

FIRST READING

**A reading from the book of Wisdom
12:13, 16-19**

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there. By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous must be kind and you have given your children the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/: Lord, you are good and forgiving.

SECOND READING

**A reading from the letter of St Paul
to the Romans 8:26-27**

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL READING

**A reading from the holy gospel
according Matthew 13:24-43**

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said 'Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does this darnel come from?' 'Some enemy has done this' he answered. And the servant said, 'Do you want us to go and weed it out?' But he said, 'No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at the harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.'

'He put another parable before them: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

(Gospel reading continued overleaf...)



Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Cheltenham
Parish House/Office: 9583 6161
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Parish Priest: Fr Alan Fox
Pastoral Associates: Frances North, Christine Dunne
Psychologist: AnneMaree Eddy

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A – 18th / 19th July, 2020



A strange feature of our time seems to be our capacity to operate with conflicting mindsets. On the one hand we demand scientific proof for truths before we will adopt them; we want empirical evidence to back up belief. On the other we are willing to entertain theories that appear fanciful and to accept marketing claims that have no basis in fact. Is there a wise way of discerning the truth so that we can live by it? The parables that Jesus tells are neither scientific nor fanciful. They are stories that bear deep truths for those who engage with them imaginatively and who are prepared to make the choices they call for. Jesus invites us on a journey of discovery when he begins "the kingdom of heaven is like...". No parable offers a logical or comprehensive description of the kingdom, but neither are we led astray into a world of fantasy. Jesus teases and challenges us to see the world in a different way – his way.

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PARISH OFFICE: 9583 6161
Monday to Friday 9 am – 3.30 pm
Secretary: Lisa Harris
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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

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A – 18th / 19th July, 2020

PRAYING FOR:
Len Evans, Andrew O'Farrell,
Sr Kathleen Cudmore RSM,
...and all those who died recently.

We also remember:
Joe Cauchi, Silvestra Misajon,
...and all whose anniversaries
occur about this time.



Our warmest congratulations go to
Pauline & Tony French
as they celebrate their Golden Wedding
Anniversary:
'May this special anniversary bring you
more joy, love, laughter and blessings than
you could ever imagine'.

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.

COUNSELLING: All counselling is now over the phone or via video consultations due to COVID-19. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please contact **AnneMaree Eddy** directly on: **0403 284 536**, and leave a message indicating you are a parishioner.

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Matthew's explanation

In the gospel passage, following the presentation of the three parables, Jesus explains the parable of the wheat and darnel to his disciples. It is explained in terms of a final judgement. (Compare it with Matthew 25: 31-46.) The parable of the weeds, or darnel, and its explanation only appear in the gospel of Matthew – although the parable does occur in the non-canonical gospel of Thomas. The interpretation belongs to Matthew more than it belongs to Jesus. It is an unapologetic direction to his community that living a righteous life in the midst of wickedness will be rewarded.



Bishop Derio Olivero from the small Italian Diocese of Pinerolo near Turin, who almost died of COVID-19, was intubated for some 17 days. Following his recovery, in a beautiful pastoral letter, dated 18th May, he wrote about **what the Church might be like after the pandemic:**

'Not communities that are closed in on themselves and their own organisation, but communities that are open, humble, full of hope; communities infectious with passion and trust. Not a Church that goes to church, but a Church that goes to everyone. Full of enthusiasm, passion, hope, love. Believers like this will regain their desire to go to Church, to go to Mass, to be fed.'

Big Thankyou: To the many parishioners who have asked after our wellbeing, and to all who have continued to financially support the parish through Thanksgiving and Presbytery offerings, please accept our most sincere gratitude. Your support has been, and remains, valued and vital.
– *The OLA Parish Team*

Gospel reading continued from the back page...

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy: I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

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.**