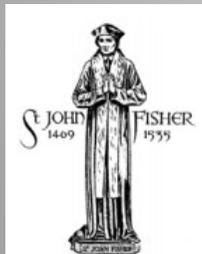


# CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July

16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



St John Fisher  
Catholic Church,  
Perivale

# OPENING PRAYER

Let us begin with the Sign of the Cross



And our Opening Prayer

*Lord, make us always ready to joyfully serve you.*

*Amen*

# INTRODUCTION

**‘Do you want us to go out and pull up the weeds?’  
‘No!’ he answered. ‘You might also pull up the wheat.  
Leave the weeds alone until harvest time.**

Dear children, today’s gospel is another parable.

Last Sunday, If you can remember, we heard the parable of the sower. With that parable we said how the seed planted by the sower, is the Word of God and needs good, clear and fertile ground in order to produce fruit.

We also said that Jesus speaks in parables in order to explain an important lesson to his listeners.

The parable of today is about the wheat and the weeds. Let us discover what Jesus wants to teach us today.



# TODAY'S GOSPEL



Say the Alleluia

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

Read today's Gospel

(Matthew 13: 24-30)

A reading from the Good News given to us by St Matthew  
**Glory to you, O Lord**

Jesus told his disciples this story: “The kingdom of heaven is like what happened when a farmer scattered good seed in a field. While everyone was sleeping, an enemy came and scattered weed seeds in the field and then left. When the wheat came up and began to ripen, the farmer’s servants could see the weeds. “The servants came and asked, ‘Sir, didn’t you scatter good seed in your field? Where did these weeds come from?’ ‘An enemy did this,’ he replied. “His servants then asked, ‘Do you want us to go out and pull up the weeds?’ ‘No!’ he answered. ‘You might also pull up the wheat. Leave the weeds alone until harvest time. Then I’ll tell my workers to gather the weeds and tie them up and burn them. Then I’ll have them store the wheat in my barn.”

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

In today's Gospel, we have heard that a farmer planted some wheat in his field. However, while he was sleeping, someone came to his field and sowed some weeds. The farmer's helpers having found what happened warned the farmer and asked him whether he wanted them to pull out the weed, but the farmer said 'No, because you might end up removing the wheat as well.'

Why is that? Don't you find this a bit strange?

The parable of the sower tells us that for the seed to grow, it needs good ground. Therefore, it seems quite a normal thing to do, to clear the ground by removing the weeds.

But here, the man asks his workers to wait and not pull up the weeds straight away - he didn't want to lose any of his wheat.

He wanted them to wait until harvest time because then it is easier to tell the wheat and the weeds apart and so the workers can burn the weeds and collect up all the wheat.



In a garden, often the weeds, have a much stronger hold in the ground and grow more quickly compared to young plants, such as wheat. And when we pull up the weeds, sometimes, the plants we want to keep can come up with them.

Now we might not mind losing one or two good plants while we remove all the weeds but in this parable, Jesus is saying, “No, all of the plants are sacred. All are important.”

As human beings none of us are 100 percent good or 100 percent bad. We are a mixture - sometimes we are like the wheat and do good things, sometimes we are like the weeds and do things that are not so good.

But God still loves us.



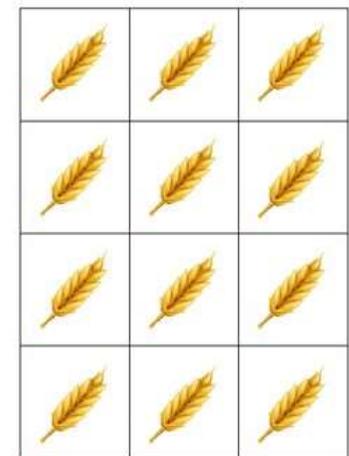
Who do you think the farmer is in this parable?

The farmer is God and this parable shows us that the way God sees and does things is quite different from our human way of dealing with problems.

Often, when we see something or someone that is wrong or bad and we do not like it, we feel a strong desire to rush in and fix the situation.

God's way of dealing with us is different. His is very patient. He is ready to forgive our faults and he always sees the good in us, even when we cannot.

Then, let us ask God to help us be patient with ourselves and with others. To be able to forgive as he forgives and loves us always.



# CLOSING PRAYER



*Loving God,  
you love us all and call us to be your children,  
help us to share your love with those who are  
sick, poor and lonely.*

*Grant this through Christ your Son.*

*Amen*



## Acknowledgements

Inspiration for this lesson taken from:

The Liturgy of the Word with Children' by Katie Thompson;  
<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>;  
<https://adorers.org>

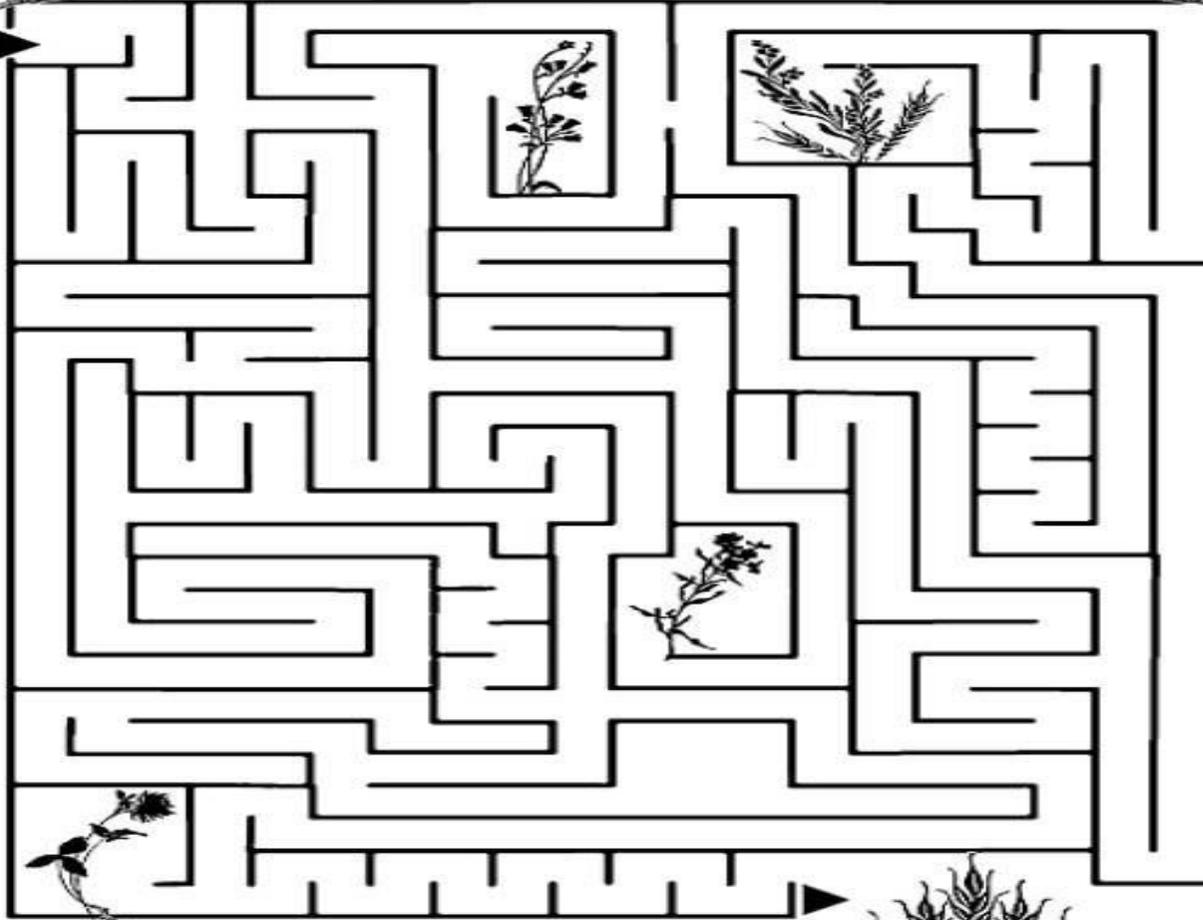
# ACTIVITY

Matthew 13:24-30

## The Wheat and the Weeds

Help the owner of the field separate the wheat from the weeds.

START 



See if you can find the way between the 2 spikes of wheat at the top and the bundle of wheat at the bottom

