

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

*The mustard seed, the smallest of all the seeds, grows into the biggest shrub of all.*

Jesus said to the crowds: 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time: he starts to reap because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.'

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.

### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# Reflections on the Gospel

## AGAINST DISCOURAGEMENT

Jesus tells the two parables in today's Gospel to counter discouragement on the part of his disciples. The discouragement would stem from disappointment at how little impression the Kingdom of God, whose onset he is proclaiming, seems to be making among the populace at large.

The parables promote a correct understanding of the Kingdom. The disciples seem to be seeing it as involving transformation of the social and political order in a very outward and concrete way, whereas, for Jesus, the essence of the Kingdom is renewed relationship and intimacy with God—something available to people here and now through repentance and faith (Mark 1:15).

In the parable of the Seed Growing Secretly, once the landowner has sown the seed he simply lets it be. He goes about his life, confident that the soil will work a growth process unseen, without any intervention on his part. Only when he sees the grain is ripe, does he move to put in the sickle for harvest.

Jesus, in his preaching, has sown the "seed" of the Kingdom. A period may follow when nothing visible or dramatic seems to be happening. But all the while, though unseen, growth is taking place. In time a good "harvest" will appear.

Mustard seeds are very tiny. But in due course they grow into a shrub out of all proportion to their size. The disciples should not be discouraged by what would appear to be very insignificant beginnings of the coming rule of God.

Both parables have much to say to thoughtful life in the Church today.

Brendan Byrne, SJ



# THE SAVING WORD

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

17 JUNE 2018

## FIRST READING

Ezek 17:22-24

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

*I have made the small tree great.*

The Lord says this:

'From the top of the cedar,  
from the highest branch I will take a shoot  
and plant it myself on a very high  
mountain.

I will plant it on the high mountain of  
Israel.

It will sprout branches and bear fruit,  
and become a noble cedar.

Every kind of bird will live beneath it,  
every winged creature rest in the shade of its  
branches.

And every tree of the field will learn that I,  
the Lord, am the one  
who stunts tall trees and makes the low  
ones grow,  
who withers green trees and makes the  
withered green.

I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.'

### ■ The word of the Lord.

## RESP PSALM

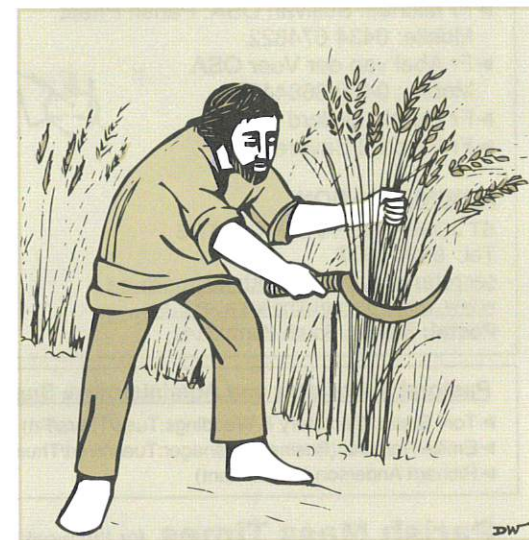
Ps 91:2-3, 13-16. R. cf. v. 2

**R.** Lord it is good to give thanks to you.

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord / to  
make music to your name, O Most High, / to  
proclaim your love in the morning / and your  
truth in the watches of the night. **R.**

2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree / and  
grow like a Lebanon cedar. **R.**

3. Planted in the house of the Lord / they will  
flourish in the courts of our God, / still bearing  
fruit when they are old, / still full of sap, still  
green, / to proclaim that the Lord is just. / In  
him, my rock, there is no wrong. **R.**



## SECOND READING

2 Cor 5:6-10

A reading from the second letter of St Paul  
to the Corinthians

*Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it,  
we are intent on pleasing the Lord.*

We are always full of confidence when we  
remember that to live in the body means to be  
exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and  
not by sight – we are full of confidence, I say,  
and actually want to be exiled from the body  
and make our home with the Lord. Whether  
we are living in the body or exiled from it, we  
are intent on pleasing him. For all the truth  
about us will be brought out in the law court of  
Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves  
for the things he did in the body, good or bad.

### ■ The word of the Lord.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! The seed is the word of  
God, Christ is the sower; all who come to  
him will live for ever. Alleluia!



St Joseph's Church, 30 Fitzgerald Street  
 St Thomas Aquinas' Church, 43 Bromby Street  
 est. 1887

**Under the Pastoral Care of AUGUSTINIANS**

- ▶ Fr Michael Sullivan OSA: Parish Priest  
Mobile: 0434 674822
- ▶ Fr Abel van der Veer OSA  
Mobile: 0409 368449
- ▶ Fr Gerald Dullard OSA
- ▶ Fr Percival Severe OSA



**ADMINISTRATION**

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[secretary@parishofsouthyarra.org.au](mailto:secretary@parishofsouthyarra.org.au)  
[www.parishofsouthyarra.org.au](http://www.parishofsouthyarra.org.au)  
 Postal: Box 21 South Yarra 3141

**CHILDRENS' LITURGY**

St. Joseph's • 10.30am Mass  
 First & third Sundays of the month  
 (except school holidays and long weekends)

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

St. Joseph's • Sat: 5.15pm – 5.45pm  
 (or by request)

**ANointing / HEALING MASS**

First Tuesday of the month 10am at  
 St Joseph's Church  
*(Senior parishioners, those with ongoing  
 sickness, those with mental illness, may all  
 receive the Sacrament of the Sick )*

**Pastoral Associates and Administrative Support**

- ▶ Toni Stuart (Secretary & Weddings: Tues/Thurs/Fri)
- ▶ Yvonne Bolland (Weddings: Tues 10am-12noon)
- ▶ Emille Rousset (Business Manager: Tues/Wed/Thurs)
- ▶ Diane Brebner (Alfred Hospital Liaison)
- ▶ Richard Anderson (Accountant)

**Parish Mass Times** for the week commencing weekend 17<sup>th</sup> June 2018

DAY	ST JOSEPH'S	ST THOMAS AQUINAS'
	TIME	TIME
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> June 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time	(Saturday- Vigil 6.00pm) 10.30am Mass	9.00am Mass
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> June		
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	10.00am Mass	12.45pm Communion Service
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	10.00am Mass	12.45pm Mass
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> June St Aloysius Gonzaga	10.00am Mass	12.45pm Communion Service
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June Sts John Fisher & Thomas More	10.00am Mass 10.30am Christian Meditation	12.45pm Mass
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	9.00am Mass 6.00pm Mass	

**PARISH BAPTISMS** We welcome the family and friends of Jack Duncan who is to be baptised this Sunday in St Joseph's church.

**MEETING FOR PARENTS** A meeting for parents who wish their children to have the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) for the first time will be held on Sunday 1st July after the 10.30 am mass in St. Joseph's Church. **Date for First Reconciliation: Thursday 9th August.** For more information please telephone Fr. Michael 0434 674 822

**EVENTS AND MEETINGS**

- ▶ Christian Meditation: Fridays 10.30am
- ▶ Praise & Worship: Sun 17<sup>th</sup> June 6.30pm in St Joseph's church followed by coffee & cake.



**PRAYER REFLECTION FROM ST AUGUSTINE**

"The person who is kind is free, even if he is a slave. But the person who is evil is a slave even though he be a mighty king."

**SJOS ANNUAL APPEAL**

Next weekend, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> June the SJOS annual appeal weekend will be held at all masses to raise funds for the continued work of St Joseph's Outreach Services in our parish.

**CHILD SAFETY IN OUR PARISH**

The Victorian Government has introduced compulsory minimum safety standards for organizations to protect children from abuse. The implementation of the Victorian Child Safe Standards for all members of our parish staff has been progressing steadily for the past 8 months. Recently, we have also appointed Savina D'Souza as our parish Child Safety Protection Officer. Savina has worked on our Parish Pastoral Council for the past 4 years and we are very grateful to her for taking on this new volunteer role.

The next step for us is to ensure that we work toward compliance with Victorian legislation for all our parish volunteers.

Giuseppe Gigliotti, who has been a volunteer in our parish for over 5 years and who has undertaken training to become a certified presenter of Child Safety formation sessions with the Archdiocese of Melbourne, will be conducting sessions in our parish during the first two weeks of July. We are very grateful to Giuseppe for his generous assistance to us at this time.

In the coming week all our parish volunteers will receive a letter inviting them to attend one 90-minute Child Safety Training Session in the first half of July.

There will be at least 5 training sessions over a two week period and our volunteers will be asked to attend one session at a time which is convenient for them.

Whilst we will arrange other training sessions for volunteers later in the year, volunteers are advised to get in early and try to make one of these July sessions.

**IN LOVING MEMORY**



**Recently Deceased**  
 ✦ Bridget Patricia Goll  
 ✦ Brian Bourke  
**Anniversaries**

- ✦ Fiona Lochtenberg
- ✦ Geoff Dawson
- ✦ Fr Paul Dempsey OSA
- ✦ Giuse (Joseph) Tran
- ✦ Betty Codognotto
- ✦ Dominic Favaloro
- ✦ Dr. Garry Groves
- ✦ Kathleen McMahon
- ✦ Robert Cameron
- ✦ Eulogia Severe Mayor
- ✦ Karel & Elfrida Kral
- ✦ Fr James Kavanagh OSA
- ✦ Barry O'Brien
- ✦ Beverley Hicks
- ✦ Jean Stokes
- ✦ Eve Hayman
- ✦ Freda Tangey
- ✦ Robert Alston
- ✦ Emily Mulqueen
- ✦ Daniel Moriarty
- ✦ James Scanlon
- ✦ Br Kevin King
- ✦ Iris Hammet

**GARDEN THEMED MORNING TEA**

Following the St Joseph's Church 10.30 am mass this Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June, you are invited to a Garden Themed Morning Tea in the Parish Hall, hosted by the parish Young Adult Ministry (YAM). Come along and be served tea, coffee and refreshments by the young adults of our parish! All welcome!

**SUNDAY COLLECTIONS 10/06/18**

Thanking you for your continuing support!  
 Please contact the parish office if you wish to contribute via Direct Debit or Credit Card

- 1<sup>st</sup> Collection (Clergy/Priory a/c) ..... \$911.70
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Coll. (Planned Giving Church a/c) .... \$340.50
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Coll. (Loose Money Church a/c)..... \$628.25

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:**

June Cochrane, Des White, Beb Larsen, Chaiel Balcombe, John & Rose Ignace, Ronald Seaman, Aristotle Pamintuan, Therese Phillios, Mikos Gloudemans, Elsa Notarte, Meldred Liba Lagahit, Socorro Severe, Dolores Hogan, Frank Muratore, Maurice Wallin, Alex Wallisz, Margaret Greene, Elaine Dennis, Spiros Layia, Emma Kirk, Chris 'Smith', Anthony Singh, Jean de Campo, Jacinta Severe, Gus Carter, Socrates Baroutas

**Faith Discussion Nights**

Christian faith and living today  
 Every Tuesday night in June  
 7.00 pm to 8.15 pm in the Priory  
 3<sup>rd</sup> session Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June  
 Topic: Why do disciples celebrate the Eucharist together?  
 All welcome!