

Catholic Parish of Blackfriars

Issue 32
17th June 2018
Year B

Under the care of the Dominican Fathers



VERITAS



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 &
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Office Staff
Jacquie Cortese
Jim Smith

Office Hours
Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday
9.00am—12.30pm

Parish Council
Andrew Blakey

Mass times
Wed 5.30pm
Tues & Thurs 6.45am
Fri 5.30pm

Saturday 5pm (Vigil)
Sunday 8am, 10am & 5pm

9am Mass Saturday & Public
Holidays
excluding Mondays

Pray the Rosary
Wed & Fri before 5.30pm Mass
Saturday after 9am Mass
and First Saturday each month
3.30pm

Reconciliation
Saturday 12pm—12.30pm
and 4pm—4.30pm

ACU Chapel Signadou
Masses are now suspended
until February 2018

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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

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

ENTRANCE	<p>O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help. Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!</p>
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION	<p>Alleluia, alleluia! The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever. Alleluia!</p>
COMMUNION	<p>Holy Father, keep in your name those you have given me, that they may be one as we are one, says the Lord.</p>
READINGS	<p>Ezekiel 17:22-24 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 Gospel: Mark 4:26-34</p>

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

explains the growing of the kingdom of God from the smallest beginning to a worldwide shelter for mankind.



How is the mustard seed like the kingdom of God? We can look at this parable in two ways. In the big picture, this parable explains the kingdom of God worldwide and how it has grown and spread. On a more personal level, this story explains the kingdom of God within each believer and how individual faith growth has grown and spread.

PSALM: 91:2-3, 13-16

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.

Lord it is good to give thanks to you.

CHILDREN'S BULLETIN

If your children are taking a Children's Bulletin to colour-in please ensure that all the pencils are returned to the basket from which they were taken.

HEALING MASS

St Brigid's Church, Dickson will be holding a Healing Mass on Wednesday 27th June at 10.30am

CHURCH

Now that winter is upon us please be aware that if you leave used tissues, drink bottles, gloves, hats, paper, bulletins etc in the church someone else is having to clean up the mess left after Mass. PLEASE after Mass make sure you do not leave anything in the pews.

WINTER APPEAL

THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY will hold its Winter Appeal as a leaving collection at Masses this weekend 16/17 June.

Vinnies once again asks for your help in supporting its work with needy families in North Canberra. Receipts available.

*Don't wait for people to be friendly,
 show them how.*

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS WITHIN YOU

In the Gospel Reading, Jesus says that the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed. When it is sown in the ground, it is the smallest of seeds; but it can grow to become the largest of plants. The more a Christian fulfils God's will in her life, the greater the kingdom of God in her is. So, the kingdom of God can be very small, or it can change its size and become very big. But why wouldn't the kingdom of God always be the same size? To see the answer, you have to recognize that the kingdom of God isn't a peculiar kind of country. God's kingdom isn't a place at all. It's a condition, the condition of God's ruling as king. But, we might think, even so, God's kingdom can't shift sizes. God's rule is always the same size: it's everywhere.

And yet this can't be right either. What is ruled by a king is governed by the will of the king. But how much of God's will does any Christian fulfil? Everything is subject to the will of God the King, for sure, but not every Christian who counts as being in the kingdom of God fulfils God's will completely now.

So *this* is the way in which God's kingdom can change size. When a Christian does what is against God's will, to that extent the will of God is not fulfilled in her. And so, to that same extent, the kingdom of God is small in her too. On the other hand, the more a Christian fulfils God's will in her life, the greater the kingdom of God in her is.

This is one way we can understand Christ's parable of the mustard seed, then. When a Christian first opens himself up to receive God as Lord, the Lord rules very little of him. And so the kingdom of God is like the littlest seed in the ground of his heart. But if only he lets that seed grow in him, if only he doesn't give up on himself as fruitless and despair of himself, that littlest seed of God's kingdom will grow and grow in him till it becomes like a great tree in him. But in the end this is the most important thing to see. If you have even just a mustard seed's worth of faith and obedience, you still have the kingdom of God within you.

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

CONFIDENCE

It is difficult at times for Christians to maintain their hope in the coming of the Kingdom. The power of evil seems overwhelming, and the world presents itself as a formidable foe. The weapons of prayer and good works seem insignificant in a world of multinationals and intercontinental missiles.

Paul assures us, however, that "we continue to be confident," and "we are full of confidence." What is the source of this confidence? It comes from having a God "who is our hope and our strength, who brings low the high tree and lifts high the low tree." Having a God who makes the withered tree bloom gives us the courage to continue in the face of overwhelming odds.

It also helps to know that the Kingdom is not like the world, which prides itself on its longest bridges and tallest buildings and biggest cities and most powerful armies. The image of the Kingdom is the mustard seed, "the smallest of all the earth's seeds." In the Kingdom, one does not have to be president or king to make a difference; the smallest person is great and powerful. In the Kingdom, you don't have to lead successful military campaigns to change the course of history; the smallest action has unlimited potential.

There is no justification for despair or pessimism or inertia. Though it be with sorrow, it must be said that just as one may sin through selfishness and the desire for excessive profit and power, one may also be found wanting with regard to the urgent needs of multitudes of human beings submerged in conditions of underdevelopment, through fear, indecision and, basically, through cowardice.

Gerald Darring <http://liturgy.slu.edu/>

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

Elizabeth Cronin, Mary Bui, Fr Ellis Clifford, Dion Convine, Edith Jensen, Philip Bailey, Patricia Zorzi, Maureen Blood, Ken Rolls, Anne Corver, Barbara Wilson, Awny El-Ghitany, Joebert Tabiola, Elsie Laughton, Beth Delos Santos, Rosa Maria Santos, Maria Martiniello, Elizabeth Webster, Mimma Giampietro, Alexia Harris, Joe Schimizzi, Zelma McManus, Lynn & Richard Bale, Greg O'Neill

Our deceased

Michael Higgins, Nicola D'Ambrosio, Noel Whatmore, Emma Villamor

GOSPEL REFLECTION

In this week's Gospel reading, Jesus shares the parable of the Mustard Seed, giving his disciples an insight into what the Kingdom of God is like. It is a place where the smallest seeds can grow into the largest of all plants, offering abundant life and shade for all creatures. Sometimes when we post online, it can feel like the sowing of the smallest seed. Our impact amid all the noise on social media feels minimal – we might have a couple of dozen followers, rather than the hundreds of thousands that other accounts have. And yet Jesus' parable offers us hope – that our small impact might indeed grow into something even greater. This month, Pope Francis asks us to pray for social networks. He notes that: 'The Internet is a gift of God, but it is also a great responsibility. Communication technology, its places, its instruments have brought with it a lengthening of horizons, a widening, for so many people. It can offer immense possibilities for encounter and solidarity.'

SECRET RHYTHMS OF GROWTH

'When we move into mystery, into what is a meeting of the transcendent and the ordinary, we need words and images to express what is beyond expression. Sublime though these may be, they are experienced in very simple things. Today's Gospel uses two images about seeds to express the mystery of God's kingdom, the "where God is experienced". In the first parable once the seed is sown the farmer waits for harvest time. The cycle of growth follows its own secret rhythm; how it happens the farmer does not know. Even though nothing much seems to be happening, the miracle of growth is taking place. The farmer cannot improve the crop by staying awake at night and worrying: the seed is nurtured in its own silence. This seed is a great image of meditation. In meditation we just rest in silence with our prayer-word and let the growth to harvest take place. We do not know where this gift, this seed, the desire for silence, has come from. The harvest or the kingdom of God cannot be achieved by restlessly seeking instant results. In prayer nothing may seem to be happening but God's harvest comes in his own good time.'

Excerpts from a reflection by Father Gerry Pierse, C.Ss.R.

HUMBLE AND HIDDEN

'Today's gospel passage comes from a sequence called Mark's "day of parables". Mark begins his "day of parables" with three "seed" parable. The "Kingdom" Jesus announces is not a worldly triumph (something we need constantly to be reminded of); of its nature it has beginnings which are unimpressive and obscure by human standards. But in the end it initiates the realisation of the final achievement of God. Reference to the sickle and harvest echoes what the prophets had said about the End-time. Mark's audience, who had already seen the Church grow from being a marginal Jewish movement into an international fellowship, would have appreciated the prophetic promise of the original parable of Jesus. The "birds of the air" may be an echo of this. The seed growing mysteriously has a lesson for every age. The growth of the "kingdom" is God's work, a work that is vast and mysterious.

Excerpt from a commentary by Fr John Thornhill SM

THE POWER OF SMALL DEEDS

Eleventh Sunday of the Year.

fr Richard Finn OP helps us to see the power of small deeds in building the Kingdom of God.

The prophet Ezekiel once imagined Babylon as a mighty, brightly coloured eagle, which swooped down on the cedar tree of Israel and broke off its topmost shoot, Israel's hapless king Jehoiachin. The prophet was under no illusions when it came to the aggressors' overwhelming force. But Ezekiel's story turned to prophecy: God himself would take a tender shoot from the treetop. Where Babylon had brought low its royal captive, God would raise up a mighty tree offering shelter for all kinds of bird and wild animal.

This image is echoed in Jesus' parable of the mustard seed. God, as His wont, favours the underdog. He chooses the apparently insignificant to be the bearer of His burgeoning providence. The insignificant seed is Jesus Himself, the Galilean maverick. The seed grows to become the great tree in which all the birds can roost, when the nations find their place in Christ's kingdom, the New Israel of Jew and Gentile.

Unfortunately for us, the images of the seed and the full-grown mustard plant are not snapshots from before and after the resurrection. The tiny little seed isn't a matter of remote Christological history. Our entry into the spacious kingdom of God is through baptism into the apparent insignificance of Christ's life and death, a conformity to Him whose earthly life and death form the pattern of our true humanity.

So, Christ is still the mustard seed with whose exemplary humility we make our own. We talk glibly enough about the 'great and the good', but: can you be great and good in this fallen world? There are powerful temptations to climb the greasy pole or stay at the top by less than honourable means. The rewards of high office easily become an end in themselves, false gods of wealth and prestige. Perhaps the challenge of the parable is to think small enough, to be willing to shed our delusions of grandeur. This is what it is to think of others with due regard for their dignity as well as ours.

Yet, if the mustard seed is not entirely past history, neither is the great tree merely a pious hope for the future. Through our seemingly small acts of charity we take our place even now in that kingdom. The tree grows as we shrink. Blessed John Henry Newman wrote: 'One little deed, done against natural inclination, for God's sake, though in itself of a conceding or passive character, to brook an insult, to face a danger, or to resign an advantage, has in it a power outbalancing all the dust and chaff of mere profession.' If we ask what Newman's 'power', is a power for, it is surely a power for making holy, the power of sanctification. But it is not immediately visible to us; we rarely become holy overnight - and that may be where the other of our two Gospel parables becomes relevant. The kingdom is in some way like a man who sows seed which then grows unseen of its own accord. All the man should do is wait for the harvest. But that takes faith - what is sown so small grows unseen. And, yet, for those who wait faithfully the harvest will be rich.

Fr Richard Finn OP <http://english.op.org/torch>

THE CROSS

Is the cross you wear around your neck just an attractive piece of jewelry to you? Have you ever pondered the startling paradox of this symbol? After all, in Jesus' day the cross was an instrument of execution. Translated into modern terms, it's a bit like wearing a miniature electric chair around your neck! The repugnance of such an idea highlights the radical edge of the Gospel. Jesus' life led to suffering, loss, failure and even death. Yet it was precisely through such self-sacrifice that the resurrection was possible. As Christians we are called to life by walking the way of the cross. Not a religion for the faint-hearted!

Don't let those who take advantage of your generosity stop you from being generous.

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

SCHOOL OF RELIGION / CATECHISTS - New students are always welcome. This year-long faith education program is intended for children who do not attend Catholic schools. Catechists are still needed to help with the classes. Please contact the Parish Office if you'd like more 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 at www.wccm.org

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

COFFEE GROUP Our monthly coffee group will meet at Wilbur's, Hackett the **third Thursday** of each month at 10.30 am. We look forward to seeing our usual friends, 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 3.30pm in the Church. 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

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. If someone is in need of prayer or a visit at home, in hospital or by the Parish Priest - please, let us know.

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.

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

PARISH BULLETIN - DEADLINE for notices is **NOON TUESDAY** Please contact Jacque in the office Ph. 6248 5925 Fax.6248 7564 or Email: watson@cg.org.au

IMPORTANT PARISH INFORMATION

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 (6mths) and Baptisms. **It is difficult to keep track of Parishioners requests if they do not come through the Office.** 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. a minimum two weeks notice is required.

ROSARY'S MID WINTER MINGLE FUNDRAISER

Friday 22nd June - 6:00pm to 7:30pm, Veritas Building - 25 a head Dress: Smart casual. Come and support Rosary Primary School's mid-winter fundraiser. This social event will give you a chance to meet and/or catch up with others in the Rosary Community. There will be: · Drinks and Canapés · A Silent auction · A warm, fun atmosphere · Not too many speeches! Tickets can be purchased at the Rosary Front office.

QUOTE ~ ST THOMAS AQUINAS

*To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary.
To one without faith, no explanation is possible.*

EVENTS

PLENARY COUNCIL LISTENING & DIALOGUE SESSIONS

Your voice is important to shaping the future of the Church.
Canberra Sessions - Session 1 & 2 - Tuesday June 19 - 10am to midday and 7pm - 9pm Eastlake Football Club Gungahlin.
Session 3 & 4 - Thursday June 21- 10am to midday and 7pm - Eastlake Football Club Kingston. To learn more and to make submissions go to <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au>

22 - June THE FREEDOM OF RELIGION IN AUSTRALIA

This year's annual St Thomas More Forum Dinner will be held at Mercure Hotel, Ainslie. The Hon Dan Tehan MP will speak on 'The Freedom of Religion in Australia'. Time: 7pm for a 7:30 start, cost \$85 per head. Bookings RSVP 12pm Friday 15 June. Enquiries to [fo- rum@stthomasmore.org.au](mailto:forum@stthomasmore.org.au) or campbell@cg.org.au or 0416 823 447.

7-14 July - FROM DEATH TO NEW LIFE

The ACU Centre for Liturgy is offering a public Short Course "From death to new life: preparing and celebrating Catholic funerals" in the Haydon Hall, St Christopher's Pastoral Centre in Forrest, over two Saturdays, July 7 and 14. Leading scholars will investigate a Christian theology of dying and death and explore how the Order of Christian Funerals celebrates death in a specifically Catholic way. Registration is essential, at: http://www.acu.edu.au/acu_centre_for_liturgy/short_courses. For more information phone 02-9701 4751

14 July - "WINTER WOOLIES AT CALVARY" - The Calvary Hospital Auxiliary is having a WINTER WOOLIES sale on Thursday between 8.00am and 4.00pm in the main foyer of the Hospital. Take the opportunity to visit and buy scarves, beanies, crocheted/knitted rugs and many more hand knitted items while supporting the work of the Auxiliary, that raises funds to provide medical equipment and items for patient comfort. Enquiries Mary Cruickshank 62544084.

30 August - EVENINGS FOR THE ENGAGED

A marriage preparation program which will commence on Thursday, 30th August at 6.30 pm for five-weeks.
Enquiries: Mark and Kathy Haseler, 6166 7634.

14 - October - "MARIAN PROCESSION" Save the Date - This year will be a celebration of 100 years since the foundation of St Clement's Monastery. Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Yllana will be leading those gathered.

MEN ALIVE - The MenAlive group meet twice a month on Mondays at 7pm at St Raphael's Catholic Church Parish Office 47 Lowe Street Queanbeyan.

"Our lives are never measured by how many years we live but by the kindly things we do and the happiness we give."

ROSTERS 23 / 24 June 2018

Saturday 5.00 pm Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	I. Buckley	
Readers	K. Markcrow	D. Hinds
Presentation of Gifts	Vanderzil Family	
EMOE	J. Maclean	

Sunday 8.00am Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	J. Smith	
Readers	M. Gabbitas	T. Klekner
Presentation of Gifts	E. M. Falk	
EMOE	E. Smith	

Sunday 10.00am Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	L. Kim	
Readers	E. Northcote	J. Northcote
Presentation of Gifts	School	
EMOE	B. Affas	A. Northcote

Sunday 5.00pm Day Holy Rosary

Acolyte / Server	Volunteer	
Readers	J. Curnow	T. Malone
Presentation of Gifts	Malone Family	
EMOE	C. Mackay	Volunteer
Counters	T. Ryan	R. Walpole
		J. Smith