rosary*

Wed & Fri before 5.30pm Mass

Saturday after 9am Mass

### *Reconciliation*

Saturday 12pm—12.30pm

and 5pm—5.30pm

### *ACU Chapel Signadou*

Tues 1.30pm

Wed & Thurs 1.30pm



If you are in Urgent need of  
a Priest Call - 6248 8253

A warm welcome is extended to guests & parishioners celebrating our Eucharist today.

<b>ENTRANCE</b>	As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.
<b>GOSPEL ACCLAMATION</b>	Alleluia, alleluia! The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever. Alleluia!
<b>COMMUNION</b>	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.
<b>READINGS</b>	Isaiah 55:10-11    Romans 8:18-23 Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER APPEAL



Winter Appeal.  
The Holy Rosary Conference raised \$6551.65 with \$4256.65 coming from Holy Rosary parishioners and \$2294.65 from St Brigid's parishioners. Vinnies thanks the generous members of this parish for their support of the Society and its good works.

**Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars and change the world.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 64:10-14

The 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.

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

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

The hills are girded with joy,  
the meadows covered with flocks,  
the valleys are decked with wheat,  
They shout for joy, yes, they sing.

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

### WEEKDAY 6.45 MASSES

Until the weather improves, Mass on Tuesday and Thursday mornings will be held in the Parish Centre.

### LITURGICAL ROSTER

The new rosters for June to December are available in the Foyer.

Rosters are in the form of a booklet, are arranged according to the Mass attended and each roster has a name on it. Please collect your roster after Mass today.

### WHAT IS GOD'S PLAN

'God who is love and who created man and woman for love has called them to love. By creating man and woman he called them to an intimate communion of life and love of marriage: "So that they are no longer two, but one flesh" (Matt 19:6). God said to them in blessing "Be fruitful and multiply" (Gen 1:28).'

[www.catholicenquiry.com](http://www.catholicenquiry.com)

### SPEAKING IN PARABLES

In the Gospel Reading, Christ explains why he speaks in parables to the crowds. The knowledge of these things has been granted to you, Christ tells his disciples, but it hasn't been granted to them.

But if God can give the gift of knowledge, why wouldn't he give it to everyone? Why would a loving God hide knowledge from some people?

To see the answer, think about gifts. If you give a gift to someone you love, then what you give is intended to do that person good. It isn't a gift if what you are giving will harm him or hurt him, and you know that it will.

The people who want more understanding are the people who count as his disciples.

But knowledge can hurt rather than help if the recipient isn't ready to receive it. Good counsellors are skilled in knowing the times when their clients are able to bear some knowledge, some insight into their situation and themselves. Till their clients are ready, good counsellors hesitate to impart such insight for fear of making their clients worse, rather than better with it. To force knowledge on a person not ready to see it is stupid or cruel or both. It isn't loving.

And that is why Christ speaks in parables. Among those who come to him, there are some people who want to hear him but are not willing to be counted among his disciples, at least not yet. Christ's parables give those people what they can receive, given that they are not yet ready to receive him. They can learn something from the parables even so.

But to those who come to Christ ready to receive him and willing to be counted as his disciples, he can give the gift of knowledge straightforwardly. In receiving him, those people are also ready to receive the knowledge Christ can give.

And here it is worth noticing that Christ speaks in parables to everybody who comes to him. But some people care enough about him and his words to want more than they can get from those parables alone. They take him as their teacher and want to learn from him. That is why they come to him to ask him to explain the parables he was telling them as well as all the others. The people who want more understanding are the people who count as his disciples.

As Christ says, to them who have more, because they want more, more will be given.

Eleonore Stump <http://liturgy.slu.edu/>

### SOWER AND THE SEED

In the Gospel for this week, we hear Jesus telling the tale of the parable of the sower and the seed. Considering the context of the time, this story was quite shocking to his audience. Ancient people saw waste, such as that displayed by the farmer randomly spreading seeds about, as an abuse. Of course, Jesus had a point to his story and it becomes clear at the end, when the harvest exceeds even the most pragmatic expectations. Yet the parable also raises an interesting question about our own views on wealth.

How do we view riches? Do we use our money wisely? Are we good stewards and generous with what we have? It is worth considering such questions as we prepare to celebrate our time together, in our parish community. Even today, we can derive so many spiritual lessons from life on the land, including the need for good stewardship, the importance of planning ahead, the need to never take the gift of life for granted.

Choosing the image for this week's bulletin is to not only find something that illustrates the theme of the Gospel but as a reminder to us that so much of Jesus' story-telling revolved around rural imagery: Seeds, crops, harvests.



**In Your Prayers  
please  
remember  
those in our  
community  
who are ill:**

Elizabeth Cronin, Maureen Blood,  
Fr Ellis Clifford, Dion Convine,  
Edith Jensen, Alexia Harris,  
Joe Schimizzi, Trevor Dennis,  
Mary Harrigan, Elizabeth Webster,  
Philip Bailey, Eileen Liston,  
Rosa Maria Santos, Jim Burgess,  
Mary Bui, Rosemary Denmead  
Awny El-Ghitany, Barbara Wilson  
Chelsea Guillot, Beth Delos Santos  
Eris Pollard, Elsie Loughton

**Please remember  
our deceased:**

Patricia Wood, Ted Kendall

**In Loving Memory:**

Peter Que

## BAPTISM

### *Zofia Aria Walas*

who will be baptised this weekend.  
May her life filled with God's peace,  
and her heart with God's love...  
on this Baptism day and always.



## RESPECTING CREATION

The parable of the sower is a story about the fruitfulness of the earth. It assures us that the harvest will come in spite of the many obstacles that stand in the way. In the end, the rocks and birds and trampling feet cannot nullify the fact that "the seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest."

Paul talks about the salvation of the world, pointing out that "the world itself will be freed from its slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God." Meanwhile, "all creation groans and is in agony": we pollute the clear air and the fresh water; we drive plants and animals to extinction; we clear-cut forests and we strip-mine, leaving ugly scars in the land.

The opening prayer calls on us "to reject what is contrary to the gospel." Isn't it contrary to the "good news" to waste and destroy God's creation? The Creator has "greatly enriched the land." How dare we impoverish it!

The commitment of believers to a healthy environment for everyone stems directly from their belief in God the Creator, from their recognition of the effects of original and personal sin, and from the certainty of having been redeemed by Christ. Respect for life and for the dignity of the human person extends also to the rest of creation, which is called to join man in praising God.

*Pope John Paul II, World Day of Peace Message, Gerald Darring*

## GROWTH IN THE KINGDOM

*Fifteenth Sunday of the Year.*

*Fr David Sanders OP ponders the mystery of  
'growth' in the Church.*

*'Is your church growing?'* This is the question asked by an internet website concerned with church growth. It offers to help you double the numbers of your congregation so that the pews will be overflowing with enthusiastic worshippers. And the financial support will grow too, with the possibility of large donations. Who could resist this offer at a time when many Christians in Europe get depressed with the constant drip-drip of news about declining church membership, the closing of church buildings and crippling financial burdens? Who would not welcome just a few tips about how to make your church grow?

It seems from today's Gospel that Jesus could have done with some advice in the face of his disciples' disappointment that their Master's campaign was not attracting more followers.

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## GROWTH IN THE KINGDOM

He had announced the presence of God's kingdom in a world dominated by the rule of Satan. The battle had begun but was not going as well as expected because already some of the religious leaders were accusing Jesus of being in league with Beelzebul. John the Baptist was wondering whether Jesus was indeed the Messiah and even his own family were turning against him.

But today Jesus has his own kind of advice and it comes in parable form. He gets his disciples thinking by telling them about a farmer who is prodigal in the sowing of seed: he throws it all over the place. Some seed does fall in fertile soil but much is wasted. His method reminds me of a cartoon I saw. One farmer is asking another 'What are you growing this year?' 'Poorer', comes the reply.

So having provoked the disciples with the parable Jesus now explains it with reference to his own preaching of the Word. He has been very generous in teaching and performing miracles, reaching out to all sorts people especially misfits and sinners. Jesus makes it clear from the beginning of his ministry that he wants a greater righteousness than that of the scribes and Pharisees. He calls for a change of heart and mind in his hearers. But many of his hearers resist his appeal and their hearts become as hard as the path on which some of that seed fell. They lack understanding.

What is this understanding? It is an act of faith, an act of generous response to Jesus' call. Having such understanding is the only way their hearts can be opened up, freed from Satan's grasp, freed from a superficial welcome of the gospel which crumbles under testing and freed from the choking lure of riches.

Jesus knows his own people's history, so is not surprised at its lack of faith. The prophet Isaiah had encountered the same hardening of hearts.

So Jesus explains the lack of numbers and the resistance to his gospel but God is not defeated. His kingdom will come; its coming is conditioned not only by refusal but also by the generous response of open hearts like the one *who hears the word and understands it ;he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now an hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.*

Now that is a prodigal response but it seems a bit over the top. Is such a response possible or is it just hyperbole? In the face of disappointment and low morale it is important to recognise such abundant harvests are possible.

Where and when?

First in Jesus' own faith. His willingness to die, as the grain of wheat dies, and face the desolation of the cross produced the abundant harvest of the new creation God brought about through the resurrection.

Second, the Acts of the Apostles tells the story of amazing growth of the church as the Holy Spirit worked in the generous hearts of apostles like Peter and Paul as the faith spread from Jerusalem as far as Rome.

And third, see how God worked through the rich soil of the early Christians as a small Palestinian sect grew into the religion of the empire despite the persecutions they endured.

God's kingdom does not grow bigger and better along human models of evolution. No one knows how it will come in its fullness, only God. It is a mystery, but Jesus gives us understanding into that mystery.

And we learn in faith that although it would be foolish not to hope for a generous (and numerous) response to Jesus' call to discipleship, growth comes not just when the church is prosperous and triumphant but more often when she is weaker and persecuted.

For then she understands for certain that she will grow only if she allows the power of God's word to enter those generous hearts who have faith that He alone can produce the rich harvest.

Fr David Sanders OP <http://english.op.org/torch>

## HOLY ROSARY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

**SCHOOL OF RELIGION Sunday** A year long Faith Education Program including Sacraments for children who do not attend Catholic Schools. Term has now begun. Contact the Parish Office for further information.

**BLACKFRIARS MEDITATION GROUP** meets on **Thursday** evenings in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm. Enquiries John Jarvis 6296 2001 or Michael Flynn 6257 1038 Explore today at [www.wccm.org](http://www.wccm.org)

**CARDS** Play social style 'Cards for fun', **Monday** 10am-1pm in the Parish Centre. All welcome!!!

**CARE OF THE SICK** If you know of anyone who is unable to get to Mass and who would like the Eucharist brought to them, please let the office know. Also, if someone is in need of prayer or a visit at home, in hospital or by the Parish Priest - please, let us know.

**COFFEE GROUP** Our monthly coffee group will meet at Wilbur's, Hackett on the **third Thursday** of each month at 10.30 am. We look forward to seeing our usual friends, and newcomers most welcome.

**CRAFT GROUP** meets noon - 4.00pm in the Parish Centre on the **first, second and fourth Wednesdays** of the month .

**DOMINICAN LIBRARY** will open **Saturday** mornings, 9.30am - 12.00 noon in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

**HOLY MARY MOTHER OF GOD PRAYER GROUP** Divine Will Prayer Group meets 2.00pm **Thursdays** in the church. Details Heather 6247 7775.

**WEEKLY READER FORMATION** Reflections on the readings for the following Sunday are held **Wednesday** evenings at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. All Parishioners welcome.

**PRAY THE ROSARY** will be held the First Saturday of every month at 4pm in the Church on a trial basis. Confessions available afterwards followed by refreshments in the parish centre. Please bring a plate to share. For more information call Letty on 0418 518 033

**COELIACS** Parishioners who are coeliac (intolerant to Gluten) If you wish to receive a gluten free host at Mass you should advise the Celebrant or Acolyte prior to Mass.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *We have been advised that there are people visiting local churches asking for money. If you are approached by anyone asking for money please do not provide any but refer the person to Samaritan House, 19 Hackett Place, Hackett*

**NEW PARISHIONERS** would you like to join our Parish? If you wish to register as Blackfriars Parishioner please fill out a card which you can find on the entrance tables and place on the second plate or give the card to Father.

**Holy Rosary Church is fitted with an audio loop. It is accessible in all seating areas by using T- switch on your hearing aid.**

**PARISH BULLETIN - DEADLINE** for notices is **NOON TUESDAY** Please contact Jacquie in the office Ph. 6248 5925 Fax.6248 7564 or Email: [holyr.watson@cg.catholic.org.au](mailto:holyr.watson@cg.catholic.org.au)

## IMPORTANT

It is important that you contact the office by email or in writing (even a note on the collection plate) if you require a booking - for a Mass Intention, Booking of the Church or Parish Centre, Weddings and Baptisms.

If you would like to add a name to the prayers for the sick, anniversary or death list in the *Bulletin*, details must be with the Parish Office **NO** later than Tuesday of that week. For all other bookings Mass for an Anniversary or to use the Parish Centre etc. two weeks notice is required. It is difficult to keep track of Parishioners requests if they do not come through the Office. Fr Kieran

## EVENTS

### 8 and 15 July — EVENINGS FOR THE ENGAGED

Marriage preparation program will be held over two consecutive Saturdays. Enquiries to Mark and Kathy Haseler. Phone 61 66 76 34 or [mandk@velocitynet.com.au](mailto:mandk@velocitynet.com.au).

### 14 July - MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

Director Australian Catholic Bishops Conference position available. Full details available at [employmentrelations.catholic.org.au](http://employmentrelations.catholic.org.au) Applications close 5pm 14 July.

### 21 July - HEALING MASS FOR MENTAL HEALTH

At St Benedict's Narrabundah at 5:30 pm on 21 July

### 26 July - RE-IMAGING DISABILITY IN AUSTRALIA

Public lecture by Graeme Innes (AM) Australian company director, lawyer and human rights practitioner in NSW and WA. Room 300.G.23, Blackfriars Building ACU. RSVP by 21 July Phone 6209 1129 or [OCD.Canberra@acu.edu.au](mailto:OCD.Canberra@acu.edu.au)

### 13 August — WHAT IS HAPPENING TO MARRIAGE IN AUSTRALIA ?

Australian Family Association, National Conference. At Serbian Church Hall, National Circuit, Forest from 2 to 5 pm. Information [www.family.org.au](http://www.family.org.au) or email [act.family.org.au](mailto:act.family.org.au)

### 17 August — CHRISTIANS FOR AN ETHICAL SOCIETY

2017 Forum Series on Seeking our Moral Compass. Dinner at Bella Vista Restaurant Belconnen. Speaker: Kristina Keneally. Enquires Robyn Cogliari 6254 0487 or [admin@ces.org.au](mailto:admin@ces.org.au). Bookings close 7th August. Poster on notice board for further details.

### 18 August — TRIVIA NIGHT

A Trivia Night will be held at St Christopher's Parish Hall (new Haydon Hall), Franklin Street Manuka starting at 7:30pm until 9:30pm The proceeds from the night will aid Karinya House Home for Mothers and Babies Inc. Prepaid available from Cathedral Parish Office for \$15 a single and \$30 a family. Contact: 6234 5546 or [cathedral@cg.org.au](mailto:cathedral@cg.org.au)

### 19 August — CALL TO CONNECT—DAY RETREAT FOR WOMEN

Carmelite Monastery Red Hill from 9:15 am to 4pm. Cost \$35 per person, pensioner concession available. RSVP 14th August to Lorraine 0437 329 371. Details [www.calltoconnect.org](http://www.calltoconnect.org)

### 8 - October - MARIAN PROCESSION

Archbishop Christopher extends an invitation to all Catholics of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn to attend the 2017 Marian Procession at St Clement's Monastery, Galong. 9am: Youth Pilgrimage from Galong Village. 10.30: Confession. 11.30am: Mass with Archbishop Christopher. 12.30pm: Lunch. 2pm: Procession to the Grotto and sharing by Sr Mary Rachel (OP)

### ROSTERS 22 / 23 July 2017

#### Saturday 6.00 pm Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	R. Paul	
Readers	P. English	E. Smith
Presentation of Gifts	N. Higgins	
EMOE	T. O'Neill	

#### Sunday 8.00am Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	F. Bertrand	
Readers	M. Gabbitas	T. Klekner
Presentation of Gifts	Lestone Family	
EMOE	E. M. Falk	

#### Sunday 10.00am Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	T. Johnson	
Readers	C. Rheinberger	N. Price
Presentation of Gifts	E. Musolino	
EMOE	A. Moore	K. Murphy

#### Sunday 6.00pm Day Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	E. Kralikas	
Readers	M. Brothosodo	V. Van der Sanden
Presentation of Gifts	Malone Family	
EMOE	K. Sneddon	V. Van der Sanden
Counters	I. Buckley	