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Rosi Vandenberg  
Jan Sirek  
Fr. Paul Hogan

Office Administrator—office@stmaryshuntsville.ca  
Lay Pastoral Assistant (LPA) - rsidowney@gmail.com  
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Ushers

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**Our Parish Schools**

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**The Parable of the Mustard Seed - Mark 4:30 - 32**

Again, Jesus is describing what the kingdom of God is like. With this parable however, he is providing an insight as to the effect that God's kingdom, God's will is to have in our world. However, in order for things to change on a grand scale, what is required is that the minds and hearts of individuals be open not only to consider a new way of being, but to realize that the moment we are willing to consider something new, is the moment that change is about to happen, and we are that change.

In this parable, Jesus compares the kingdom of God to that of a mustard seed. Since most of us no longer possess an agrarian mindset, the radical nature of this parable may be lost on us. Consider this, the mustard plant that Jesus is referring to is an insidious and pervasive weed, that once taking hold of a field, you can basically say good bye to your crop. Jesus is making a link between the kingdom of God and a weed. The people then, as we today, would never think of God's kingdom, let alone His will to be like a weed. There is nothing respectful, honourable, holy or "glamorous" about this. So, let us look closely at what Jesus maybe saying in this parable.

When he says it is "the smallest of all seeds on earth" (vs31b), He is immediately beginning to challenge their perception of the kingdom of God. Any kingdom of substance and influence has to be huge and expansive, larger than any other kingdom on earth. But Jesus says, the kingdom of God, like a mustard seed is: small, insignificant and of no apparent value. What is essential within the nature of the kingdom of God, is to be humble, not seeking to be powerful or important. If we do not begin with humility, then whatever follows, will never be God's kingdom, but mine.

He goes on to say that this weed is intentionally sown into the field. It is not by accident, but by design so that it will become in time, "the largest of all garden plants" (vs32). 'Largest' here has nothing to do with being important. Rather, if it is allowed to grow, the kingdom of God's impact (humility), can be far reaching and have a positive effect in our world. But who in their right mind plants a weed among your prized crop or garden? This weed will surely destroy everything, taking over by smothering everything out. But is this what Jesus is suggesting? That for the kingdom of God to come about, means it must destroy the world around it? Not destroy, not with violence, but to show us that it can peaceably and humbly be anywhere and everywhere. It is not however, meant to be a peaceful co-existence. It is meant to be a challenge to the world around it, offering a different vision life. Once the kingdom of God has taken root, and spreads its "big branches" then birds (the dis-enfranchised) may come to rest in its shade and even make a home for themselves. The farmer however does not want this unwanted bush and the birds that will gather. These guests will further diminish the productivity of his crop. If the farmer had it his way, he would uproot and burn every last mustard plant. And there is the crux of Jesus' message.

The kingdom of God is meant to challenge our notions of who we believe is of value and importance - who is to be welcomed or to be shunned as our neighbour. Those listening to Jesus, had a version of the kingdom of God that allowed them to be exclusive, dismissive and if need be, to rip up and remove anyone who did not fit their criteria. For Jesus, the planting of the kingdom of God is a conscious choice, and it is to be planted in the heart of the world, not on the fringe. Here, the kingdom of God, God's will of humility, kindness, charity and hospitality towards all, is to grow along side the hatred and ill will that is in our world. The reason for this is that the kingdom of God is not to be considered an add on or an after thought, that can work in some places, limited and controlled. Rather, the kingdom of God is to first provide a safe haven for the broken hearted people in this world, and ultimately, to invite us all to change our vision of the world. To bring about a world, where there are no longer broken hearted and disenfranchised people anywhere. For this vision of the kingdom to come about everyone, everywhere needs to participate. Things change, when we change. But if I have too much of myself invested in the way things are, why would I change? Perhaps it will happen when my love of neighbour is greater than my hatred for them. Am I not hating my neighbour, if I do not lift a finger to help bring about a loving change of universal dignity for all people? My world must change so that their world will change, and together, we are living in a new world. pah

**SVDP SOCIETY**  
12 Centre Street N., Huntsville, ON  
**Hotline: 705.789.0008**

The members of the St. Vincent de Paul group here in our parish, thank you for your continued **Food Pantry Donations** ! We are presently in need of **Toilet Paper, Mushroom Soup, Ketchup and Jam**. Also, next weekend will be our monthly collection for **St. Vincent de Paul**. Your generosity helps us to help our neighbours live with dignity. Thank you.





# 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time - June 28th

“Let nothing Disturb you, Let nothing frighten you, Though all things pass, God does not change. Patience wins all things. But he lacks nothing who possesses God; For God alone suffices.”

St. Teresa Avila



“Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do.”

St. Pope John XXXIII

## Mass Schedule Week of June 28th - July 5th

**Monday June 29th**  
9:00AM **Sts. Peter & Paul**  
+Diane Prouty

**Tuesday June 30th**  
9:00AM +Eleanor Mowat

**Wednesday July 1st**  
11:00AM Adoration  
12:00Noon\* +Ken McLeod

**Thursday July 2nd**  
9:00AM SI Shirley Kolb

**Saturday July 4th**  
4:00PM +Edwina (Sam) Cope

**Sunday July 5th**  
9:00AM + Christopher Rea  
11:00AM (B) +Russell & Norah Bannock

\*Wednesday Mass / Sunday Obligation

(B) Baysville - St. Kateri

**Confessions Sat. 3:15pm - 3:45pm or by request.**

**We Remember**  
our Faithful Departed,  
**Glen Murdy & Joseph Corey**  
&

**We join our prayers with those who are ill at this time ...**

Rebecca Muzzi, Ian Bruce, Joe Hanrath, Pamela Festing, David Phillips, Connie Gregory, John Schreurs, Kristina Lenart, Robert Foley, Steven Knox, Jim Tremblay Jr., Claudette Mainville, Michael Brown, Brian Dittmar, Ruth Anne Foley, Bianca Laurie de Hernandez & Patricia Quinn.

### A Prayer for Wisdom and Peace When Making Big Decisions / Scotty Smith

Dear heavenly Father, you number our hairs and determine our days; you hang the stars and feed the sparrows; you open doors no one can shut and shut doors no one can open. Surely, we can trust you when the time comes for making big decisions, or for that matter, any decisions. We are in just such a season again, Father, and we know we are not alone. We will trust you for generous wisdom, straight paths and peaceful hearts, all for your glory.

How we praise you for being the decision-making-God. It's not our decisions, but yours that make all the difference. We will plan, but we trust you to order our steps. We will pray, but ask you to fix our prayers en route to heaven. We will seek counsel, but count on you to overrule faulty or incomplete input from our most trusted friends and mentors. We will search the Scriptures, but not looking for proof texts but for you, Father. All we want and need is you.

Free us from the paralysis of analysis—wanting to make the right decision, more than we want to be righteous people; wanting to be known as wise people, more than we want to know you. Free us from the idolatry of assuming there's only one “perfect” choice in any given situation. Free us from making decisions primary for our comfort and other's approval, or fear their disapproval. Free us to know that good choices don't always lead to the easiest outcomes, especially at first. Free us from second and twenty-second guessing our decisions.

Father, no matter if it's wisdom about buying or selling, vocation or vacation, this place or that place, this person or that person, we know that in ALL things, your will is our sanctification—our becoming more and more like Jesus. Give us this passion; make it our delight.

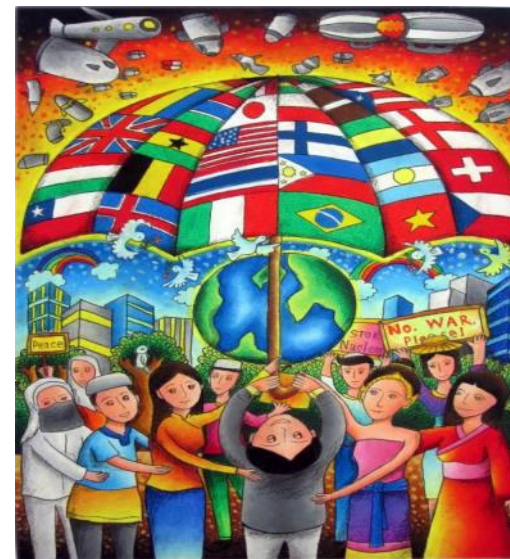
So, Father, make us more and more like Jesus, even as we trust you for the opening and closing of doors that are in front of us. All for your glory—in our eating and drinking; and in our whatever's, whenever's and wherever's.

Amen.

### Ministry Schedule - Weekend of July 4th/5th

	Sat. 4pm	Sun. 9:00am	Sun 11am (B)
Readers			
Ushers			
Sanitizers in Church			

Tuesday June 30th Counters: Linda Latour and Sandra Cochrane



### This is Jesus Toughest Teaching / Rob Buckingham

What does it mean to be a disciple? The Greek word is *mathetes*. It's the word from which we get our English word mathematics, which means, “to apply yourself to study, learning and knowledge.” Jesus frequently encouraged people to become his mathetes, his disciples who would use their mental effort to think things through, to count the cost of what it means to be his follower: somebody who applied themselves to study, learning and knowledge of the Scriptures, and the lifestyle they require. That is, a people who wouldn't just know the Bible, they'd learn it and then live it out in their daily lives. A disciple counts the cost of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. They ask themselves the question, “Is it worth it?” And they answer with a resounding YES!

On one occasion, large crowds were travelling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple ... those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples” (Luke 14:25-33).

Note the three kinds of people who Jesus says, “cannot be my disciples.” Those who love their family more than they love him; those who are not prepared to suffer hardship; and those who value possessions more than him. That is, if you hold onto your money and possessions even though you'd be well able to meet the needs of others, you cannot be Jesus' disciple. Whatever a disciple has is always on call for the Master's use.

### A Disciple Counts The Cost

It's hard teaching that's just as necessary today as it has ever been. The contemporary church draws big crowds, but how many in that crowd have counted the cost to become a disciple? My guess is very few, just as it was in Jesus' day. When he faced the cross, they all deserted. After the resurrection they started drifting back, by the day of Pentecost there were 120. Where was the crowd?

I was speaking to a Christian leader this week who specialises in church health. He told me the story of a pastor who was very proud of his large church, until God spoke to him and said, “your church isn't big, it's fat.” It's easy for us to look at a big church and to think all is well. But is it a crowd or is that church making disciples?

### Are You A Disciple?

Jesus frequently attempted to convert crowds into disciples. Sometimes it worked, but invariably the masses moved away. So, are you part of the Christian crowd or are you a disciple? Is Jesus your Lord? Does he have control of and access to everything you are and all you have? When things get tough will you leave too?

### A Huge Note of Thanks to ...

many of our women in the CWL who have been busy making face masks, for months now. They have been providing such masks to our greater community which is a wonderful sign of their genuine love for neighbor. It has come at an out of pocket expense to them, so if you can donate to their cause, it would be much appreciated.

### As well,

thank you to the many parishioners who through financial and food donations helped to keep the **St. Vincent de Paul Ministry** alive and well. A special thank you to Al Cormier and Michael O'Mara, who faithfully answered peoples calls for assistance and put themselves on the front line giving the food to those in need. We thank you and appreciate your work.

## Next Sunday July 5, 2020 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Cheap grace is grace without discipleship. Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ. It is only because he became like us that we can become like him. Salvation is free, but discipleship will cost you your life. Being a Christian is less about cautiously avoiding sin than about courageously and actively doing God's will.” / Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“If you want peace, work for justice.” Pope Paul IV

### June 20th/21st Weekend Offertory

\$7,315.00

Thank you for your continued kindness and participation In your parish church, through time, talent and treasure.

Friede sei mit dir