



WHAT KIND OF SOIL ARE YOU?

(MATTHEW 13:1-23)

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the sower and seed. He uses images that would have been familiar to people living in the fishing and agricultural economy of Galilee.

A sower goes out to sow seed. He scatters it generously. Some falls on the edge of the path and is eaten up immediately by birds. Other seeds fall on a rocky patch, where they spring up straight away, but quickly wither because there isn't enough soil for the roots to take hold. Some fall among thorns, which grow up and choke them. Others fall among rich soil and produce an abundant crop.

Jesus explains that the seed is the word of God, which he scatters generously. It is available for everyone to respond to. But whether God's word will take root and bear fruit depends on the condition of the ground. It depends on how open people are to receive it.

Jesus describes four types of hearers. The first are those who hear the word of God but they do not really understand it and are easily led astray by evil influences. The second are initially very enthusiastic but fall away as soon as trials and difficulties arise because God's word has never taken root in them. Third are those who hear the word but are distracted by the worries and cares and riches of this life. The final type are those who listen to God's word and take it to heart, and respond by applying it to themselves in an effort to lead a life like that of Jesus. They will yield a rich harvest.

God's word is still scattered generously today. The question is, how well do we respond to it? How firmly does it take root in us? Are we people like the fourth group of hearers, who listen to the word of God, take it to heart, make it their own and have it bear much fruit? ■

DO

Think about it. What seeds are you sowing? What values, attitudes and qualities are you planting in your children, in your family, your friends and workmates? What kind of harvest are you producing?

SAY

“Lord, help me to receive your word with an open heart and let it bear fruit in my life. Amen.”

PRAY

Pray for all Christians that they might draw others to God by the kind of lives they lead.

LEARN

The Christian is nourished by the breaking of bread and the breaking of the word.

The one who hears the word of God and lives it will produce good fruit.

By their fruits you shall know them.



REFLECT

We all would like to think that, when our time comes, we will have left a mark, a legacy, a sign that our lives were not in vain, that our impact on this earth was for the better. Some people have carved their names in history through the works of art or the inventions they created. Others have made their mark in the world of sports or politics or religion, or as great thinkers or explorers or leaders. Every generation

has produced individuals of renown, who used the talents they were given to yield a rich harvest. Think of the impact the seventeen-year-old Swedish campaigner Greta Thunberg is making in the area of climate activism.

All of us have been gifted and talented in one way or another. Hopefully, we are using those talents to the best of our ability, even if our names will never be

in the history books. As Christians, we have been tasked with something even more important – to cultivate the seed of faith that has been planted in us so that it bears wonderful fruit. We do that by letting God's word ground us and shape us. We do it by the example of our lives – the values we hold, the words we speak, the actions we take. We do it by witnessing to the Gospel, in every moment of every day. ■

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who show the light of your truth
to those who go astray,
so that they may return to the right path,
give all who for the faith they profess
are accounted Christians
the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the
name of Christ
and to strive after all that does it honour.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 55:10-11

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."
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 64

Response:
Some seed fell into rich soil,
and produced its crop.

1. You care for the earth, give it water,
you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over
to provide its grain. (R.)
2. And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows,
you level it, soften it with showers,
you bless its growth. (R.)
3. You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps,
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows.
(R.)

4. 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

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.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Speak, Lord, your servant is listening;
you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 13:1-9
(longer form Matthew 13:1-23)

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!"
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look upon the offerings of the Church, O Lord,
as she makes her prayer to you,
and grant that, when consumed by those
who believe,
they may bring ever greater holiness.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for her young:
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and
my God.
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having consumed these gifts, we pray, O Lord,
that, by our participation in this mystery,
its saving effects upon us may grow.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

"Truly a faithful friend is the medicine of life.
Truly a faithful friend is a strong defence.
For what will not a genuine friend perform?
What pleasure will he not afford? What
benefit? What security? Though you should
name infinite treasures, none of them is
comparable to a genuine friend."

St John Chrysostom

PARISH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE

Seamoor Road, Westbourne BH4 9AE

Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. Registered charity 246871

NEWSLETTER 12th July 2020 Fifteenth Sunday of the Year (A)

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Safeguarding Officer: Matthew French: mail@matthewfrench.net

Please remember in your prayers George Borrett who died this week. His (private) funeral takes place this Thursday. We also remember Dorothy Campbell, recently deceased. May they rest in peace.

The opening of our church for individual visits for private prayer offers a safe and protective environment (as far as may be possible) for those who might otherwise be fearful of public gathering. A quiet and prayerful time in the presence of the Lord is comforting and helpful at this time.

Whilst we would all surely wish to return to full public celebration of mass, at Our Lady Immaculate, we continue to take a cautious, wait and see approach. The principal concern must be the health and safety of all, not least the senior nature of our community, which is the most vulnerable. The structural nature of our premises are also very restrictive. We need to see at least another few weeks of how the easing of lock down is working generally and to learn from the experience of those churches that have opened before we go any further. The general sense within the parish is that this approach is broadly supported.

THE CHURCH IS OPEN FOR SHORT VISITS FOR INDIVIDUAL PRAYER AS FOLLOWS:

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	10.30 – 11.30 a.m.
Wednesday	10.30 – 11.30 a.m.
Thursday	10.30 – 11.30 a.m.
Friday	10.30 – 11.30 a.m.
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	9.30 – 11.30 a.m.

Please note: There will be no access to the hall, the lift or to the toilets.

Please do not visit the church: if you are unwell, have a temperature, are showing other coronavirus symptoms or have other vulnerable health concerns.

When making a visit:

- Sanitise hands on entry using the new automatic hand sanitisers.
- The wearing of masks AT ALL TIMES is advised.
- You may be marshalled, as necessary.
- Sit or kneel only in places marked with a green tick ✓
(Two people of the same household may sit together)
- There will be no votive candles.
- Please do not talk in the church.

FOOD BANKS: Please note that the parish is not able to receive items for food banks at this time. Those wishing to support those in need might care to use the facilities at the bigger supermarkets. The little restaurant, *Trulys* on Seamoor Road does have a food bank collection and is happy to receive appropriate donated food, and there is always the Trussell Trust to make a donation: <https://www.trusselltrust.org/make-a-donation/>

Fr Andrew has added a further selection of face masks. For more details see the 'Face masks' page of the parish website.

St Peter's School Open Evening for children transferring from Year 6 to Year 7 is Thursday 24th September 2020 starting at 5:30pm. This will be held at St Catherine's Road BH6 4AH. However in these uncertain times please ensure you check with the school to make sure the evening is going ahead by contacting admissions@st-peters.bournemouth.sch.uk. The closing date for getting signed Supplementary Information Forms and Certificates to the school is 31st October 2020.

A 'Thank you' to those who are using the 'Donate' button on the website. The 'Donate' button has the facility of adding a reference and also the option to Gift Aid any donation. Any donation with no specific reference will be treated as ordinary offertory. The parish's bank details are set out below for those who may wish to take out a standing order or make a bank transfer.

Bank:	Lloyds	Account Name:	PRCDTR Bournemouth Our Lady Immaculate
Sort Code:	30-93-04	Account Number:	00875075

Liturgical Calendar: Fr Andrew continues to offer mass privately.

With only one mass on Sundays – which is always said *For the People of the Parish* – additional intentions booked for Sundays will be moved to the nearest free day. To request mass intentions, please email or phone the Parish Office.

Sunday 12 th July	15 th Sunday of the Year	People of the Parish
Monday 13 th	of 15 th Week	-
Tuesday 14 th	of 15 th Week	-
Wednesday 15 th	St Swithun	Leonard Fawkes RIP
Thursday 16 th	of 15 th Week	Steve Judd
Friday 17 th	St Bonaventure	Sheila Coggar RIP
Saturday 18 th	of 15 th Week	-
Sunday 19 th	16 th Sunday of the Year	People of the Parish

Prayer Corner: Please remember all the sick and housebound of our parish especially: Patricia Kowalewska, Win Sheridan, Patricia Plumb, Kathleen Wood, Peter Henry, Phillip Rockford and Germaine McAulay.