

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 19 July 2020

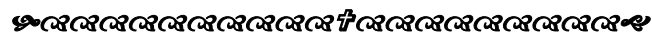
Wheat Among The Weeds. The world in which we live is a mixture of wheat and weeds. Wonderful acts of heroism and self-sacrifice occur alongside acts of violence and abuse of power. In the midst of a world tainted by sin we are called to live the values of the kingdom of God. This can be difficult, but the Spirit will help us in our weakness and God, the just and merciful judge, will reward us.

Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, you are good and forgiving.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!



A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org or call (02) 9390 5810 or You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Prayer Resources during time of Pandemic

The Archdiocese of Sydney has a dedicated webpage with prayers and scriptural reflections to help nurture your faith during these difficult times. You'll find the webpage here- <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-updates/prayer-resources-for-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>



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info@stambconcord.catholic.edu.au

Sunday Masses: Sat Vigil 5pm, Sunday 9.30am & 5pm
Live-streamed Mass: Sat Vigil 5pm. You can participate from your home online & receive the Spiritual Communion.

Weekday Masses: 9am Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri (or Fri 9.15am school Masses)
Tuesday evening 7.30pm

Saturday 8.30am Devotions to Our Lady of Lourdes
Saturday 9am Mass

Reconciliation: Sat 3.30 – 4.30pm

Adoration: Mon & Fri 6-9pm, Tues 5.45pm – 7.15pm,
Sat 3.30 - 4.30pm, Italian Cenacle: Mon 9.30am

Holy Hour & Cenacle: Wed after 9am Mass, Fri 9.30am

Baptisms: 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month at 11am by appointment.

Weddings: by appointment. Contact Parish Office.

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2020 Sacraments Program

We are very pleased to announce that our First Reconciliation Sacrament will go ahead as planned – however there will be restrictions to ensure the health of our children and their families.

First Reconciliation- Saturday 8, 15 and 22 August at 2pm
First Holy Communion- Sunday 1, 8 and 15 November at 11am

Please contact the Sacramental Coordinator for further information
sacraments@stambrose.org.au



**Please remember in your prayers the following
for whom Masses will be offered.**



Recently Deceased: Gladys Seruys, John Kola, Gaylene Ann Hickey, Cecilia Marcaida, Lynette Prins, Leena D'Mello

Anniversaries: Lauren Hew, Emanuela Pisani, Boris Slaminka, Marko Tadinac, Una Harris, Gordon & Gwen Cootes, Ettore Ciccotti

Others: Fr Kevin McGovern, Patrick & Margaret Egan, Veronica & Anne Gough, Mario Iannacito, Angelo Iannacito, Mabel & Kevin Rice, Peter Waters, Helen Timpanaro, Paul Broderick, Harry O'Hara, Eugene & Aileen Morris, Ted & Laura Merlino, Harriet David, Terry Tully, Michael Culligan, Angelina Camuglia, Dr Leonado Dimaculangan, Jennifer Bast, Doug Kemp, Carmel Cullinan, Francesca Vizzari, Anthony Zovaro, Eric Pewal, Chris Elliott, Paola Pilosio, John Ferranda, Olivero Vendramin, Thomas Murickananickal & Kochappan, Joseph, Anna Nguyen, Gordon Bridges, John Baptist Nguyen, Giuseppe Rubbo, Teofilo Zamora, Paul, Filomena Agostino, Marie Madeleine Danev, Nicola Betro, Margaret Sharpe, Tamam Koloj, Helen Timpanaro, Mario Gemin, John Ryan, John & Gwen Kennedy, Antoinette Constable, Ludivina Green, Agata Rodi, John Baptista Zammit, Catherine and John Manning, Joe and Mary Mangion, Rema Flannery, Margaret Jean Sharpe, John Pomroy, Mary & Ernest Vanzella, Gaetano Patamia, Filomena Agostino, Ruby Madera, Jack Kocina, Maria & Carlo Colongioli, Anwar Ghraiche & Family, Nguyen Families, Caoile Families, Iannacito, Funaro & Di Iorio Families, Guisepppe & Maria Idiotta, Whiteford Family, Culligan Family, Cootes Family, Zammit Family, DeBono Family, Moses Family, Nancy's Family, Dahdah Family, Wheeler & Higgins Families, Morson Family, Anthony Abraham, Abraham, George & Cherote Families, Kennedy and McGovern Families, John White, June Bates, Dorothy Vantwest, Thelma & Stephen Muller & Family, Soloman Family, Merrell, Bourke, Gielis & Shields Families, deceased members of St Vincent de Paul Society, dearly departed souls and all souls in Purgatory.

Please pray for the sick especially:

Lorna Redolfi, Yuan Sheng Ye, Theresa Tan's mum, Veronica Rutherford, Baby Willow Rose Frazer, Paul Dovico, Jim Branley, David Bagnato, Angela, Rosaria Natalina Patamia, Felice Minuttillo, Charlie Rossini, Kelly & Ursula, Giuseppina Algozzino, Peggy Kerr, Viru, Fr Paul Boyers, Kevin McGrath, John and Betty Gattenhof, Esther Tully, Gary and Leslie McGrath, Rosa Mastro, Tanya Greenaway, Gianna, Matthew, Luisa, Zia Pina, Grace Comare, Sean Peters, Elizabeth Esguerra, Juliet Walsh, Barbara Wayne, Marilyn Deguara, Elijah, Adrian Vanzella, Matthew Chan, John Rodrigues, Belinda Nicholls, Nan Peters, Carmela Smigliani, Shinta Widzaza, Alan Borg, Rosa Maria Santos, Bhupinder Tamber, Rebecca Sinclair, Marina Arasaratnam, Teresa Domalewski, Adel Abraham, Anne Vassily, Gloria Clark, Kim Long, Bob & Marion Merrell, Terry Murphy, Stacey Spencer, Joanne Ford, David, Celia and Gomes Family, Warwick Cook, Louise, James Anthony Manassa, June Corcoran, Rosina Morson, Celina Shaw, Laurence O'Connell, Sam Carroll, Dr Bede Muller, Robert Carey, Carmen Zammit, Mario Bianco, Rochelle Rodrigues, Kevin Desouza, Pat Toohey, Charmaine Yu, Anne Collins, Anna Viteznik, Adrian Walker, Lauren Wedd, Sara Benjamin & Family, Peter Weinfeoe, Ivy Ross, Dr Siri Kannangara, Maria Rosa de Angelis, Frank Zappia, Cecily Culligan

NOTICE FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS DURING MASS

Re Archdiocesan Parish Safeguarding Policy

This policy aims at safeguarding all our many volunteer Ministers, as well as safeguarding our children and any vulnerable adults. The volunteers required to be covered by this policy are those people in any way connected with the celebration of Eucharist, namely Eucharistic Ministers at Mass or Hostel, Youth Choir Ministers, Lectors, Children's Liturgy of the Word Ministers, Collectors, Counters, and Acolytes.

Thank you to all those who have already collected their personal KITS from the foyer of the church and have followed through and obtained their WWCC. The final step is online training which is quite simple to do and much quicker than face to face training which will not be possible for some time. To assist you with this, I can send you the website if you email me on judith.clark@rscsisters.com.au

Twelve people have already sent for the website, done the training and secured the Salt Certificate.

I HAVE LEFT A PLASTIC BOX IN THE PRIESTS' SACRISTY FOR YOU TO PUT ALL YOUR PAPERWORK RETURNS FOR RECORDING, not online please.

All details of each person's forms are required

- 1. To be recorded by me**
- 2. A copy kept in Parish Records....and**
- 3. A record of all details forwarded to the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Office.**

The Parish is currently being asked for a review of how the process of "Safeguarding" our generous volunteers is moving ahead. This process was begun four years ago, in response to the Royal Commission into Sexual Abuse and is coming to a close, prior to an audit of all Australian parishes. This is to ensure that our Parish of St. Ambrose' Concord West is well covered by law in regard to the safety of our children and vulnerable adults and that our

leadership has acquiesced in the process to protect all our generous volunteers.

I have treated the work in mounting this whole project as part of my Christ-given mission to the people of this Parish. It has taken many hours. It was good to interact with so many. Sr.Judith

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS
COMPLETING SAFEGUARDING PAPERWORK



Working With Children Checks

When returning your **safeguarding KIT paperwork to the parish**, please include your WWC number printout so the parish can verify you as a volunteer who has been cleared to undertake voluntary work at St Ambrose parish.

In order for the parish to process your verification with the NSW Working With Children Office **we need your date of birth. Please write your date of birth on the WWC printout along with a contact number so we can contact you if necessary.**

Please return KITS when ALL requirements have been completed.

CatholicCare outreach to the lonely and isolated

CatholicCare and the Parishes of the Sydney Archdiocese are here to support vulnerable people in our local communities during lockdown. We can connect local volunteers to people who need help with their shopping and errands or even just for a regular friendly chat over the phone. If you, or someone you know, could use a little help during this time, CCareline 13 18 19 can connect you with a local volunteer from your community. CCareline 13 18 19 is a free and confidential helpline for counselling, relationships, parenting, ageing, disabilities, addictions and mental health. CCareline is here to help. Call 131819 Monday - Friday 8am to 6pm.

Catholic Women's League (CWL)

Many thanks to all who contributed to the Silver Circle. Congratulations to the winners.

Three worthy causes benefited from your generosity.

- (1) The Vincent de Paul Society
- (2) Catechists' teaching aids
- (3) The CWL 'Project of the Year'

Annually the CWL Archdiocese of Sydney, with parish branch consultation chooses the 'Project of the Year' in an overseas country. (This maybe an orphanage, school, hospital etc.) Due to the lingering drought and recent bushfires, until the end of June this year money was redirected to our NSW farmers. Our branch has also contributed to school equipment in the Wilcannia Dioceses.

Ladies please come and join us on the 4th Saturday of each month at 2.45 PM. You may be able to help fold the Parish Bulletin while enjoying a yummy afternoon tea and friendly chat. Our meeting commence at 3.30.PM in the Parish House. Please use the driveway entrance on Burke Street.

Date of our next meeting Saturday 25th July.

If you are unable to attend our meetings you are still welcome to become a member. Occasional social events and outings add to our friendship and all are invited.

For more information please see.

Jay Turner. (Secretary) H.9743 1904. Mob. 0427 017

Trish Leckie. (Treasurer) 9765 1295. Mob. 0419 638 683

Yolanda Tolhurst. (Vice President) 9743 1900

Marion Ryan (President) or H. 9743 2544. Mob. 0433 994 456

Marion_ver_ryan@hotmail.com (preferred)

Room available in retired professional's home with verandah and garden. Close to Concord Hospital and transport. Suit mature working lady or pensioner. Dog OK. Terms Negotiable. Please see or ring Fr Brian.

Br Julian's Reflection. 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“The kingdom of God may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep, his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat...The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed...the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants...The kingdom of God is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until the whole mass of dough began to rise.”

Matthew 13, 24-43

What we now call Matthew's Gospel is a collection of stories and parables about the origins, life and teachings of Jesus. The writer had put them together to affirm and encourage a Christian community that was less than popular with a much larger community of traditional Jews, who could not accept that Jesus was the Messiah, the Christ of God. Seemingly, Matthew wrote as he did to encourage his community to see that they were the ones entrusted with keeping alive God's promises to Israel. Matthew wanted them to realise that they were the good quality wheat threatened with being choked by the destructive weeds that surrounded them; that they were the mustard seed that would grow into a large shrub offering shelter; that they were the yeast that would rise to provide bread and nourishment to feed the world. It is these three parables. - of the wheat and weeds, the mustard seed, and the yeast in the dough. - that make up today's gospel. We need to tread warily as we negotiate our way through them, especially the first about the wheat and the weeds. If we were to take that parable literally, we could end up thinking that the world is made up of only two kinds of people - good and bad - and that, in the final analysis, the bad will all be burned up. To begin with, that flies in the face of Jesus' earlier description of God and his exhortation to the disciples: "My command to you is: love your enemies, pray for your persecutors. This will prove that you are sons of your heavenly Father, for his sun rises on the bad and the good, he rains on the just and the unjust" (Matthew 5, 44-45). Moreover, we believe that every human being is created in the image of God, and we know from looking at ourselves that we are all capable of good and evil, that there are wheat and weeds within each of us. So, one very clear message from this parable is that we ought not rush to make categorical judgements about who is good and who is bad, and who is to be excluded and punished.

Many of us can probably remember times when the process of training, education and formation in trades, professions and even in religious life

and seminaries was all about pointing out our mistakes, with little attention being given to affirmation and praise when we actually got things right. In my early years of religious life, we all spent fifteen minutes of every day reflecting on one of our particular faults, and working on how to eradicate it. It was called "the particular examen". There was no encouragement given to celebrating our successes or deeds of kindness and compassion.

A second message we can take from this parable is that it is entirely appropriate that we leave to a God who is infinitely kind, merciful and forgiving the role of judging who's worthy and who's not. Then, we can get on with living our lives in the style of disciples and followers of Jesus. - acting with compassion, tolerance, justice and mercy, and being humble enough to seek forgiveness when self-interest, nastiness and bitterness are at the root of some of our actions. Jesus recognised the internal struggles that go on within each of us. He called Peter to task when he stepped out of line. - "Get behind me, Satan!" - yet affirmed his potential by nominating him to lead his disciples unto an unknown and precarious future. There are times when we can all be "wheat" for a community, an organisation, a world that is threatened with being choked by "weeds".

The meaning of today's gospel is elusive because the three parables told by Jesus don't fit comfortably together. Each of them offers a partial view of what the kingdom of God might look like as it takes hold in the world. The first parable acknowledges that not everyone in the world will be open to the values of God. There will be good, open-minded, receptive people, and others who want nothing to do with the values of God. But the tension and opposition are not fixed by violence. The man who sowed the good seed had to restrain his servants when they discovered that an enemy had contaminated the crop. The owner called for restraint, patience and common sense. His motto might well have been: Live and let live.

Perhaps to stress our need to learn tolerance, Jesus, in the second parable, told how a man deliberately planted a mustard seed. Mustard bushes grow quickly and in abundance in Palestine, and they are weeds. True, the kingdom of God will grow, but it might not have a good look about it. It will offer shelter to the good and the not so good: to people like you and me.

The third parable likens the kingdom to the action of yeast in three measures of flour. Notice that it wasn't three cups of flour, but three bucketsful, producing enough dough to provide bread to feed an army! The kingdom of God will provide sufficient nourishment for everyone.

So in presenting these three parables in succession, Jesus is giving us some sobering messages: forget about judging and categorising others; focus on living with faith and integrity; accept and respect everybody, even those we might be inclined to describe as "weeds"; God excludes nobody,

and has no tolerance for class-distinction; God's nourishing love, care, mercy and forgiveness are boundless.

A brief story to conclude: In her book, *My Grandfather's Blessings*, doctor and counsellor Rachel Remen tells how her grandfather gave her a paper cup when she was only four years old. Expecting a surprise, she was disappointed when she found the cup contained only black soil: "Mummy won't let me play with dirt", she said. Her grandfather quietly put the cup on Rachel's windowsill and told her to use the teapot from her tea-set to water the soil every day and wait for a surprise. Bewildered, she still did as her grandfather had suggested. But, after a week, she asked him if it was time to stop. "No", he said, "keep watering a little bit every day." Then, one morning after watering for three weeks, Rachel discovered two little green leaves that were not there the night before. She was sure her grandfather would be surprised as she rushed to tell him. But, of course, he wasn't. Carefully he explained to Rachel that life is everywhere, hidden in the most ordinary and unlikely places. "Then all it needs, Grandpa, is a little water?" Patting her on the head, he replied: "No, Rachel dear, all it needs is your faithfulness."

Together, today's parables challenge us to see the potential for good in everyone and in all of life's circumstances, and to summon up the courage and perseverance to unlock that potential. Even mustard-seed sized faith allows space for the kingdom of God to take root and grow from very ordinary acts of justice, kindness and love.