

FIRST READING

**A reading from the prophet 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

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

SECOND READING

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the 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 READING

**A reading from the holy gospel according Matthew
13:1-23**

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such large 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!'

SCRIPTURE READINGS for Daily Mass (Australian Liturgical Calendar) are accessible online:

www.universalis.com/Australia/1000/mass
Navigate the daily Scripture readings for the week ahead using the right-hand column.



Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Cheltenham

Parish House/Office: 9583 6161

Email: Cheltenham@cam.org.au

Website: www.olacheltenham.org.au

Parish Priest: Fr Alan Fox

Pastoral Associates: Frances North, Christine Dunne

Psychologist: AnneMaree Eddy

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A – 11th and 12th July, 2020



UPDATED: COVID-19 guidance for parishes – Following the return to Stage 3 lockdown restrictions for the next six weeks, an updated set of guidelines has been prepared to assist Clergy and Faithful with questions pertaining to specific areas of liturgy and ministry in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Stage 3 restrictions sadly mean the public celebration of Mass will need to return to live-streaming where possible, and churches will need to be closed again to any private prayer. Following the announcement, Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli wrote to all clergy and parishioners:

'Now is a time for attentiveness to the care of one another. In the face of our own despondency and fears, our fatigue and anxieties, may we learn to hold firm in faith and hope, and experience sustaining moments of love.'

For more information go to: <https://cam.org.au/Guidance-for-Parishes-COVID-19/>

PARISH PRIEST:

Fr Alan Fox 9583 6161
 Email: Alan.Fox@cam.org.au

PASTORAL ASSOCIATES:

Frances North 9583 6161
 Email: Frances.North@cam.org.au
 Christine Dunne 9583 6161

PSYCHOLOGIST:

AnneMaree Eddy 0403 284 536

PARISH OFFICE:

9583 6161
 Monday to Friday 9 am – 3.30 pm
 Secretary: Lisa Harris
 Bookkeeper: Ann Fitzgerald
 Email: Cheltenham@cam.org.au

PARISH SCHOOL:

Our Lady of the Assumption 9584 9488
 Principal: Mr Richard Jacques
 Email: principal@olacheltenham.catholic.edu.au

MASS TIMES:**SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE****MASS TIMES:**

Saturday 6:30 pm
 Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am
 Tuesday 6.00 pm
 Wednesday 9.15am
 Thursday, Friday 9.15 am
 Saturday 9.00 am

COMMUNION SERVICE:

Monday 9.15 am

SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**RECONCILIATION:**

Saturdays: 9.30am & 6pm

BAPTISMS: SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Either during a weekend Mass or at 12.30pm on the 2nd Sunday of the month. 6 weeks' notice required. Please refer to our Guidelines for Infant Baptism and Application Form available on our parish website.

WEDDINGS: CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR MORE INFO

By appointment, 6 months' notice required. Saturdays or weekdays (not Sundays). Contact the Parish Office: 9583 6161

**15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Year A – 11th / 12th July, 2020**
PRAYING FOR:

... all those who died recently.

We also remember:

Joanne Trezise, Meagan Hoey,
 Joe Halloran, Mason Chapman,
 Arthur McVeigh

...and all whose anniversaries occur about this time.

Gracious God,
 We give thanks anew for your providence and presence.
 We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and overseas.
 We pray for those in need of healing.
 We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving.
 We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain all those who are serving in response.
 We pray for your Holy Spirit's discernment amidst the many choices and decisions facing our national, community and medical leaders.
 We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do to help those who are vulnerable. This prayer for our nation in the family of nations, with all that is on our hearts, we gather now and pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FAMILY DISCUSSION: Talk together about the ways your family practises your faith (daily prayer, attending Mass, caring for others, etc.). Remind one another that you do these things as a family so that God's Word can take root in your lives and God's love will show in your actions, thoughts, and words.

Broadcast & Online Masses: 11am Sunday Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral continues to be **televised live (free to air) on Channel 31** (Ch. 44 on Digital TV). This Mass is also live-streamed on the Melbourne Catholic website: melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass

Pre-recorded Masses available online:

cam1.org.au/greensborough/Spirituality/Mass-Online or stsimonsparish.com.au/mass-videos or holyfamilydoveton.org.au/

Mass can also be heard on **Light FM (89.9 FM)** every **Sunday at 7am.**

Reflection on the Gospel - Matthew 13:1-23

Since the outbreak of Covid-19, we have necessarily distanced ourselves from others. Some of us have retreated to the natural world so that our sensitivities have sharpened and our planetary awareness has heightened. We have become more attuned to the complexity of nature and to its rhythms. We have observed the diverse feeding habits of the birds, for instance, and their communication patterns. There is new and renewed interest in gardening, in the growing of vegetables and fruit in pots or in built-up garden beds. Such changes in lifestyle are conditioning us to use our eyes to see and our ears to listen, as today's gospel invites us to do. Jesus' directive, "let anyone with ears listen", is a reminder that we do have ears and that we do not always hear. The poetry of Ann Lewin comes to mind:

"You do not have to Look for anything. Just look. You do not have to Listen for specific Sounds. Just Listen. You do not have to Accomplish anything. Just Be. And in the Looking and the Listening and the Being, find Me."

To what sort of being, of looking and listening does today's gospel call us?

The parable of the soil, of the seed, of the birds and the thorns, of the sun and the sower alerts us to Jesus' deep sense of connection with life in its multiple forms. It calls us to

examine our connection with the natural world. For a long time, we have focussed on the human character in the parable, a character who evokes an agricultural world that is far removed from our post-industrial world, but not so far removed from the world of millions of people in our planetary home who live close to the soil and to earth's elements and who struggle to produce the food they need to stay alive. Is the Matthean Jesus presenting in the sower an image of an estate owner, or a tenant farmer or even a slave? Or is the reader being asked to imagine the sower, whether estate owner, tenant farmer or slave, as an image of an extraordinarily generous God whose life-sustaining gifts are there for all, no matter their readiness to receive?

It may not be one or the other but both What of the silty clay loam or red sandy soil, of the wheat or barley seed, of the birds and the thorns and the sun? We know that barley was domesticated some ten thousand years ago in what became bible lands and that these lands are also the original home of the finest bread-making wheat. The birds and the thorns and the sun are for another reflection. We bring our experience of looking and listening and being into dialogue with the parable and search out its meaning for us. We trust that God will ensure an abundant harvest if we but learn to look and to listen to the needs of a planet in peril.

- Sr Veronica Lawson RSM



(See Genesis 6-8) 03-28-2014
SURE IT MIGHT NOT BE QUITE THE WAY YOU REMEMBERED IT ... I, FOR EXAMPLE, DON'T QUITE REMEMBER YOU BEING RUSSELL CROWE