

**Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary
Time A 12 Jul 2020**

First Reading *Is 55:10-11*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
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.'

*The Word of the Lord
R Thanks be to God*

Responsorial 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.

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

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

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

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
R Thanks be to God*

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 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.'

*The Gospel of the Lord
R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ*

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

If you can look into the seeds of time, and say which grain will grow and which will not, speak then unto me.
- William Shakespeare



**ST BERNARD'S PARISH
BATEMANS BAY**
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Tuesday-Friday

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Deacon: Don Nguyen
Sr. Marie McAlister 0429383333
Secretary: Roslynn Trompp
Finance Admin: Anne Jackson
PC Co-ord: Marie Weatherall

Principal: Mrs. Jo Wain
St. Bernard's Primary School
Batehaven
Principal: Mrs. Jacqui Heffernan
Carroll College
Broulee

WEEKLY MASS TIMES

Tues 14: 5.30 Mass
Wed 15: 9am Mass
Thurs 16: 9am Mass
Fri 17: 9.15am Mass
Sat 18: 9am Rosary
9.30am Recon
6pm Mass
Sun 19: 9am Mass
5pm Mass

ROSTERS 11/12 JULY

Church Cleaning
D & L May (13-17)
Welcomers
6pm B Wilson
9am C Connell
5pm D Ebejer
Commentator
6pm P Billington
9am A Brown
5pm M O'Neill
Readers
6pm H Blake
9am A Skinner
5pm S Ebejer
Eucharistic Ministers:
6pm: A Rogers, M Bridges
9am: V & C Burns
5pm: L Favetta
Computer Screen
6pm K Conway
9am T Priest
5pm T Jackson

ROSTERS 18/19 JULY

Church Cleaning
M deSmet & J Maher (20-24)
Welcomers
6pm K Conway
9am A Skinner
5pm M deSmet
Commentator
6pm P O'Kelly
9am N Beatty
5pm K O'Sullivan
Readers
6pm J Mackay
9am B Basevi
5pm J O'Sullivan
Eucharistic Ministers:
6pm: H Blake, M Weatherall
9am: G Norris, L Stevens
5pm: D Gorzalka
Computer Screen
6pm T Jackson
9am T Priest
5pm M O'Neill

15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—A



The Sower

The word "parable" comes from the Greek word 'parabole', which means putting two things side by side to compare them. In the parables, Jesus will often place a simile from life or nature against the abstract idea of the reign of God.

This weekend, Jesus used the parable of the sower to draw the attention of His disciples to the "Good News"

and the diverse responses from the hearers. This was at a time when the Scribes and the Pharisees visibly opposed His ministry. With the parable, Jesus encouraged the disciples, about the fruitfulness of the Gospel regardless of opposition and controversy. Matthew may have included this parable in his Gospel, as his own Judeo-Christian community had experienced similar adversity from their fellow-Jews, just as people today are frustrated in their attempt to live the Gospel in a consumerist, hedonist, materialist, atheistic and agnostic society, besides the ongoing influence of science and secularism.

In the parable, the yield depended on the soil type:

-The soil along the path: This soil is too hard to absorb the seed. Soon the birds eat it up or passers-by trample it under foot. Jesus explains that this soil is like the person who hears the word of God without letting it sink in. The seed/word is then replaced by worldly concerns. This type of soil represents people whose hearts and minds are closed because of laziness, prejudice, fear, pride, or immoral living.

-The soil on flat circular pieces of limestone: This soil-type represents emotional people who are always looking for novelties but never take a permanent interest in anything. Jesus explains that this kind of person is at first impressed by the message but quickly loses interest because of the effort needed to keep the word alive.

-The soil filled with weeds: This soil represents people addicted to sinful habits and tendencies and those whose hearts are filled with hatred, jealousy, fear, and greed. They are distracted by the worldly attractions.

-The good soil: This soil-type represents the people who hear the word of God and diligently keep it, with open hearts. They are eager to hear the word and ready to put it into practice. They are attentive to the Holy Spirit. Fortunately, the Gospel is filled with people who have accepted the Lord's message and whose lives have been changed. In them, Jesus' words, despite obstacles and barriers, will produce the fruits of the Kingdom. Although the seed may seem scattered at random, it will nevertheless produce amazing results: thirty-fold, sixty-fold – even a hundred-fold.

The spiritual yield in life depends on how fully and willingly a person accepts and responds to the Gospel. God's word never blossoms alongside greed, snobbishness, and the love of the easy life. It is easy to fall into complacency after listening to the word many times, however, the readings this weekend invites us to be open to the word anew and to produce appropriate fruits. "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away", says the Lord (Matt. 24.35).
Fr Martins

Pope Francis Monthly Prayer Intentions

JULY Our Families

We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.



STAMPS FOR MISSION

In this period of isolation have you been getting any extra mail? If you have, did you know saving the stamp can help to support God's mission in the world? Sale of the stamps can raise thousands of dollars in funds that can be used to support projects where needed. New or used stamps are accepted. Bring them into the office and we will gratefully send them away for you.



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

O Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of heaven and earth, and tender Mother of humanity, at this time when a pandemic threatens all your children, we entrust to you our nation, Australia, and all who live in this country. We commit to your intercession all the members of our community, beginning with the weakest ones, from the unborn to the sick, the disabled and the elderly. We commit to you our families, our young and old, and all who are vulnerable, those who are quarantined or anxious. We entrust to your Immaculate Heart those who have lost their livelihood or employment, our pastors and other essential service workers, and our leaders at this time. We implore your intercession especially for the protection of doctors and nurses and those who minister to the contagious sick in this crisis. Reign over us, Mother of God, and teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus reign and triumph in us and around us, as it has reigned and triumphed in you!

BUSHFIRE SUPPORT COUNSELLING

Catholic Care is offering a free counselling service to support all those impacted by bushfires. Sessions are available via telehealth services. Please call 1800 068 698 to make an appointment

The Baptist Church is offering a free counselling service for people who are recovering from the trauma of the recent fires and the coronavirus isolation. For appointments please ring Pastor Rob on 0414 577 500

BUSHFIRE GRANTS

Grants through the Red Cross are still open. People who have been affected by any bushfire between July 2019 and March 2020 can apply. Emergency and re-establishment, residence repair and injury grants can all be accessed at https://www.redcross.org.au/grants or by telephone on 1800 733 276

PART TIME PARISH SECRETARY

People are invited to apply for the position of Parish Secretary for Sacred Heart Parish, Moruya. This is a part-time permanent position, 15 hours per week, Wednesday—Friday 9am—2pm.

Requirements:

- Experience with Microsoft suite & database packages.
· Strong communication and liaison skills
· Strong organisational skills
· Ability to work in a team environment and show personal initiative.
· Desire to share in the mission of Christ in the Catholic tradition.
· Salary will be subject to Clerk Award Level 4 rates.

Please email your application (including resume) to George.azhakath@cg.org.au. Application addressed to Fr George Azhakath, Parish Priest must be received by Friday 24th July, 2020.

Parish Masses New Rules From July 1st 2020

From 1 July, churches in NSW are open for Masses under the four-square-meter rule. Provision of contact details and registration is recommended. Unable to attend Mass? Fr Martins and the Parish Pastoral Care Team members are available for Communion at Home. Please call the office to arrange a time on 4472 4153



Parish Pastoral Care Team Retreat

'Calming Waters...flowing into life' will take place on Tuesday August 4th 9am for 9-15 am start - 11-45am at St Joseph's Convent Chapel facilitated by Sr Marie & Marie Weatherall. Please park in Church grounds. Cost=Free. Health protocols will be followed. RSVP: Monday July 27th Sr. Marie: 0429 383 333 or Marie W: 0405 028 057.



SINGALONG WILL STILL BE HELD AS AN E-ACTIVITY DUE TO THE CONTINUATION OF NSW RESTRICTIONS ON GROUP SINGING. PLEASE FEEL WELCOME TO JOIN IN ON ZOOM.

This Sunday 12 July is Sea Sunday when the church prays for those live and work on the sea. Stella Maris, Apostleship of the Sea is the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church. Today's Appeal supports seafarers both practically and spiritually. During the Covid-19 pandemic, seafarers continue to bring products to sustain our population and economy, often at personal risk to their health. To support this ministry, please send your donations to: https://aos-australia.org/sea-sunday-appeal/

Embroidery group (NSW Embroiderers Batemans Bay group) is establishing a "Chat and Create" group on Tuesdays, fortnightly ... beginning on Tuesday 21st July. If interested in sharing please ring Gerri on 0400035892 for further details. Thank you

PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

If you would like to join the Parish e-platform giving, the details are as follows:

1st Collection Acc. Name: Central Presbytery Fund Bank Acc: 000029248 BSB: 062-786 Ref: TOWN & SURNAME. Eg: Batemans bay Jones

2nd Collection Supports the running costs of the Parish Acc. Name: St Bernard's Operating Account BSB: 062-786 Bank Acc:000012939 Ref: Family Name

Please note: For banking at any bank but not the Commonwealth Bank You may also contribute using this link: https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/CATHOLICDEVELOPMENTFUNDARCHDIOCESEOFCANBERRA.

Remembering the Sick:

Dennis Sheather, Mary Henderson, James Lee, George Fitzgerald, Diane Lanzon, Marion O'Grady, Victor Edith, Jan Simpson, Dawn Robinson, Margaret Harris, Bill Giust, Allan Odum, Luke Ward, Rosemary Cooley, Andrew Morton, Ken Evendon, Janet Thornberry, Judy Betts, Anica Bautovic, Glenda Gallagher, Robert Craddy, Angela Mylott, Jeanette Clarke, Maureen Kinross, Vince Burns, Jim Banks and those in our local Nursing Homes and Hospital

Death Anniversaries:

Michael Guymmer, Lynette Nunan, Dawn Latta, Doreen Walker, Kevin Smith, Filomena Favetta, Harry Golbach, Denis Johnson, Joyce Karlish, Hazel Elliot We pray for the recently deceased in the Parish Community: Eli Chatfield, Leonard O'Hara, Mary Carter, Joe Johnson, Noni Boyce, Rose Lambert, Tony Craddy, Terry Parsons, Anne Bevern, Gwen Burrows, Sylvia Mayer, Veronica Holmes, Barbara Simpson

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Wrap With Love Tue 14th July 10 am
Wed 29th July 11 am
Bible Study/Faith Formation—Wed 9.30am
Craft Group—Thursday 10am--12pm



Adoration—Friday 5.30 pm
Reconciliation— Saturday 9.30am

E-Activity Singalong Mon 1pm

Parish Coffee Club
You are invited for coffee and chat Thursdays after Mass
VENUE: Corrigans Cove, @ Batehaven

District Funerals
Mark Hewson JP
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