

St Joseph's and St Patrick's

Diocese of Leeds Registered Charity No. 249404

Barnoldswick, Earby and District

Parish Priest: Canon Kevin Firth

Telephone No. 01282 812204

www.stjosephsbarnoldswick.org.uk

15th WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME

12th July 2020

Celebration of Mass.

The obligation to attend Masses on Sundays and Holydays remains suspended by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales; it is unlikely to be restored until the pandemic has ended in this country and people are able to attend Mass freely once again without any restrictions.

Consequently, those who are able to attend Mass on a weekday should consider doing so, thus enabling the Masses which are celebrated at the weekend to have more room available for those who are only free to attend on a Saturday evening or on a Sunday.

As numbers to the weekend Masses will be limited because of social/physical distancing guidelines people will need to register their intent to attend one of these Masses by phoning the presbytery (01282 812204) during the following times:

Thursday	2.00 – 4.00 p.m.	
Friday	2.00 – 4.00 p.m.	6.00 – 7.00 p.m.

Such a willingness to be flexible would ease the pressure on numbers attending Sunday celebrations and allow a gradual return to attendance at Mass for more people.

Ensuring the safety of people attending Mass will require a team of stewards to guide people before, during and after Mass and a team of cleaners to clean the church after each service. If you are able to help with this, please contact Canon Firth at the presbytery.

At the public Masses, Holy Communion will be under one kind only, the Host will be placed in the hand, and the arm of the communicant must be at full stretch, there will be some form of distancing between Fr. and the communicant.

There will be NO Holy Water, hymn books, congregational singing, children's liturgy, Offertory procession or sign of peace.

Baskets for the Offertory Collection will be on the tables at the back of church.

Times of Masses:

Saturday 11 th	15 th Sunday	5.30 p.m.	People of the Parish
Sunday 12 th	15 th Sunday	9.00 a.m. (St Pat's)	Francis Livesy
		10.30 a.m.	Jenny Nixon
Monday 13 th	Weekday	10.00 – 11.00 a.m.	For private prayer.
Tuesday 14 th	Weekday	7.30 p.m.	Safeguarding of Parishioners
Wednesday 15 th	St Bonaventure	10.00 a.m.	Billy & Jean Bowker
Thursday 16 th	Weekday	10.00 a.m. (St Pat's)	Francis Livesy
Friday 17 th	Weekday	10.00 a.m.	Dead List
Saturday 18 th	Weekday	10.00 a.m.	Annie Ward (LD)
		5.30 p.m.	People of the Parish
Sunday 19 th	16 th Sunday	9.00 a.m. (St Pat's)	Margaret Tullet
		10.30 a.m.	Refugees

Please pray for **Marion Wilson** who has been taken ill recently and is now in hospital.

Baptism

Baptisms can now take place with a maximum number of up to 30 people. Please contact Canon Firth if you wish to arrange a Baptism.

Mass Intentions received: SVP & Friends; Refugees; John, Emma & Eamon Kearley; Annie Ward (LD); Safeguarding of Parishioners; Graham Thompson; Ted, Sheena & Stephen Chew.
Donations this week: £237 - Many thanks.

Special Prayers

Lillian Price – Jennie Hendley – Jim Kelly – Marie & Bob Fletcher – Mary Posiko – Margaret DeVito – Phyllis Kirrage – Val Kaynell – Mark Hoare – Dale McLaughlin – Marie Keating – Max Hudson – Peter Catley – Stan Nelson – Paul Wood – Tony Atherton - Jennifer Purcell – Pat Maloney – Clifford Ball - Mandy McLaughlan.

Please pray for these and for the comfort of anyone suffering in any way. Please also remember the recently deceased and those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

Sermon - Sowing the Seed

1. In the Gospel Jesus tells a short story in which both failure and success feature. The sower goes out to sow the seed meets with both. Much of what the sower scattered on the ground was wasted. There were a whole variety of obstacles which impeded his work, the birds, the rocks, the thorns. But the sower could not do anything about these obstacles. They were part of his world. The sower knew that he had to make allowances for them; but the obstacles did not stop him casting the seed. He was confident that, in spite of all those obstacles and the inevitable failure which resulted, some of the seed would take root and mature, and that, at the end of the day, there would be a harvest to gather in.
2. Originally when Jesus told this story, He was speaking about Himself and His work. Jesus was the sower who scattered the seed of God's word. Much of what He did and said met with little or no response from people. What Jesus had to say very often fell on deaf ears; what He did was often misunderstood. The very people whom Christ had chosen to be His closest disciples were often unresponsive pupils. Yet in spite of all these obstacles and failures, Jesus would keep on doing the work His Father had set Him to do. He would keep sowing in spite of the unfavourable odds because Jesus knew that, at the end of the day, the harvest would be great. God's word would not return to Him empty.
3. But of course, this parable is also meant to apply to you and to me as well. This story which Jesus told would suggest to us that there are times in all our lives when we need to keep sowing even in the face of unfavourable odds; I am not suggesting that we keep hitting our heads off a stone wall indefinitely. There are situations in which the prudent thing to do is to throw in the towel! After all, there were towns where Jesus simply had to walk away from because no-one wanted Him there!

Whatever God has called us to work at in this life be it a married relationship, a family, whether we are wife, husband, son, daughter, parent or our particular work or calling, the Lord is surely calling us to be faithful to the situation and responsibilities we are committed to. Perhaps a member of the family is often unresponsive to our care or

interest in their lives and we feel our concern, energy and time are wasted on them, we feel like dropping them. Or in our jobs the boss does not appreciate the time and trouble we are putting in, we can be easily tempted to simply go through the motions of our work.

Have we not all been tempted at such moments to ditch our responsibilities and commitments.

/continued ...

/continued ...

My worst moments for such a temptation were in 1999 when I was on 'loan' for five years to the diocese of Aberdeen running two scattered parishes covering 250 square miles. Everything went swimmingly in my eyes for four years. Then every obstacle seemed to hit me. First a viral illness, then badly breaking my ankle whilst still recovering. A few weeks later a car crash resulting in a broken collar bone, damaged back and cuts. Soon afterwards a burglary in the presbytery followed by a bust up in one of the parishes involving the bishop. But I stayed put and weathered the storm and eventually settled down again.

4. In such situations the Lord may be calling us to be faithful to the work we are doing. When we think about it, our human persistence is meant to be an image, a reflection of how the Lord relates to each of us.

In the story of the sower and the seed, Jesus is showing us how He gives opportunities to the most unlikely people and situations to respond to His invitation. Jesus casts His seed His word, His Gospel liberally, without discrimination. The unpromising soil is treated as generously as the good soil. Do you remember what the Lord said earlier in St Matthew's Gospel in the Sermon on the Mount? Jesus remarked that God makes His sun to rise on the evil as well as the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous alike.

In other words, our God is both wasteful and persistent. Even if we mess up our lives, turn away from our responsibilities and then feel like a failure, the Lord still loves us to bits! He is ready at any time to say, 'Welcome back, start again, there is always a place for you in my heart!'

Canon Kevin Firth

Airedale Hospital Chaplain: If you require Fr Michael McLaughlin please phone 01535 653153

Blessed are those who stay indoors for they have protected others.

Blessed are the unemployed and the self-employed for their need of God is great.

Blessed are the corner shopkeepers for they are the purveyors of scarce things.

Blessed are the delivery drivers and the postal workers for they are the bringers of essential things.

Blessed are the hospital workers, the ambulance crews, the doctors, the nurses, the care assistants and the cleaners for they stand between us and the grave; the Kingdom of Heaven is surely theirs.

Blessed are the checkout workers for they have patience and fortitude in the face of overwork and frustration.

Blessed are the refuse collectors for they will see God despite the mountains of waste.

Blessed are the teachers for they remain steadfast and constant in disturbing times.

Blessed are the Church workers, the deacons, priests and bishops for they are a comforting presence in a hurting world as they continue to signpost towards God.

Blessed are the single parents for they are coping alone with their responsibilities, and there is no respite.

Blessed are those who are alone for they are children of God, and with Him they will never be lonely.

Blessed are the bereaved for whom the worst has already happened; they shall be comforted.

Blessed are those who are isolated with their abusers for one day – we pray – they will know safety.

Blessed are all during this time who have pure hearts: all who still hunger and thirst for justice; all who work for peace and who model mercy. May you know comfort. May you know calm.

And may the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

Sunday *MT* Message

THE WORD

Year A • Psalter Week 3



WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

(MATTHEW 13:1-23)

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the sower and seed. He uses images that would have been familiar to people living in the fishing and agricultural economy of Galilee.

A sower goes out to sow seed. He scatters it generously. Some falls on the edge of the path and is eaten up immediately by birds. Other seeds fall on a rocky patch, where they spring up straight away, but quickly wither because there isn't enough soil for the roots to take hold. Some fall among thorns, which grow up and choke them. Others fall among rich soil and produce an abundant crop.

Jesus explains that the seed is the word of God, which he scatters generously. It is available for everyone to respond to. But whether God's word will take root and bear fruit depends on the condition of the ground. It depends on how open people are to receive it.

Jesus describes four types of hearers. The first are those who hear the word of God but they do not really understand it and are easily led astray by evil influences. The second are initially very enthusiastic but fall away as soon as trials and difficulties arise because God's word has never taken root in them. Third are those who hear the word but are distracted by the worries and cares and riches of this life. The final type are those who listen to God's word and take it to heart, and respond by applying it to themselves in an effort to lead a life like that of Jesus. They will yield a rich harvest.

God's word is still scattered generously today. The question is, how well do we respond to it? How firmly does it take root in us? Are we people like the fourth group of hearers, who listen to the word of God, take it to heart, make it their own and have it bear much fruit? ■

REFLECT

We all would like to think that, when our time comes, we will have left a mark, a legacy, a sign that our lives were not in vain, that our impact on this earth was for the better. Some people have carved their names in history through the works of art or the inventions they created. Others have made their mark in the world of sports or politics or religion, or as great thinkers or explorers or leaders. Every generation

has produced individuals of renown, who used the talents they were given to yield a rich harvest! Think of the impact the seventeen-year-old Swedish campaigner Greta Thunberg is making in the area of climate activism.

All of us have been gifted and talented in one way or another. Hopefully, we are using those talents to the best of our ability, even if our names will never be

DO

Think about it. What seeds are you sowing? What values, attitudes and qualities are you planting in your children, in your family, your friends and workmates? What kind of harvest are you producing?

SAY

“Lord, help me to receive your word with an open heart and let it bear fruit in my life. Amen.”

PRAY

Pray for all Christians that they might draw others to God by the kind of lives they lead.

LEARN

The Christian is nourished by the breaking of bread and the breaking of the word.

The one who hears the word of God and lives it will produce good fruit.

By their fruits you shall know them.



in the history books. As Christians, we have been tasked with something even more important – to cultivate the seed of faith that has been planted in us so that it bears wonderful fruit. We do that by letting God's word ground us and shape us. We do it by the example of our lives – the values we hold, the words we speak, the actions we take. We do it by witnessing to the Gospel, in every moment of every day. ■

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who show the light of your truth
to those who go astray,
so that they may return to the right path,
give all who for the faith they profess
are accounted Christians
the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the
name of Christ
and to strive after all that does it honour.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 55:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.
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."
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 64

Response:
Some seed fell into rich soil,
and produced its crop.

1. You care for the earth, give it water,
you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over
to provide its grain. (R.)
2. And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows,
you level it, soften it with showers,
you bless its growth. (R.)
3. You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps,
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows.
(R.)

4. The hills are girded with joy,
the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy, yes, they sing. (R.)

SECOND READING Romans 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.
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.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia!
Speak, Lord, your servant is listening;
you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 13:1-9
(longer form Matthew 13:1-23)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside,
but such 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!"
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH
I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS
Look upon the offerings of the Church, O Lord,
as she makes her prayer to you,
and grant that, when consumed by those
who believe,
they may bring ever greater holiness.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON
The sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for her young;
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and
my God.
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Having consumed these gifts, we pray, O Lord,
that, by our participation in this mystery,
its saving effects upon us may grow.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

"Truly a faithful friend is the medicine of life.
Truly a faithful friend is a strong defence.
For what will not a genuine friend perform?
What pleasure will he not afford? What
benefit? What security? Though you should
name infinite treasures, none of them is
comparable to a genuine friend."
St John Chrysostom

