



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.’

## ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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## THE GROWTH OF THE KINGDOM

Today's readings converge in their concern that we take time to wonder and reflect on the nature of the kingdom of God, its growth in the world, and in our own lives.

Despite its brevity, the reading from Isaiah is a powerful statement of hope in the ability of God's word to foster life and bring about growth. As the people of Israel struggled to rebuild after the exile Isaiah proclaimed his conviction in the power of God's word.

As Christians, how do we maintain our hope when the world is in confusion? How can we speak of the power of God's word when it is often challenged by our experience of the world desperate for healing and peace? After nearly 2000 years these questions may even be more critical for us than they were in Paul's time. For Paul the key lies in the image of the world and ourselves being involved in the painful process of giving birth. Christians have already received the gift of the Spirit as a foretaste and pledge of what is yet to come.

Jesus' timeless parable of the sower invites us to take heart that despite opposition the seed of God's kingdom has been planted in our world. Opposition, difficulties, and misunderstanding are surely present, but the growth of the kingdom is assured. Perhaps the most pressing question of all is whether we have ears to hear, and the faith to believe, that the kingdom will take root and grow in our world and hearts.



Christopher Monaghan CP

## FIRST READING

Isa 55:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The rain makes the earth give growth.*

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.'

## ■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

Ps 64:10-14. R. Lk. 8:8

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

1. You care for the earth, give it water, / you fill it with riches. / Your river in heaven brims over / to provide its grain. **R.**
2. And thus you provide for the earth; / you drench its furrows, / you level it, soften it with showers, / you bless its growth. **R.**
3. You crown the year with your goodness. / Abundance flows in your steps, / in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **R.**
4. The hills are girded with joy, / the meadows covered with flocks, / the valleys are decked with wheat. / They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Rom 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*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.

## ■ The word of the Lord.

## 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

Mt 13:1-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*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 for 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:

Parish Priest: Fr. Mark Croker  
Mobile : 0428 190 759  
Presbytery 02 8331 7609

Wednesdays- Fr. is at Bombala Parish  
Mass: 9.30am & Delegate 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed 10.30am  
Parish Secretary:  
Mrs Sharon Nesbitt 02 8331 7608  
Office Opening Hours  
Mon Wed Thu open hours 9am-1pm/  
2-4.30pm  
Email: cooma@cg.org.au

[www.cg.org.au/cooma](http://www.cg.org.au/cooma)

Sacramental Program

Phone: Fr Mark Croker  
0428 190 759

St Patrick's Parish School

Principal:

Mrs Frances Robertson  
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<http://stpatcooma.nsw.edu.au>

[www.facebook.com/stpatcatholicparishcooma](http://www.facebook.com/stpatcatholicparishcooma)

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Darren 0429 904 291

[www.cg.org.au/cooma](http://www.cg.org.au/cooma)

[www.cg.org.au/Jindabyne](http://www.cg.org.au/Jindabyne)

[www.cg.org.au/Bombala](http://www.cg.org.au/Bombala)

## ST PATRICK'S PARISH FAMILY THREE PARISHES TOGETHER



*Baptism Request forms can be located on Parish website/at Parish Office, Fr Mark will be available to celebrate during mass on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month*

St Patrick's Cooma Mass  
Mass Sunday's at 10am  
Cooma Sacrament of Reconciliation  
Thu 1<sup>st</sup> June 4pm  
St Patrick's Weekday  
Mass: Tues, Thu, Fri 10am  
Except Third Friday of Month  
Nursing Home Mass  
9.30am Yallabee Lodge  
11am Sir William Hudson  
Adaminaby volunteer required-  
Nimmitabel  
Mass 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
\*5pm Sat Vigil Mass  
1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Sun- LITURGY Sat 5pm

Numeralla

Mass 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 5.00pm  
LITURGY 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 5.00pm

Berridale

Mass 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of month  
Vigil Mass Saturday's at 3.30pm  
1<sup>st</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Liturgy  
of the Word 10am Sunday

Jindabyne

2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> = Vigil Mass 5pm Sat  
1<sup>st</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Liturgy 5pm Sat

We warmly welcome Fr Renoir Oliver.sss. from Canberra to celebrate Mass at Cooma and Jindabyne Parishes.

Please Pray for our Recently Deceased,

"We have loved them in life, let us not forget them in death":

Mario Frezza funeral Monday at 11am; Margaret Kellond, Clare Nowland

Anniversaries & Special Intentions: "In loving memory of"

Tom Dennis, Keith Tozer, Fred Hanna, Liliana Frezza.

Prayers for our Sick: "We pray for the sick and hospitalised: may they feel the healing power of Christ and find comfort and hope in His constant presence" Jara Gregor,

Direct Debit Request forms are available at the Parish Office to provide cash free donation, you choose frequency and donation amount direct from your account.

The Catholic Parish of Pambula invites members of your community to join with Archbishop Christopher Prowse and other pilgrims, as he leads a pilgrimage to Eden on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August. This pilgrimage will commemorate Australia's first saint, Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop, at the site she visited on two separate occasions, in 1899 and 1901. St Mary has played a very significant role in the establishment of Catholic education in our archdiocese. This pilgrimage is an opportunity to give thanks for the work done in Catholic education and honour Australia's first saint.

Please see notice board.

Next weekend Readings

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time /A

1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Wis 12:13, 16-19
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Rom 8:26-27
Gospel	Matthew 13: 24-43

We have TAP n Go is available in Church entrance for your donations. (Archdiocese split 70/30: 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> JUST TAP! The New Smart Device at door has the option to Choose your own contribution amount -

Just select and tap!

The grace period of Nil Fee's has now lapsed (6mths) and the Parish is responsible for a monthly fee which is a Rental Fee of \$24.50. Please consider using this facility to enable device to be kept for the visitors to donate to our Church especially during peak seasons. Please promote this Smart Pay terminal, to reduce cash handling and risk management.



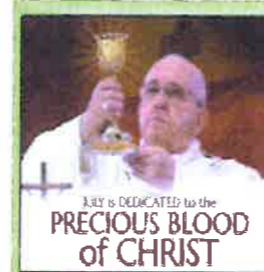
Catholic Archdiocese of  
Canberra and Goulburn



Year of the Holy Spirit  
AUGUST 2023 - AUGUST 2024

A new Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Prowse – Announcing the Year of Grace. A copy is available in Church foyer or on your parish website:

Found: gold key in transept near door some weeks back, if you may have dropped a key please see Sharon at Parish office



JULY IS DEDICATED TO THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS

"The Precious Blood which we worship is the Blood which the Savior shed for us on Calvary and reassumed at His glorious Resurrection; it is the Blood which courses through the veins of His risen, glorified, living body at the right hand of God the Father in heaven; it is the Blood made present on our altars by the words of Consecration; it is the Blood which merited sanctifying grace for us and through it washes and beautifies our soul and inaugurates the beginning of eternal life in it."

Blooper in a church bulletin: "The church had a going-away party for Pastor Smith. The congregation was anxious to give him a little momentum."

Message on the outside sign of Faith Temple Church, Sioux Falls, SD: "We welcome all denominations — \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100."