



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 thirty, now thirty.'

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Here is Jesus telling another story about nature, in this case about soil good enough to bear a crop. Is he just a keen observer of the farmers of his time? No.

Throughout the Gospels there is a harmony between Jesus and the natural creation of a profound kind.

But St Paul intuited that link at a profound level in the case of the Risen Lord. This led him to make the most amazing claim that:

"The creation itself would be set free from its slavery to decay in order to share the freedom associated with the glory of the children of God."

We, and the whole cosmos, share the legacy of a common destiny brought about by the powerful victory of Christ over the final instance of decay, destruction, and every type of death.

We could pause a moment to pray with the angels as we do at every Mass:

"Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest."

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Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

12 July 2020

First Reading Is 55:10-11

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.'

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. (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

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.

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

(or shorter form Mt 13:1-9)

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

NEW COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS FOR PARISHES

An announcement was made by the Victorian Premier, Daniel Andrews to place Metropolitan Melbourne and the Mitchell Shire areas back into Stage 3 lockdown for the next 6 weeks from 11.59pm on Wednesday, 8th July. For those who sit clearly within metropolitan postcodes along with those in Mitchell Shire, Level 3 states:

- If you live in a restricted postcode you cannot attend a religious service. Online streaming of a service is allowed.
- Weddings in restricted postcodes can have a maximum of 5 people (the couple, two witnesses and the celebrant).
- Funerals held in restricted postcodes will be restricted to 10 mourners plus people required to conduct the funeral.
- Churches in restricted postcodes are closed for private worship or religious ceremonies (except for live streaming, Weddings and Funerals as directed).

Archbishop Comensoli urges *‘the faithful [to] keep holy their Sunday by setting aside some time for prayer at home, reading the Scriptures of the day, watching Mass on television or online, and asking God for the graces they would normally receive in Holy Communion.*

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

Maria Lamanna

RECENTLY DECEASED

Sebastiano Giardino

ANNIVERSARIES

Vincenzo Giardino, John Galea, Palma Amadio, Pascal & Lola Attard, Carmine Luci, Rosa Luci, Philip, Facciolo, Rosa Nardo

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Wednesday 15 July St Bonaventure

SELF-ISOLATING? OUR PARISH IS HERE TO SUPPORT YOU

If you are in need of some assistance with shopping, being taken to appointments etc, please call the Parish Office on 9337 4141. We have volunteers who can assist. If you are feeling a bit lonely and would just enjoy a friendly chat over the phone, please let us know. We are here to help where we can.

PARISH FINANCES

We are most grateful for your contributions during this challenging time. Thank you all for your support. Online donations can be made as follows:-

Presbytery Collection – 1st Collection

Account Name: St Peter’s Presbytery A/C
BSB: 083 347 Account No. 66541 7521
Reference as your first initial then surname, or remain anonymous

Church Collection – 2nd Collection

Account Name: St Peter’s Church Account
BSB: 083 347 A/C No. 53530 4676
Reference as your first initial then surname and if known, your giving number e.g. ASmith T/G 500

Parish Office is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, if you wish to drop off your envelopes (only if you are well enough to go out). Entry is via Bellarine Avenue.

MASS AT HOME

St Peter’s Parish

Our Sunday Mass will continue to be uploaded to the Parish Website, Facebook and YouTube to allow our parishioners to participate from their homes.

St Patrick’s Cathedral Melbourne

All Masses at St Patrick’s Cathedral will continue to be live streamed on the Archdiocesan YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/archmelb>) or Catholic Archdiocesan website: www.melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass.

Television

Channel 31 (televised to greater Melbourne) at 11am Sunday. Please note the channel is often listed as Channel 44 on digital televisions.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You are present in the Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul.
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.
As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You;
Never permit me to be separated from you.
Amen.

Prayer in This Challenging Time

Lord Jesus Christ, our true physician and healer, be merciful to us and bring us your aid in these troubled times. Heal all our sickness and every affliction of your people. Drive out our infirmities of soul and body; free us from all disease and especially from this pestilence.

We place in your gentle Heart the elderly, the frail, people with disability, children, young people and families, our indigenous peoples, those who are poor; lonely and isolated. As you walk with us, free them from fear, and give them patience and hope together with our loving care.

In your mercy deal also with the causes of our pitiful condition, that in curing our lack of faith and spiritual weakness, you may also remedy our bodily ills.

We place our trust in you, the risen Lord, who lives and reigns for ever and ever,
Amen.



A Prayer to St Joseph

St Joseph,
You were receptive to God working in your life.
Help us by your prayers at this time of trial.
You kept Jesus and Mary under your watchful care: may your prayers assist our local Church to respond to those in need.
You taught the Christ Child your trade and prayers: help us to follow his example of love.
You were part of God’s plan for all humanity: assist us to be vigilant and responsible this day.
You spent your life in service:
May we be mindful of others, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, caring for them in these difficult days.
You trusted in the clear primacy of God over all history and every situation: help us to grow in faith and pray to the Father, *Thy will be done.*
Amen.

AVE MARIA COLLEGE YEAR 7 – 2022

Applications for Year 7 in 2022 close Friday 21 August 2020. Contact the Registrar on 9331 9308 or via email at registrar@avemaria.vic.edu.au