Catholic Parish of Blackfriars

Issue 37 12 July 2020 Year A

Under the care of the Dominican Fathers









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Mass Times

Monday - NO Mass Tuesday & Thursday 6:45am Wednesday & Friday 5:30pm Saturday - 9:00am Vigil - 5:pm Sunday - 8:00am, 10:00am, 5:00pm

Reconciliation

Saturday 12pm—12.30pm and 4pm—4.30pm

Adoration - Holy Hour Tuesday 12 Noon - 1:00pm

If you are in Urgent need of a Priest out of office hours call - 6248 8253

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



PLEASE DO NOT RETURN THE BULLETIN TO THE TABLE

YOU MUST FILL - IN THE REGISTER WHEN ATTENDING MASS, PRIVATE PRAYER, CONFESSIONS, PARISH GROUP OR FUNCTION PLEASE SANITISE YOUR HANDS ON ENTERING THE CHURCH OR PARISH CENTRE. WIPES ARE FOR YOUR USE IN WIPING SURFACES YOU TOUCH BEFORE LEAVING



4 kinds of hearts - you?

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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

FIRST READING

First Reading

Isaiah 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

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 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.

SECOND READING

Second Reading

Romans 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

Gospel

Matthew 13:1–23

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 hundred-fold, 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.']

[Short Form: omit text in brackets.]

Liturgy Brisbane

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

A SPIRIT OF PRAYFULNESS

A SPIRIT OF PRAYFULNESS



"It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to make music to your name 0 most high" (Psalm 92:1)

I remember as a child being scolded by my aunt when I demanded something from her (I can't remember what that was now!), "What's the magic word?" my aunt barked....."Thank you" I sheepishly replied.

Cont...Gratitude is an important disposition to have in our daily life, it represents one of life's little courtesies and reminds us that we live in a society, in a community of persons who can assist us as we go about our existence. Gratitude acknowledges the hard work someone has done, or the fact that someone has gone out of their way to assist us, it acknowledges also that without others we cannot truly exist well, no man is an island the old saying goes.

What about when it comes to our relationship with God? We have seen over the last two weeks that prayer takes on a variety of costumes, the prayer of adoration acknowledges who God is in relation to us, God is beyond us, transcendent and all powerful and we are small, that's the order or hierarchy of creation, the prayer of adoration is given to humanity to acknowledge God's dominion over all creatures

The prayer of contrition we looked at last week seeks to bring us into the reality of our own brokenness and woundedness which is theologically understood as sin, "all men have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). St John in his first epistle says if we deny that we sin we are in fact lying to ourselves (1 John 1:8). The prayer of contrition enables us then to expose ourselves to God's mercy "because with the Lord there is mercy and the fullness of redemption" (Psalm 130). In being contrite we face the reality that we are dependent on God ultimately for our holiness of life and indeed our loving Father through his Son Jesus sent the Holy Spirit amongst us for the forgiveness of sins and to reconcile us to God.

From the abundance of mercy shown to us and indeed for all the blessings we have received, it is important for us to give thanks, to acknowledge the benevolence of God. This attitude, and indeed it is a teaching of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, that we should render thanks to God for the benefits we have received. This attitude of gratitude is manifest for us in the story of Jesus and the ten lepers.

1 A time came when he was on his way to Jerusalem, and was passing between Samaria and Galilee; 12 and as he was going into a village, ten men that were lepers came towards him; they stood far off, 13 crying aloud, Jesus, Master, have pity on us. 14 He met them with the words, Go and shew yourselves to the priests; and thereupon, as they went, they were made clean. 15 One of them, finding that he was cured, came back, praising God aloud, 16 and threw himself at Jesus' feet with his face to the ground, to thank him; and this was a Samaritan. 17 Jesus answered, Were not all ten made clean? And the other nine, where are they? 18 Not one has come back to give God the praise, except this stranger. 19 And he said to him, Arise and go on thy way, thy faith has brought thee recovery.

Were not all ten made clean? And the other nine, where are they?

Jesus calls the healed lepers out, and indeed us by extension, for our failure to give glory to God for the benefits we have received. It behooves us then that when we pray, we pray with a heart filled with gratitude to God for the things we've received and to realise that with God we can do nothing (John 15:5). The heart of true gratitude is the realisation that everything we have received has come from the hand of God "what shall I render unto the Lord for everything he has given to me?" (Psalm 115:3).

God love you all. You're all in my prayers. Fr Mannes OP

The parable of the sower is one of Jesus' best-known stories. It is filled with word-pictures that can take root in our memories. We can see the sower, or the farmer, tossing handfuls of seed left and right. And when Jesus describes the four different kinds of soil that the seed falls on, we can compare ourselves to one of those categories. How sad it is that so much of the seed does not bear fruit. Yet the word of God does not return to God empty. There will always be enough people of "good soil" to see and hear and do the work of God. The reign of God will come!

GOSPEL COMMENTARY

Those looking in the scriptures for a clear exposition of doctrine or a systematic moral code are doomed to be disappointed. Such an enterprise is bound to be continually subverted by the variety of traditions, points of view, and forms of literature in the Bible. Subversion in fact is the name of the game when Jesus teaches in parables. These are short stories whose aim is to surprise. They appear to be a favourite teaching tool of Jesus. He engages his listeners' attention with a story that is generally about familiar things such as farming practice or managing a household. But there is a twist along the way, usually at the end. Jesus uses this unexpected turn to undermine his hearers' conventional views about "the way things are". They are meant to provoke insight into another reality – the kingdom of heaven.

Today we begin a series of three readings from the Parable Sermon in Matthew's gospel. First we are reminded by the prophet Isaiah of the sure power of God's word to effect its purpose. Then Paul invites us to accept that we are caught up in an unfinished process of cosmic rebirth, but we and the whole of creation will ultimately be set free.

Liturgy Brisbane

GOSPEL NOTES

Today and the next two Sundays the Gospels are taken from Matthew 13: the 'parable' chapter of the Gospel.

Heading the list is the great parable of the Sower, which with its long allegorical interpretation (vv. 18-23) and the intervening material (vv. 9-17) makes for a long Gospel reading indeed (13:1-23). Preachers who do attempt the longer text will have to cope with the rather difficult sayings that come between the parable and its interpretation.

In Matthew they are a reflection on that bulk of Israel that has not responded positively to the word of Jesus. The early Church took consolation in the sense that at least this bitter disappointment had been foreseen in Scripture and so was somehow part of the mysterious plan of God.

Excerpt Fr Brendan Byrne SJ

GROWTH IN THE KINGDOM

"Jesus 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. '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.

'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.

'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".'

Excerpt from a homily by Fr David Sanders OP

WHICH LISTENING GROUP DO YOU FALL INTO?

'Jesus described four types of listeners, three of whom were not listeners. They were the hard-surface, the dusty-surface and the cluttered surface types. People who either failed to hear him at all, or those who heard him but had their hearts somewhere else. The hard-surface types were perhaps like the religious people who thought they had no need to listen to Jesus, because they already had the truth, and were not going to allow him or any prophet to change their minds, especially if it meant changing their privileged status... we do not have to be pessimistic about ourselves; we have all of the failings which are represented by the hard surface, the dusty surface and the cluttered surface, but we can have hope, because God who chooses to use us, is the miracle worker who even in our hearts' poor soil can bring forth more good than we could ever have imagined.' Except from a homily by Fr Colin Carr OP.

PARISH

MASS INTENTION - please email or phone the Parish Office

HOLY MARY MOTHER OF GOD PRAYER GROUP meets 2.00pm **Thursdays** in the church. Contact the Office for information.

BLACKFRIARS MEDITATION GROUP meets on **Thursday** evenings in the 7.30pm Parish Centre. Enquiries John Jarvis 6296 2001 or Michael Flynn 6257 1038 - www.wccm.org

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.

PARISH BULLETIN - DEADLINE for notices is <u>NOON TUESDAY</u> Ph. 6248 5925 or Email: <u>watson@cg.org.au</u>

GOOD NEWS

COFFEE GROUP

Our monthly coffee group will meet again on Thursday 16th July (3rd Thursday in the month as previously) from 10.30am at Gang Gang Café, Frencham Place Downer. If you are able to join us can you ring Carmel on 6249 8884 - 0409 448 376 by Wednesday 15th July. Thank you. We look forward to seeing our friends again and welcome newcomers.

WEEKLY ENVELOPES

Please <u>DO NOT</u> use 2019/20 envelopes after this weekend. Envelopes for 2020/21 are now available in the foyer. Envelope numbers have been reallocated please destroy any left over 2019/2020 envelopes.

Receipts for 2019/20 contributions will be sent post / email after June 6th.

PLANNED GIVING & DONATIONS

CDF are making available a CBA secured CDF Bpoint payment page for payment of donations on the following link. https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/CATHOLICDEVELOPMENTFUNDARCHDIOCESEOFCANBERRA

DONATIONS FOR DIGNITY

Dear Parishioners, ACU Engagement are collecting the following items, to be provided to Companion House, St Vincent De Paul and Communities at Work. Any contribution is appreciated.

Personal Hygiene - Unused personal hygiene products.

 Soap, Hand Sanitiser Moisturiser, Body Wash, Shower Gel, Shampoo, Conditioner, Brushes & Combs, Toothpaste, Lip Balm, Toothbrushes, Razors, Sunscreen, Female Sanitary products, Deodorant and Perfume.

Winter Warm-Up - Well maintained and clean winter clothing and accessories for men and women, such as:

 Coats, Jackets, Jumpers, Cardigans, Hoodies, Skivvy's, Scarves, Beanies, Gloves, Mittens, Long Pants, Long Johns, Socks, Sleeping Bags, Blankets.

Threads of Change - Well maintained and clean professional attire and accessories for men and women, such as:

 Suits, Shirts, Pants, Dresses, Skirts, Handbags, Shoes, Belts, Makeup, Ties, Jackets, Blouses, Jewellery, Watches.
 Donations can be left in foyer in the boxes provided, thank you.

NEW LITURGY ROSTER

Acolytes and Readers on the new Liturgy Roster can pick up the new roster from the Sacristy. If you have an email address on the database you will have received a copy electronically.

ADORATION

Would you like to spend some special time with our Lord?
Visit Him in the Blessed Sacrament. Adoration will be held each
Tuesday from 12 noon until 1:00pm in the Church.
A roster is available in the foyer for Parishioners to sign-up.

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

Alexia Harris, Maria Martiniello, Greg O'Neill,
Moya McGrath, Mary Martin, Barbara Wilson, Mary Bui, Anne
Corver, Ursula Ramsay, Edith Jensen, Frank Zobec,
Maureen Dawes, Philip Bailey, Fr Ellis Clifford, Mimma Gia,
Awny El-Ghitany, Rosa Maria Santos, Margaret Suillivan,
Zelma McManus, Elizabeth Webster, Fr Joe McGeehan,
Joe Schimizzi, BobHackett, Elsie Laughton, June Pollard, Paul
Neddrie, Pamela Sandy, Beth Delos Santosmpietro,
Maureen Blood, Barbara Parsonage

Our recently Deceased: May they find peace and comfort in the embrace of the Lord.

Bob Drury

Anniversaries - In Loving Memory

Greg Spies

HELP WITH ACCOMODATION

An International student from Myanmar who is studying English at CIT is urgently seeking affordable accommodation. International students do not qualify for financial assistance from the Australian government and, like many, he is struggling to meet living costs while his course is suspended. Please contact Jane Schwinghamer on 0420 215 660 if you can help.

REGISTER HELP

HELP is required to Register Parishioners before Mass, if you are able to help please call the office watson@cg.org.au or 62485925.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Do you know the difference between hearing and listening? Sometimes we might hear somebody talking to us, but we are not really listening. Maybe we are distracted, or maybe our hearts are not open to hearing or responding to what the other person is saying. It is just like this when we hear the message of Jesus too. Is your heart open to hearing the word of God today?

ROSTER	18 / 19 July	
	Saturday 5pm	
Acolyte / Server	T. Johnson	
Readers	K. Markcrow	D. Hinds
	Sunday 8am	
Acolyte / Server	K. Linard	
Readers	N. Clarke	G. Thompson
	Sunday 10am	
Acolyte / Server	R. Tanzer	
Readers	A. O'Donnell	L. Fardel
	Sunday 5pm	
Acolyte / Server	L. Kim	
Readers	J. Curnow	T. Malone

"If you ask how such things can occur, seek the answer in God's grace, not in doctrine; in the longing of the will, not in the understanding; in the sighs of prayer, not in research."-

St. Bonaventure