



Parish Office: 1 Severn St, Balwyn North

Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 9:00am – 12:00pm

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For those wishing to contribute to Stewardship or Priests' collection, the Parish account details are listed below for electronic funds transfer.

1st Collection

**Account name: St Bede's Presbytery Account Presbytery
Account BSB: 083 347 Account no. 666017079**

2nd Collection

**Account name: St Bede's Church Account Church
Account BSB: 083 347 Account no. 458706734**

Please click on the link below after 5pm on Saturday, 18th July, to watch Mass Online, celebrated by our priests:

<https://youtu.be/VxKIu24FYJ8>

First Reading - Wisdom 12:13, 16–19

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything,
to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly.
Your justice has its source in strength,
your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.
You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned
and you expose the insolence of those who know it;
but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement,
you govern us with great lenience,
for you have only to will, and your power is there.
By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people
how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men,
and you have given your sons the good hope
that after sin you will grant repentance.

The word of the Lord.



Responsorial Psalm – Ps 85:5–6, 9–10, 15–16

R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice. **R.**

All the nations shall come to adore you
and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,
you who alone are God. **R.**

But you, God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me. **R.**

Second Reading – Romans 8:26–27

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Gospel – Matthew 13:24–43

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner’s servants went to him and said, “Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?” “Some enemy has done this” he answered. And the servants said, “Do you want us to go and weed it out?” But he said, “No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

Last week, today and next Sunday we hear how Jesus taught so well by means of parables. Last week we heard the parable about the sower, today, about the field of wheat and weeds, about the mustard seed, about the yeast...and next Sunday about the treasure in the field, the pearl of great price, and the dragnet.

Parables use images from everyday life; they have a surprising twist to them that tell something unexpected and they raise questions, unsettle the comfortable and complacent, they challenge. Jesus' parables teach us that we find God in the everyday aspects of our lives. While the images Jesus used were from the day to day experience of people's lives.

In today's Gospel, we hear the ordinary images Jesus uses and how he twists the images...why leave the weeds among the wheat? The mustard seed grows into a bush, not a tree, so what is Jesus saying? Why is the kingdom of heaven like yeast? So, the point of the parable is to take the longer view, be patient, wait until harvest when we can leave it to God to do the sorting.

The advice of the parable in today's Gospel is to have patience with each other. Patience is familiar with human weakness. Patience is compassionate. Patience doesn't accept sin and evil, but never abandons the sinner, just as you as parents don't accept inappropriate behaviour from your children, but still love them. Just think of how God is patient with you and me.

We acknowledge that there may be people who need to be patient with us too. We are an extraordinary mixture of good and bad. Moreover, the roots of good are so mixed with the roots of evil that one can't be pulled up without pulling up the other. We need to learn to be patient and tolerant, towards ourselves in the first place. We need to be hospitable towards all that we are. We need to acknowledge the dark side of ourselves, without conceding victory to it. We need to struggle on in spite of the weeds, confident that with God's help, the good will finally triumph. It is through struggle that we grow, provided we don't throw in the towel.

A person will be judged, not by a single act or stage in his life, but by his or her whole life. That is why judgement can't come until the end. A person may make a great mistake, but by the grace of God, change. Because of the presence of evil, both in our own lives and in the world, we have to struggle. But it is through struggle that we grow. Struggle awakens all that is good and precious within us and among us. The parable is both realistic and optimistic.

Maybe in our prayer we might bring to Jesus the people we need to have patience with, even those closest to us, and ask him to have patience with ourselves too.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: Through the Spirit that comes to us in our weakness, we lift up our hearts in prayer.

We pray for Pope Francis and all Bishops of our Church. As they continue to sow the seed of the Word, may it yield a rich harvest.

Lord hear us

We pray for our national and civic leaders, our law makers and those who administer the law. May they take guidance from the God of Mercy.

Lord hear us

We pray for our troubled world still grappling with the coronavirus pandemic. May we all reach out to care for each other in whatever way possible.

Lord hear us

We pray for our faith community as we gather to hear the word of God. May we “open our ears” to truly listen.

Lord hear us

We pray for the sick of our parish and for all who have asked for our prayers. We pray for those who have died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they be brought to the fullness of life with Christ.

Lord hear us

Celebrant: Gracious God, hear the words of your people. Thankful for your love and compassion showered on us in the past, we ask that you continue to fill us with your abundant grace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

The simple and loving act of Spiritual Communion (written by St. Alphonsus Liguori) can be made when we are unable to attend Mass and receive the Eucharist. Pray these words:

My Jesus,
I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul.
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.
As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You;
never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

Prayers during a pandemic

FOR PEACE OF SOUL

*Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you.
All things are passing:
God alone is changeless.
Patience gains all things,
Who has God wants nothing.
God alone suffices.
—St Teresa of Ávila*

A Prayer to St Joseph, the Great Protector

St Joseph,
You were receptive to God working in your life.
Help us by your prayers at this time of trial.
You kept Jesus and Mary under your watchful care:
may your prayers assist our local Church to respond to those in
need.
You taught the Christ Child your trade and prayers:
help us to follow his example of love.
You were part of God's plan for all humanity:
assist us to be vigilant and responsible this day.
You spent your life in service:
may we be mindful of others, particularly the elderly and
vulnerable, caring for them in these difficult days.
You trusted in the clear primacy of God over all history and
every situation: help us to grow in faith and pray to the
Father, *Thy will be done.*
Amen



PARISH NEWS

Mass Online: Thursday, 23 July

Online Mass Thursday 23 July: Feast of St Bridget. The link will be sent late Wednesday.

SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL VULNERABLE PEOPLE

We hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our parish. The Parish Statement of Commitment and Reporting Process are on display in all churches and all Parish Policies are available on the website or at the parish office.