



# Saint Mary MacKillop Catholic Parish

Birkdale · Thorneside · Wellington Point

(This Parish is Child Safety Aware and also complies with Australian Privacy Laws)



## 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A - 12<sup>th</sup> July 2020

*How God's word takes root in us.....*

As Christians we know the parable of the sower so well, however although we have heard it so many times, we can't hear it again without being stirred. Jesus tells His disciples that the seed is the word of the Kingdom; that is, His own word, His own witness, ultimately Himself. We want to receive this Word. Yet how well we know that we are not the perfect soil we should be! How easily we allow our hearts to become messed up by our resentments, attachments, worries or temptations, so that the hoped-for fruits of holiness are not produced as they could be! Then also we reflect on how Jesus casts His seed in us, in order that we might continue His work in the world. So the parable of the sower is also a call to the Church, to all of us, to evangelise! Our calling is to find ways to proclaim Jesus in our own times. To communicate to people our own faith experience, itself a gift from the Holy Spirit that God exists; that He is good; that He has come to us in Jesus Christ, in order to forgive our sins, and to draw us to Himself; to give us eternal life. One of the most effective ways we have of nurturing the seeds of the Kingdom is by coming to Mass. Here amid the assembly of the faithful we worship God in the power of the Holy Spirit. We listen to His word in Holy Scripture; we receive the sacrifice of our salvation, and meet Jesus Himself in the Blessed Sacrament. So today once again we surrender to the Lord and ask for the grace we need to connect with Him and to hear, truly see Him and understand, so that we can be enfolded by Him, and healed.

The parable of the sower challenges us to see how deeply the word of God takes root in our lives and in our day to day existence. Christ invites His followers to embrace the faith of the sower: to trust and believe that our simplest acts of kindness and forgiveness, our humble offer of help to anyone in need, our giving of only a few minutes to listen to someone's difficult situation may be the seeds that fall "on good soil" and yield an abundant harvest.

Jesus challenges us in the parable of the sower to be both sower and seed: to sow seeds of encouragement, joy and reconciliation regardless of the ground on which it is scattered, and to imitate the seed's total giving of life that becomes the harvest of Gospel justice and mercy. Each of us has many gifts and talents. Let us spend these doing the will of God and becoming more Christ-like. The opportunity is calling us. The parables of Jesus enlighten us if we approach them with an open mind and heart, ready to let them challenge and inspire us.

Blessings,

*Fr. Dantus Thottathil.*

### ***This Week's Readings:***

***First Reading: Isa 55:10-11*** – *The rain makes the earth give growth.*

***Psalm Response:*** Lord you have the words of everlasting life.

***(Alternative Psalm Response if spoken):*** The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

***Second Reading: Rom 8:18-23*** – *All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.*

### ***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: Matt 13:1-23*** – *A sower went out to sow.*



### **QUOTE OF THE DAY:**

**When you focus on problems you will have more problems.**  
**When you focus on possibilities you'll have more opportunities.**

**Next week's Readings** **First: Wis 12:13, 16-19**

**Second: Rom 8:26-27**

**Gospel: Matt 13:24-43**

**Mass Times:** Saturday 6:15pm & Sunday 8:00am (limited to 80 people)

**Reconciliation: By appointment only**

**Parish Office Hours:** Monday, Tuesday & Friday 9am to 2pm.

**Parish Council Members:** Chris Mahoney, Therese Evans, Cathy McGrath, Lorraine Kumar, John Spillane

**Pastor: Fr Dantus Thottathil** [thottathild@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:thottathild@bne.catholic.net.au)

**Associate Pastor: Fr Prem Rethnamony**

12 Hardy Rd, Birkdale Q 4159 ☎ 3822 2139 Fax 3822 4060.

[birkmmack@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:birkmmack@bne.catholic.net.au) [www.stmarymackillopparish.org.au](http://www.stmarymackillopparish.org.au)

Emergency Contact: 3207 4566

**Safeguarding Officer:** Lisa Knight ☎ 3822 2139

**STOPLINE Contact:** [AOB@stoline.com.au](mailto:AOB@stoline.com.au)

### ***A VOCATION VIEW:***

The seed of a vocation seeks fertile surroundings. Sometimes it gets stepped on, sometimes it gets choked, sometimes it lacks depth. But other times it is nourished by loving and caring friends.

*Vocation Brisbane. P: (07) 3336 9392 E: [vocation@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:vocation@bne.catholic.net.au)*

### **Parish Primary School**

Principal: Mr John Spillane

10 Hardy Rd, Birkdale Q 4159

☎ 3822 5500 Fax 3822 5690

[pbirkdale@bne.catholic.edu.au](mailto:pbirkdale@bne.catholic.edu.au)

[www.marymackillop.qld.edu.au](http://www.marymackillop.qld.edu.au)

**Please be mindful of our sick & all who care for them:** Tony Dickinson, Elizabeth Smit, Pat Cochrane, Kevin Kranz, Patricia Briscoe, Alicia Black, Tessa Gorogo, Mick Gauci, Paul McKean, Geoffrey Whall, Kevin Harrop, Judy Mullan, Charles Lilley, Ann Brown, Sally Legarda, Gemma Paxman, James Thomas, Cindy Cummins, John Bacon, Winifred Linton, Jodie Bromiley, Casey Whitby, Trish Swan, Ian Splatt, Jan Hurst, Steven West, Ava Loda, Joan Thorpe, Patricia Haines, Belinda Wheeler, Cely Salisbury, The Bade Family, Carol Parker, Brian Crimmins, Brian Johnston, Medi Camelli, Hazel Foster, Dan Mullan, Stana Matic, Page Brosnan, Dot Abrahams, Amelia Ramsay, Jeanette Moore, Nola Murphy, Christiana Becker, Cathy Leane, Pauline McNamee, Pat Crimmins, Gina Mather.

**May God embrace all who have recently died:** Ann Duran, Mona Quantock, Angelina Grasso, Jack Cochrane, Dolour Barnes, Peter O'Donnell.

**Anniversaries & Remembrances July:** baby Belle Woolfe, Cliff Friswell, Kathleen Miles, Roy Longwill, Thomas Czapkowski, Kerry McPeake, Mary Baldacchino, Margaret Adkins, Alice Webster, Charles McCourt, Michael Mossop, Emilia Stephenson, Dulcie Perera, Nancy Hogan, Harry Elliott, Trevor Myatt, Norah Butler, Antonio Giavedoni, Peter Trevelan, Mick McLain, George Amown, Fre Celestno, Marie Welsh, Marco Peressini, Sr Mary Robinson OSU, Nugget and Thelma Sweeney, Val Tranter, Alex Crimmins, Rose Mills, Anton Szwajczak, Ezilda Souza, Patricia Logan, Patricia Stevens, Francesca De Souza, Peggy Myatt, Noreen McGrath, Isabel Henry, Bart Szwajczak, Eileen Scanlan, Sydney Stone, Ranier Daboin, Fr Gerry Ronayne, Robert Bae, Gino Lippi, Kannika Bagster, Concetta Ragonesi, Doris Sharpe, Peg Knight, William Daley, Harry Kirkman, Jose Mangana.

*Please record any further names in the Anniversaries & Remembrance Diary at the Welcome Desk*

Roster 18 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Readers	Music
6:15pm (1st) Michael L (2nd) Vern D (POF) Vern D	8:00am (1st) Steven O (2nd) Margaret C (POF) Margaret C	6:15pm Gp 1      8:00am Gp 3  Powerpoint 6:15pm Alan B      8:00am Clinton T

**Mass Celebrations** In line with the Government's social distancing guidelines, we are allowed a maximum of **80 people in attendance** at each Mass. We have set up an online system to manage Mass registrations. Please visit the following website to register for the Mass you wish to attend. If you are unable to utilise this online system please call the parish office to register.  
Parish Mass on Saturdays at 6:15pm - Your event URL is <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parish-mass-saturday-tickets-109262537190>  
Parish Mass on Sundays at 8:00am - Your event URL is <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parish-mass-sunday-tickets-109263853126>  
 People who attend will need to adhere to the following guidelines:-

**You must NOT**

- have been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 or have a fever or symptoms of a respiratory infection such as a cough, sore throat or shortness of breath

**When you arrive at Mass you must**

- maintain a distance of 1.5 metres between people and refrain from handshaking and hugging
- clean your hands with the alcohol-based hand rub provided when you enter and leave the Church.
- Follow instructions given by the designated Marshal at the entrance to the Church
- Sit with at least 3 vacant chairs between non-family members (family groups may sit next to each other)

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation adhering to the restrictions that are currently in place to keep our parishioners safe and keep our Church open.

**Keep in touch with your parish** We are here to support you. If you or someone you know needs pastoral care, help to stay connected with the parish community or more information about sacraments please contact the parish office. The Parish Office is open on **Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays (excluding Public Holidays) between 9:00am and 1:00pm**. The preferred contact method is by phone 3822 2139 or email [birkmmack@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:birkmmack@bne.catholic.net.au). If you require a priest IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY ONLY please phone 3396 0742

**15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**First Reading: A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

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.'

**Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

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.

**Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

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!' Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but for anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled: You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive. For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me. 'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it. 'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'