

Rosters

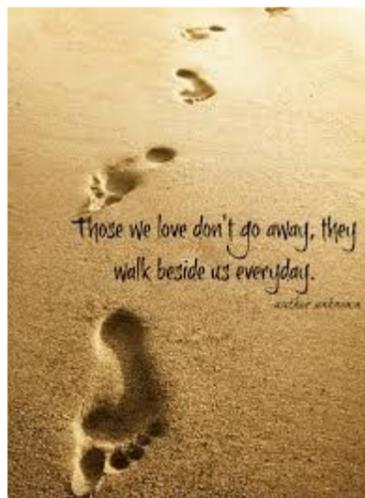
Mass Readers

Not required until further notice.

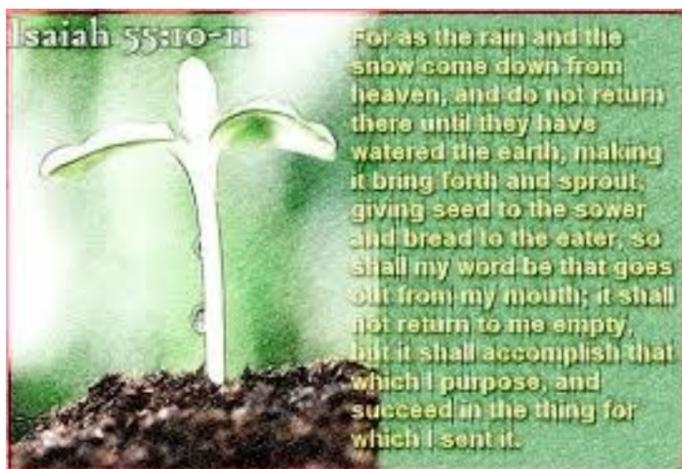
IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for, Leo O'Brien, Haizil Joseph, Santhi Komatineni, Kevin Murphy, Kevin Featherston, Bridget Walsh, Cathryn Walsh.

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES



We pray for Guiseppe Cini, Muriel Kelly, Francis Costolloe, Eilieen Cooney, Christopher Cooney, Antonio Sagona, Jesse Ochenden, Nicola Nardo, Roman Kin Senior (NZ), Ercole Taliana, Jim Charles, Kevin Tweedly, Helen Nahas, Emmanuel Darmanin, Edwin Poliness, Joe Pecora, Eddy Welsh, Rene Hynes, Rolfe Erdman, Martin Woods, Bill Stone, Giovanna Scolaro, Nancy Sexton, Deano Cosma, Jack Lauder, Lloyd Croall, Jerome Creaney, Concetta Lo Piccolo, Alf Swallows, Mary Hyland, Michal Camilleri, Des Laurie, Clare Ryan, Aristeia Sagona, Michael Daly, Geoffrey Reid, Paul Dargo, Mona Ellis, Catherine Torrisi, Rachel Mangan, George Ulmer, Edna Kelly, Jack Richardson, Sonja Hodell, Fr Bozo Zovko, Richard Bunting Anthony Caccamo, Ted Hill, Domenic Edes and Margaret Campitelli; whose anniversaries are at this time.



St Mary's Parish



A community where we bring together our gifts and talents

116 Cecil Street, Williamstown 3016
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12th July, 2020

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

Parish Priest

(Fr.) Greg Tryhall
PH: 9397 6066
MO: 0400 524 363
Email: greg.tryhall@cam.org.au

Pastoral Associate

Monique Julian
0450 789 951
Monday, Tuesday

Parish Office Manager-Secretary

Heidi Zahra
Tuesday 8:30am – 4pm
Thursday 8:30am – 4pm
Friday 8:30am – 4pm

Wednesday Secretary

Kylie Skinner
8.30am–3.30pm

St. Mary's School

Principal
Anthony Hockey

Normal Mass Times

Consult bulletin inside for any changes.
Saturday at 5:30pm
Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am
Tuesday to Thursday 9:15am

Reconciliation

Saturday 10:00am

Silent Adoration in Church

2:30pm – 3:30pm
Wednesday

Baptism Preparation Night

Third Thursday monthly
7.00pm at Parish Centre.
Baptism must be booked prior to attending Preparation Night.

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. 55:10-11

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Your word, O Lord, brings forth life.

SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans. 8:18-23

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

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

GOSPEL: MATTHEW: 13:1-9

On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the sea. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd stood along the shore.



And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear.



Dear Parishioners,
 COVID 19 situation is not so great is it! As at this stage we have had to abandon weekend public masses from this weekend onwards. Accordingly, **I divert you to my U Tube site: fathergreg.online.** There you will find the latest Masses from the Jesuits in Sydney as that seems to be the clearest and most encouraging source for spiritual Mass nourishment, plus added to that you will find another sermon from myself as well as a different one added on the bulletin by myself also.

Although we have been struggling financially through this COVID 19 VIRUS, it has not stopped our attempts to help others worse off than ourselves. Our Parish Council, our **'Way of the West'** committee and our Parish Finance Team have wished us to continue our help to Asylum Seekers. We gave \$10,000 last year to help a few asylum seeker ladies to keep paying their rent in Newport and recently we did the same.

The following are the words of thanks from Sr Brigid Arthur of the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project on 29/6/2020:

"Dear Fr Greg, the Finance Committee and the Way of the West Committee,

Thanks to everyone concerned for the wonderful help of \$10,000 to keep paying the rent for the asylum seekers in Williamstown. You are keeping the women in the house housed and welcome. May you all be blessed" .

Best wishes – Brigid Arthur.

EXTRA SERMON/REFLECTION FOR SUNDAY 15A.

As a 5-year child the thing I liked and remembered most was when my father came into my bedroom just before sleep time and repeated some story that I really liked: little red riding hood or whatever! It was a world of innocence and I look back with nostalgia, especially at the bond it brought to father and son.

Jesus must have appreciated this same scenario as even adults need a good story to encourage a better life and a better world view. His religious stories we call parables and Jesus was 'the King of the Parable'.

Accordingly, we are presented through the Scriptural readings of this weekend with another one of Jesus' famous stories.

The parable of the sower is quite well known. It is the one about the seed sown in four different kinds of soil and what happens to it. The seed is the Word of God: the four kinds of soil are four kinds of people.



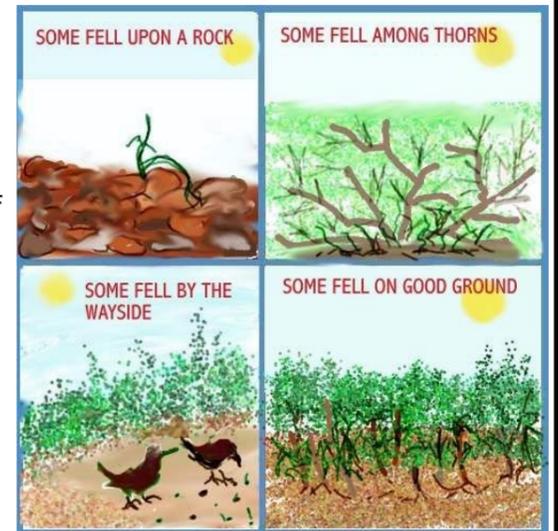
There are those who never accept the Word (reject God)

There are those who believe for a while but fall away relatively easily because of hardships or persecution.

There are those who believe, but in whom the Word is choked by worldly anxieties and the lure of material things.

There are those who respond to the Word generously and produce the appropriate fruit in their lives.

Except for a younger generation 'the parable of the sower' is a parable story many of us have heard so often and many of us know relatively well, that we can cease to listen – a common temptation of some even long time believers. Even though for many of us we have been to Church since childhood, and maybe even heard the gospel every Sunday, we can still get too distracted by our 'to do' list or our worries/concerns. Accordingly, almost unknowingly we can fail to really attend to the message, even though the message is from the master craftsman, himself, Jesus Christ. Thus, in this 'parable of the sower' we can be the 3rd kind of soil – distracted by the worries of this world.



Certain parts of the 'parable of the sower' may strike us as incongruous! For instance, one would think that 1st century Palestinian people could not have been boasting of too many worldly distractions, at least in contrast with the 21st century. What else did they have to do but grow their crops, care for their animals and children, eat, sleep and even listen to Jesus! No TV, computers, mobile phones, laptops, or even shop to you drop possibilities! If there were distractions that choked the Word then, how is the Word to survive now!

Sometimes it may be Jesus who describes us too easily at times for not paying proper attention to the spiritual life as Jesus in his time quoted the great Old Testament prophet Isaiah: **"They close their minds and hearts, lest they be converted and I heal them."**

Subsequently, we might ask what is the punishment or consequence for not attending to God's Word. That's like asking, what do we lose when to fail to hug our children or fail to eat nourishing food or fail to place ourselves in the presence of beauty: we lose out on simple pleasure, delight, joy. Consequently, when we fail to attend to God's word as on the front page of this bulletin, we lose all that is contained in God's Word: the message for us, the light for the path, the food for the journey, our connection with the Divine. We then can easily lose purpose, direction, wisdom, holiness. Why don't we take the good that is offered to us, and why-oh-why do we look for satisfaction in what is bound to disappoint us!



Well, like in the 'parable of the sower' in the front of the bulletin how does God's Word survive in all this barren, rocky, thorny, distracted soil?



Indeed, the Word will survive because we who are so indulged eventually discover that nothing else satisfies us. We get tired of being rocky, thorny, barren or apathetic, distracted, procrastinating. Rather we were created to be rich soil for the Word of God. Thus, the first reading of the Holy Scriptures of this weekend of this 15th Sunday Year A has the final word from the Prophet Isaiah: **"My word shall not return to be empty, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it."**

Yours 'in Christ'

Fr Greg 10/7/2020