

CATHOLIC PARISH OF WESTBOURNE NEWSLETTER



19 JULY 2026

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Christian reward

Today's parable is Christ's answer to the question so frequently asked: *"Why does God permit evil to triumph so often in this world? Why are the wicked allowed to prosper?"* The triumph of the wicked is short-lived; the reward of the Christian who suffers from their wickedness is everlasting. The very wickedness and injustices of evil-doers are one of the ways that God uses to perfect His elect. It is only on a battlefield that a true soldier can be proved.

In the parable, the weed does not destroy the wheat. It only makes it more difficult for the wheat to grow to maturity. So it is with the Christian. No one can take his faith from him, but living up to it is made more difficult by the evil influence and negative example of sinners. If some succumb to this evil influence and give up the practice of their faith, the fault is theirs. God can force no man to serve him.

The patience of the farmer in letting the weed grow on until harvest time exemplifies the infinite mercy of God toward sinners. The weed could not change its nature, but the sinner can change his ways, and God gives him every chance and every help to do this up to his last moment of life. A sinner is excluded from heaven not because of the sins he committed, but because he failed to repent while he had the opportunity.

We must learn a double lesson of patience from this parable. First, to be patient with those who make our spiritual progress more difficult for us -



they are actually helping us to be better Christians if we bear with patience the injuries they inflict on us. Second, we must try to imitate the patience God shows in his dealings with sinners. While we must not approve of their evil deeds or their sins, we must still look on them as our brothers and do all in our power to put them back on the right road to heaven.

We can do this by good example and by fervent prayer for their conversion. This is not easy for human nature, but we can be certain that God will give us the necessary grace and strength to subdue our natural weakness and aversion if we try to act with charity and true brotherly interest toward our
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Visit our website: www.catholicwestbourne.org

MASS TIMES

Sunday 19 July - 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9.00am

11.00am

Monday 20 July - FERIA

No Mass

Tuesday 21 July - FERIA

10.00am

Wednesday 22 July - ST. MARY MAGDALENE

10.00am

Thursday 23 July - ST. BRIDGET OF SWEDEN

10.00am

Friday 24 July - FERIA

10.00am

Saturday 25 July - ST. JAMES

10.00am

Sunday 26 July - 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9.00am

11.00am

OUR PARISH

**OUR LADY IMMACULATE CHURCH
SEAMOR ROAD, WESTBOURNE,
BOURNEMOUTH, BH4 9AE**

Parish Priest: Fr. Leslie Adams

Telephone: 01202 764027

Email: ladams@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

(Baptism, Marriages, Sick Visits,

Funerals and Confessions)

Parish Administrator: Peter Murdock-Saint

General enquires and hall bookings

Telephone: 01202 760640

Email: oliadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Safeguarding Officers:

Joan Smithies and Edward Adamson

safeguarding.boush@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Donations: CDP Bournemouth

Our Lady Immaculate

Sort code: 309304 **Account:** 00875075

SUNDAY READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I thank you, Father, Lord of Heaven and Earth, You have revealed the secrets of the Kingdom. to little children. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.

CHRISTIAN REWARD (FROM PAGE ONE). erring brothers and sisters.

By acting thus, we will not only be helping a weak brother or sister on the rugged road to heaven; we will also be making doubly sure of our own arrival there, for God will never be outdone in generosity.

FINAL CALL - FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2027.

Parents of any children in Year 3 or above who wish to register for the next First Holy Communion programme, which will start in September, should obtain an application form from Fr. Leslie. The completed form should be deposited in the secure box in the church.

Applications close today after which no further applications will be accepted. Thank you.

CAFOD VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKE APPEAL. Your donation will support our trusted partners who are making a difference right now. Together, we can help our neighbours and answer Christ's call to love one another until all of us have all we need. Thank you for your anticipated support. Find out more on the CAFOD website: www.cafod.org.uk.

THE SAMARITANS is an international charity providing support for those in emotional distress or at risk of suicide. Call 116 123 for free. All calls will be treated in confidence.

PARISH AND DIOCESAN NEWS

FROM THE HOLY FATHER. Referring to the “seed” of the Word of God, Saint John Chrysostom asks, *“How could it be reasonable to sow among thorns, on rocky ground, or on the path? In the case of seeds and soil, it would not be reasonable; but in the case of souls and doctrine, it is altogether praiseworthy”* (Homilies on the Gospel of Matthew, 44, 5), because in God’s hands it is possible that *“rocky ground may be transformed into fertile soil; that the path may no longer be trampled underfoot or exposed to every passer-by, but become rich earth; and that the thorns may be cleared away and the seed may enjoy complete security”* (ibid.).

God’s generosity towards us is not naïve but wise. He sees within us the potential of a good that, at times, we ourselves might fail to recognize. For this reason, the Lord, who knows the soil of our hearts better than we, never ceases to believe in us - in who we are and in who we can become, day by day, if we entrust ourselves to him in faith.

MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION OF THE HOLY FATHER. *For respect for human life.* Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

PORTSMOUTH VOCATIONS. If you're considering a vocation to the priesthood, please contact Canon John Cooke on 01329 318 869 or email him at: vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Please continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood. Thank you.

ARE YOU GOING INTO HOSPITAL? When a Catholic is admitted to hospital, the family should ensure that the Catholic Chaplaincy is contacted so that appropriate support can be given. It is suggested that the patient have a note to give to hospital staff on admission, notifying staff that they are Catholic and would appreciate the Catholic Chaplaincy service.

Please let Fr. Leslie know so that he can administer the Sacrament of the Sick where appropriate.

A NEW ATTEMPT is being made to revive the Assisted Suicide Bill in this parliamentary session. You can oppose this in just 30 seconds by visiting the website: www.notdeadyetuk.org.

‘FANNING THE FLAME’ SUMMER CAMP. Monday 17 - Friday 21 August. St. Cassian's Centre, Kintbury. Age range: 11 - 17 years. £195.00. For details about this wonderful summer camp, visit the website: www.fanningtheflame.co.uk/summer-camp-2026

BOURNEMOUTH AND CHRISTCHURCH PASTORAL AREA PRAYER. *Lord Jesus Christ, you call us to be your witnesses in this area and in this time. Root us deeply in your love, shape us as missionary disciples, and teach us to steward wisely all that you have entrusted to us. Give us the courage to change, the humility to listen, and the faith to trust where you lead. May your Spirit guide our prayer, our planning, and our action, so that all we do may give glory to the Father and draw others to you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

PLEASE REMEMBER all the sick and housebound in our parish: *Mary Stone, Mike Ellestone, Cecilia Agnes Grimston, Geoffrey Dixon, Christopher Browne, Teresa Wraith, Elizabeth Lubrow and Liz Judge.*

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND. If you are interested in a home visit, please contact the office.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE. Please send any newsletter items to the office by 9.00am on Wednesday. They can also be emailed to the parish inbox at: oliadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Thank you!

SILENT RETREAT AT THE VERBUM DEI RETREAT CENTRE ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT. 21 - 28 August 2026. Time to be renewed, empowered, re-energised by being with and listening to God. Please contact: verbumdei.iow@gmail.com.

THANK YOU for your continued generosity. It is much appreciated.

GOSPEL - MATTHEW 13:24-43

LET THEM BOTH GROW UNTIL THE HARVEST

Jesus put another parable before the crowds: *'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."*

He put another parable before them: *'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'*

He told them another parable: *'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'*

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy: *'I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.'*

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, *'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.'* He said in reply, *'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil;*

the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

REFLECTION (FR. ANTHONY FYK). The Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groaning too deep for words. It is very easy to celebrate the sacred liturgy in a mechanical manner. We get into a habit, and it becomes like second nature. However, we also need to remember the main protagonist during the celebration of the sacred liturgy - the Holy Spirit. We describe this mystery in terms of *'synergy'* - the energy of the Holy Spirit that permeates the energy of men and women to conform them to Christ. The Holy Spirit prepares, recalls, manifests, actualizes, and forms unity during the celebration of the sacred liturgy.

During the introductory rites, the Holy Spirit gathers us together to form a communion. During the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word, the Holy Spirit prepares and disposes one to listen to the Word attentively. During the celebration of the Eucharistic prayer, we invoke the Holy Spirit to sanctify the gifts of bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ and also to transform us into one body and one spirit. In preparation for communion, the Holy Spirit allows us to call God *'Our Father'* in the Lord's Prayer and fosters communion between us and God and between each other. With the final blessing, the Holy Spirit is called upon to transform our lives into what we consume in the Eucharist. Never worry about what we should pray for, as the Holy Spirit is at work.

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