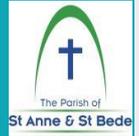




The Parish of

St Anne & St Bede



Parish Office: 1 Severn St, Balwyn North

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

Phone: 9401 6355

E-mail: balwynnorthkeweast@cam.org.au

Website: parishofstanneandstbede.org.au

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, 11th July, to watch Mass Online, celebrated by our priests:

<https://youtu.be/to2tHUZ9D24>

First Reading - Isaiah 55:10–11

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.

Responsorial Psalm – Ps 64:10–14

R. The seed that falls on good ground
will yield a fruitful harvest.

You care for the earth, give it water,
you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over
to provide its grain. **R.**

And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows,
you level it, soften it with showers,
you bless its growth. **R.**

You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps,
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **R.**

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

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.

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!

Gospel – Matthew 13:1–23

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.



REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

The Gospel parable today is the first of a series of parables in Matthew's Gospel that are gathered together to instruct us. The word "parable" in English comes from a Hebrew word that means a puzzle, or an enigma. Parables are meant to get us thinking, and there may be more than one answer to the puzzle. That is why the shorter version of the Gospel reading today is better for our personal reflection, for to use the explanation that Matthew then goes on to give is to limit the power and the message of the parable for each of us.

I'm sure we've all heard explanations of the parable that focus on the various sorts of ground that the sower throws seed on. The rocky ground, the thorn-covered ground, and then the good soil, are all explained in terms of human response. However, if we go back to the parable: Jesus starts with the sower. And later in the Gospel he turns back to his disciples and refers to the parable of the sower – not the parable of the seed, or the various soils.

The sower went out to sow. We start with God, and the magnificent generosity he shows. The seed is thrown liberally, and some might think, wastefully, on everything under the sun. God does not have favourites. His word is given to all. The parable is first and foremost about the generous love of God.

Secondly, the parable gives three outcomes for the seed sown. The first and second are not happy outcomes – they are failures. The third is really three outcomes – the crop producing 100-fold, 60-fold and 30-fold. But the parable doesn't tell us why some of the seed produces better than others. It doesn't seem to matter.

So what is this saying to us? Perhaps it is that we often find it easier to explain failure than success. Where the seed doesn't produce, we can find reasons and sometimes lay blame. But when the seed produces abundantly, we sort of just take it for granted.

Let us be a people of gratitude for the places and times and situations and people where the Word of God produces fruit abundantly. In one sense there is no need to analyse. We know why: the Word of God has a power of its own, a power coming from God. But we should not be shy of also recognizing and showing appreciation for the generosity of heart, the depth of faith, and the courage of spirit, of those in whom the Word of God finds rich soil.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: God's Word, Jesus Christ, achieves the end for which he was sent. Through this Word we make our prayers of petition.

We pray for Pope Francis and all Bishops. May the seed of the word they sow bring forth a rich harvest.

Lord hear us

We pray for leaders of our world. May they be good stewards of the earth and its resources.

Lord hear us

We pray for all those who are suffering from a lack of food. May the famines caused by greed or corruption be turned around by the love of those who care.

Lord hear us

We pray for our faith community. May our eyes be open to the weeds and stones in our lives that prevent us bearing fruit from the seed scattered by the Word of Jesus.

Lord hear us

We pray for the sick of our parish and for those who care for them. We pray for those who have died recently especially *Gavin Michael Carrucan* and for those whose anniversaries we recall at this time. May they be raised up to the fullness of life in Christ.

Lord hear us

Celebrant: God of life, receive these prayers from your faithful people who wish to see their whole world share in the joy of your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Letter from Fr John

Dear Parishioners,

After the gradual opening up that we had been enjoying, we now find ourselves in lockdown and in some ways in a more serious situation than last time. Once again, we are unable to gather as a community and celebrate Eucharist together, and many of our normal parish activities have had to cease.

Please know that Fr Toan and I are praying for you and remembering you in our Masses – both the online Sunday Mass and our private Masses during the week. There will be someone in the parish office from 9am to midday, Tuesday to Friday; and the phone is diverted outside these times, so please do not hesitate to ring us.

Our seminarian, Tien Tran, has moved to a pastoral placement at St Catherine of Siena Parish, Caroline Springs. He has been a great support for Fr Toan and I during the last four months, and has been the man behind the camera for that time. He is continuing to give us some assistance for filming. Our parish team are still at work: Fr Toan has the home-gym humming (and can be seen in the garden on sunny days as well); Jo Ryan is keeping the phone lines running hot; Maria Costanzo is there to answer your calls whether in the office or remotely; Kris Slavec is doing an essential job keeping our finances afloat; and my bike is getting plenty of use.

Keep safe, keep healthy, and may the mighty Saints profit from the unusual football season!

Fr John Salvano



PARISH NEWS

PEAR TREES NEEDING HOMES

The presbytery has a couple of Mongolian ornamental pear trees needing homes. Each is about 1.5 metres high. If you would like one, please contact the office. They need to be picked up from Windella Avenue as soon as convenient.

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.