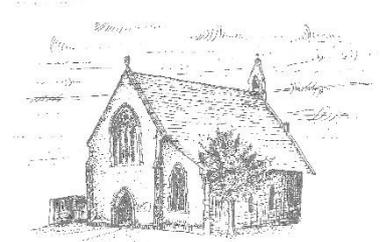


## SIXTEENTH SUNDAY of the Year (A)

19th July 2020

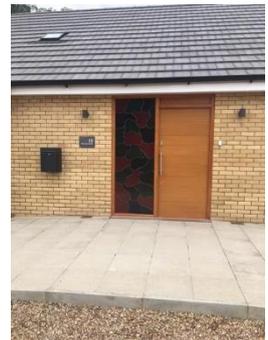


Dear Friends,

You know all about the bungalow at the end of the Loyola Centre grounds ...

Reading the Gospel of Sunday we did laugh! We knew EXACTLY what Jesus was talking about in his parable of “ the wheat and the Darnel,“ Matthew 13:24-30

It has taken a long time to build what is a very simple bungalow. Now it is nearing the time for the Builders to go. Their last task was to sew grass seed, to make a lawn at the back of the bungalow.



Under the shelter of a large tree, the grass grew quickly and was a lovely shade of green; it looked like a carpet. But the grass exposed to the sun was more reluctant to grow. What no one had thought of was that the seeds needed protection from the birds! They obviously had a real feast!



No problem... The same grass seed was purchased again ... This time though a large green net was placed over the newly sewn area. The seeds began to show growth, but overnight an enemy had sown a strong weed under the net! The net was raised some 6 inches from the ground. We couldn't see the grass - just a bed of weeds. The Site Manager, Mick suggested that we spent half an hour each day pulling up the weeds. The Firms Goods Supplier, Martin, said “Leave it. It will go with the first cut “. A kind parishioner, Paul, offered to do the first cut; he didn't know about the weeds until the lawnmower was out of the garage! It took two hours of hard work but Martin's advice had been right: “Wait for the first cut”.

I don't think that we will ever be able to read, or hear, this gospel without thinking of the bungalow's garden.

It's interesting though, and proves a point; if we can relate the Scriptures to our life, we will never forget them.

The book of Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 tells us that “There is no other God like you ... a God who judges fairly, a God who makes allowances for our mistakes, a God who teaches us to be kind to everyone, a God who will grant repentance when we go wrong...

We are blessed to have such a God as this. And, as we pray the words of Psalm 85, we acknowledge the goodness of God :

“O, Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of love to all who call on you, slow to anger, full of love and truth.”



Saint Paul in his Letter to the Romans 8: 26-27 tells us that there will be times when we are overcome, and don't have the words to speak out in prayer. God knows everything so, please, do remain sitting there in His presence, and the Holy Spirit will speak for you. God knows everything in our hearts, and he understands us, even when we don't understand ourselves.

We are lucky aren't we?! 'Lucky' comes from the Latin word for 'blessed' so, we are blessed, aren't we?! When times are tough, challenging, or difficult, we would do well to remember this.

When life is wonderful, at its best, we should remember this and give thanks.

When we have some good summer weather do take time to sit outside, to attract some much-needed vitamin D, and just sit and be with God, as you drink a cup of tea.



Look around you as His creation - it is a marvel. Enjoy what you see and give God your thanks. This too is prayer.

How many new ways of praying have you discovered since the church doors were closed?

We may not have been able to come to church, or to go to Mass, but hopefully we haven't forgotten or

neglected God.

God has accompanied each one of us through the dark days of Covid - 19 He promises never to leave us alone.

Parents, teach your child to pray quietly from the earliest years. As you put your young baby to bed you probably said something like, "God bless you... May His Angels watch over you...." As they grow a Bible Story at bedtime is equally as good as "The Hungry Caterpillar" ...



Teach them how to make the Sign of the Cross ... Help them to say a prayer, which was maybe a prayer that you learned as a child...

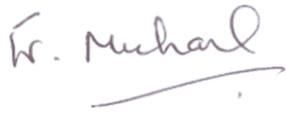
Give older children a Book of Prayers, and let them choose a prayer each night to say together... When your child reaches their teenage years they will be praying from their hearts about the things that matter to them....

The one and only important thing in all this is THAT OUR CHILDREN LEARN TO PRAY DAILY.

They can only learn this from you.

We pray for each one of you who make up our parish family, from the newly born to the oldest of parishioners ...

May God bless you in His own most special way.

Fr. Michael

Sr. Liz

The weekly 'PS' - there is always something more ...

Our hope is that, through our weekly letter to you all, we are keeping everyone together as a Christian Community.

When we are able to come into Church, we hope that everyone will have grown spiritually during what has been a most difficult and challenging period in the life of each one of us.

We hope that you are of the same mind.

Do keep watching the website. If you live near a parishioner who has no computer, do print them a copy of the newsletter, and put it through their letterbox. They will appreciate your kindness.