

NEWSLETTER

'a sower going out to sow'

This is a well-known parable, where Jesus uses the experience of the Galilean farmer to teach about the kingdom of heaven. This parable could be understood in two ways. One is, contained within the parable itself. It describes the different threats to the seed, which represents the word of God there's rocky ground, the weeds choking the growth of the seed, the birds eating some of the seed, the heat of the sun. Despite it, all God ensures a bumper harvest, even though there are threats to his word taking root. The parable gives each one of us and the Church encouragement when we feel overwhelmed by many threats and depressed to the growth of the seed, the Word. We are called to place our trust in God, the Lord of the harvest.

The second part of the parable gives us an explanation. The emphasis shifts from God's activity in ensuring a bumper harvest to each one of us, THE DIFFERENT WAYS IN WHICH WE MAY RECEIVE THE WORD OF GOD. The parable began with encouragement now becomes a parable of warning. the two approaches are necessary.

Are we so consumed by our daily cares that we choke the word of God? Our heavenly Father has given us the freedom to place in the background of our lives if it suits us or the freedom to shut him out altogether. It's easy to be an enthusiastic Christian when no demands are made of us. Sometimes our commitment can be lukewarm; it cannot withstand the fire of temptations and the opposition of persecution. It's when the going gets hard in following Jesus that our lukewarm commitment will curl and die.

The birds of the air that eat the seed, what of them? They represent all the influences that undermine our faith- the secular values of our world that constantly undermine our faith, the bad company, unpalatable material on TV or the internet, or the material we choose to read. All of these can prevent the Word of God from taking hold of our lives. If we want the word of God to be fruitful in our lives it has to be sown in good, receptive soil.

The parable shouldn't make us gloomy instead it's meant to give us encouragement. The later part of the explanation is a warning when we find the going is hard and difficult to persevere and be confident with the help of God we can overcome and surmount the difficulties to be apart of the harvest of the Kingdom. This can only happen if we don't take God and our salvation for granted. Jesus gives a warning of the consequences of not being receptive to the Word of God.

We are called to examine our attitude and approach to the Word of God. We are called to draw encouragement from God's power and desire to overcome all the obstacles to a successful harvest. We can do this if we let him in. He can make our barren lives fruitful. We can also prevent this happy outcome. Jesus can protect us from the weeds which can threaten to choke our Christian commitment and to destroy the Good News of the Kingdom. Let us then, confidently seek the kingdom of God and allow nothing to undermine our growth as followers of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Fr. Christopher

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

July 11, 2020

6pm - Tom Madden RIP

June 12, 2020

9am—People of the Parish

11am— Margaret Pudney (B'day Anniv)

For weekday mass intentions please, see the notice board on the left hand side of the main door of the church.

Confession
only by appointment.

Spiritual Communion

Jesus!

My God and my All
my soul longs for thee.

My heart yearns to

receive thee in
Holy Communion, come, O
Lord.

Bread of heaven and food of
angels to nourish my soul
heal my body and to rejoice
my heart

come most lovable friend of
my soul,

to inflame me with such love
that I may never again be
ever separated from thee.

Amen

It is with sadness we inform
you about the death of

Mr Alban Walters.

Unfortunately we do not
have any details about the
funeral.

Readings for this & next Sunday

1st Reading; Isaiah 55:10-11

Psalm 64:10-14,

2nd Reading - Romans 8: 18-23

Gospel – Mathew 13; 1-23

1st Reading; Wisdom 12:13:16-19

Psalm 85: 5-6, 9-10, 15-16 responsive v 5

2nd Reading - Romans 8: 26-27

Gospel – Mathew 13; 24-43

Matthew 13: 1-23

The sower goes out to his work and he doesn't spare the seed. Nor does he discriminate against the types of soil which will not produce the desired crop. The fields have been prepared by someone else. What soil are we? Has our preparation taken place?

Heavenly Father, you are the Lord of the harvest, you see my heart and you can tell and consider the times at which my life is not ready to receive you. Soften the hardness of my heart; take away the thorns, the stones, so that I may be fertile soil where Jesus could grow.

Fr.Javier Ruiz-Ortiz

"Indeed, the experience of these past months has shown how essential is the mission of the communications media for bringing people together, shortening distances, providing necessary information, and opening minds and hearts to truth...Today, as much as ever, our communities count on newspapers, radio, TV and social media to share, to communicate, to inform and to unite...We need media capable of building bridges, defending life and breaking down the walls, visible and invisible, that prevent sincere dialogue and truthful communication between individuals and communities. We need media that can help people, especially the young, to distinguish good from evil, to develop sound judgments based on a clear and unbiased presentation of the facts, and to understand the importance of working for justice, social concord and respect for our common home... I ask you, then, to be united and a sign of unity among yourselves. Media can be large or small, but in the Church these are not the categories that count. In the Church we have all been baptized in the one Spirit and made members of the one body (cf. 1 Cor 12:13)." Pope Francis

"God's generous gratitude takes into account even the smallest gesture of love and service given to our brothers and sisters. Again in these days, I heard from a priest who was moved because in his parish a child came up to him and said, "Father, these are my savings; not very much. They are for the poor, for those who are in need because of the pandemic". A little thing, but a great thing. It is a contagious gratitude that helps every one of us to be grateful toward those who take care of our needs. When someone offers us some service, we should not think that we deserve everything. No. Many services are carried out freely...Volunteers and how many of them have lost their lives in this pandemic. They do it out of love, simply to serve. Gratitude, appreciation is, first of all, good manners, but it is also characteristic of a Christian. It is a simple but genuine sign of the kingdom of God which is the kingdom of gratuitous and grateful love. May Mary Most Holy, who loved Jesus more than life itself and who followed Him even to the cross, help us to always put ourselves before God with willing hearts, allowing His Word to judge our behaviour and our choices."

Pope Francis

Our Churches are Open

Last weekend it was good to see so many of you here at St Edmund's, keeping your distance but others staying at home making Spiritual Communion through live streaming or online. Our Mass times are; Weekdays, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9.15 am, Saturday at 6 pm, and Sunday at 9 am, 11 am. During this time the Sunday obligation has been lifted. If you cannot attend on Sunday, you could attend on other days. In these unusual conditions, we use our common sense and place our trust in our Heavenly Father. May our faith be strong not our fear. God bless

Guidance on the Communion Rite

The members of the Congregation should not exchange the sign of peace.

After the prayer and its response 'Behold the Lamb of God..., Lord I am not worthy,' The priest receives under both species and holds the host says, 'The Body of Christ' to which the people respond 'Amen'. Members of Congregation receives Communion **in silence** No dialogue between minister and communicant.

Eucharistic Ministers who would assist in the distribution of Holy Communion come up to the Sanctuary cleanse their hands and receive Holy Communion under one kind. **They should cleanse their hands again before receiving the pattern or the ciborium and then move to their point for the distribution of Communion.**

Thank you, Fr Christopher

"To seek the face of God is an assurance that our journey through this world will end well. It is an exodus towards the Promised Land, our heavenly home. The face of God is our destination and the guiding star that helps us not to lose our way... This quest is fundamental for the life of every believer, for we have come to realize that our ultimate goal in life is the encounter with God."

Pope Francis

10 Forgotten Facts About Fatima and Why You Should Know Them

While many Fatima devotees know the salient aspects of Our Lady's message and the various events surrounding the apparitions, certain details or nuances could yet be overlooked. We dare offer here several points for study and reflection in the hope they will help one better appreciate the meaning of the Fatima message:

1. A seventh apparition

Our Lady appeared six times at Fatima from May, 1917 to October, 1917. However, during the first apparition Our Lady mentioned that she will return to Cova the Iria, the site of the apparition, a seventh time. In her own words Our Lady said:

"I have come here to ask you to come here for six months in succession on the thirteenth day of each month at this same hour. Later I will tell you who I am and what I want. Afterward, I will return here a seventh time."

Although Fatima specialists differ in their opinions with regard to its interpretation, nothing against Faith prevents a Catholic to hope and confide that this promise would be fulfilled in the near future. Certainly it is a glorious and most singular event a faithful Catholic could eagerly look forward to especially in our confusing and chaotic times. Perhaps, the seventh apparition would usher in the time of peace that St. Louis Grignion de Montfort described as the Reign of Mary and which Our Lady prophesied as the triumph of Her Immaculate Heart.

2. The Rosary and Purgatory

Also on the above occasion, Our Lady revealed to the three children that Francisco must say many Rosaries before he will go to Heaven and that a certain Amelia will be in Purgatory until the end of the world.

Here, Our Lady reiterates the salutary practice of praying the most Holy Rosary as a means to save one's soul and offers it as a guarantee to Francisco's safe passage to Heaven -certainly an invaluable counsel

from the Queen of Heaven and Earth.

She likewise points out the very reality of the existence of Purgatory and even cites a striking example of a poor yet already saved soul who will endure its purifying fires till the end of the world. According to the research done by Father Sebastião Martins dos Reis, Amelia died under circumstances involving dishonor in matters of chastity. Shocking as this fact may had been to Father Thomas McGlynn, O.P. during his own interview, Sister Lucia recalled that more tragic were those souls who suffered the fires of hell forever because of a single mortal sin!

3. The difference between the Angel's and Our Lady's apparitions

The children's physical, emotional and psychological experience with the Angel of Portugal and Our Lady

were different. In her memoirs, Sister Lucia writes:

"I do not know why, but the fact is that the apparitions of Our Lady had a very different effect on us. There was the same intimate gladness, the same peace and happiness. But instead of physical weariness, we felt a certain expansive liveliness, a sense of glee instead of that annihilation in the Divine Presence, a certain communicative enthusiasm instead of that difficulty in speaking..."

One stark contrast between the angel and Our Lady is their different natures. The former is pure spirit while the latter is flesh and spirit; body and soul. The angel's superior nature drained much energy from the children which left them in a state of annihilation.

Since the children are of the same nature as Our Lady, one could surmise that this may explain why the children were more at ease with Our Lady. The human nature they shared with Our Lady found a pleasing and lively consonance with her. One could feel assurance and confidence in Lucia's observation and experience that, indeed, Our Lady was assumed into Heaven in both body and soul – a dogma of the Faith.

4. The importance of prayer, penance, sacrifices and mortification for the conversion of sinners

While it is true that the above is the constant and recurring theme of Our Lady's Fatima message, it behooves Catholics to understand how and why it is so; especially in modern minds where the notion of

mortification and penance is watered down or simply brushed aside as archaic or medieval.

The gravity of the moral crisis pervasive in the world requires continued prayers, penances and sacrifices which prompted the three children especially little Francisco and Jacinta to practice them to an extreme and heroic degree. At the height of their innocence, the two younger children understood their necessity and offered themselves admirably as expiatory victims. But Our Lady's appeal for prayer and penance made to the children also applies to the rest of mankind.

According to Father Fredrick William Faber, D.D. in his book, **Growth in Holiness**, much is to be gained by us lesser mortals in the practice of mortification for it tames the body and brings the unruly passions under the control of grace and our superior will. It increases the range of our spiritual vision and makes our conscience more sensitive to the discernment of the subtleties that separate not only those between venial and mortal sins but also those between what is faulty and imperfect.

Suffering easily becomes power in the things of God. For isn't it true that Our Lord redeemed mankind through His bloody sacrifice and immense suffering on Calvary?

Leading mortified lives encourages us to persevere in prayer, gives us strength in resisting temptations, makes us unworldly and frees our heart from earthly vanities and attachments.

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Fr Christopher Silva
Parish Priest,

Mrs Katherine Woznicka
Parish Secretary

The office may be contacted by phone:
Monday to Friday 9am-2pm

NEW PARISHIONERS — Please fill in a "Registration Form" from the Church porch and hand it in to the Office or to the Parish Priest.

BLESSING OF HOMES — Contact the Parish Secretary to book a date and time.

COMMUNION FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND — Contact the Parish Secretary to arrange for a visit from the Caring & Sharing Group.

BAPTISMS — Parents must attend a 2-session Baptism Formation Program (during pregnancy or after birth) — **Next baptismal course's date will be confirmed shortly..** Please, drop an email to the office to reserve your space. Please, note that all baptism will be during Mass.

WEDDINGS — Contact the Parish Priest by email or letter, **even if you wish to be married elsewhere.** Please give full names, contact details, religion of each party and whether or not either of you has been married before. The Church normally requires six months notice of weddings.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I GO INTO HOSPITAL? — If you are admitted as a patient, please ensure the Chaplains' Office is informed you would like to be visited by a Catholic Minister. This has to be done by you or a relative.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS — The Parish is completely committed to the protection from abuse of all children and vulnerable adults in its care. The Parish Protection Officer is Mrs Diane Winship and she should be contacted directly on 07799-414-806 if you have cause for concern. The Diocesan Protection Officer may be contacted on 020-7798-9350/07803-634-236, by email to arianna.sommariva@rcdow.org.uk or at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN.

NEWSLETTER — You can always download it from our website. <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/millwall/>

LOOP SYSTEM — The Church is fitted with "Loop" sound systems — please switch to 'T'.

TEXT GIVING — Simply type: Parish (then space) then MILLW. Send it to 70800. Click send. £5 will be added to your mobile phone bill, as a donation to the parish.

GLUTEN FREE HOSTS Those parishioners who for medical reasons can only take Gluten Free as per their diet. We here at St Edmund's have Gluten Free Hosts. Should you require, see Fr. Christopher before Mass, so he could consecrate the hosts for you.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS: loose: £100.90 envelopes: £1080.00 total: £1180.90
Standing orders in May: £2434.60

As a charity we rely on your donations only. As you have not been allowed to come to the church , we only were receiving donations set up as standing orders. We will be grateful for your financial support when you are back.

Your new sets of gift aided envelopes are available for collection before/after any mass or from the office.
Alternatively you could sent your donation by bank. Parish account is on Parish Web.

Thank you for your Generosity

WRCDT Charity No: 233699

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