

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.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Shorter form 13:1-9.

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Reflections on the Gospel

AGAINST BEING DISCOURAGED

Adopting the shorter form of today's Gospel,
let us concentrate on the riches contained
in the parable of the Sower taken simply by
itself.

Jesus probably told the parable to counter
discouragement among his disciples stemming
from the poor response his message was
receiving from many quarters.

So, taking a familiar image from agricultural
practice of his day, Jesus pointed to the very
casual way in which those going out to sow a
crop scattered the seed about. By no means
all of it landed in good soil. Quite a bit could
land in the three situations – on the path, on
rocky ground, among thorns – resulting in the
loss described.

Isn't this all rather wasteful? Not at all! The
sower knows that each seed that falls on good
soil will bear a yield many times in excess
of itself: a hundredfold, sixty or thirty. This
abundance so vastly outweighs the losses that
he can afford to be casual and wild.

Like the sower, Jesus scatters his message
far and wide. In the case of many who hear
him the word suffers the fate of the seed that
is lost. But when it really strikes home and
finds a welcome, the corresponding 'yield'
– hundredfold, sixty, thirty – more than
compensates for all the loss.

In the face of opposition and indifference,
Jesus does not lose confidence. When the
word finds a generous response in the human
heart, there is no limit to the riches of God's
love and grace that can be channeled through
such persons into the world.

Brendan Byrne, SJ



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

12 July 2020

FIRST READING

Isa 55:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The rain makes the earth give growth.

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 64:10-14. R. Lk. 8:8

R. The seed that falls on good ground
will yield a fruitful harvest.

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

Rom 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans

*All creation is waiting for the revelation of the
children of God.*

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.

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

Mt 13:1-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

A sower went out to sow.

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:

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Parish Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 10:00am-3:00pm

Catholic Parish of St Kevin Eastwood



Deacon: Eddie Ho

Weekend Masses: Vigil Sat 5:30pm,

Sun 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, 12noon (Chinese) & 6:00pm

Weekday Masses: Mon – Thurs. 7:30am, Fri 5:00pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 5:00-5:20pm

Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Rosary & Novena: Tue 7-7:30pm

Cenacle Marian Movement of Laity: Thu 7pm (Holy Family Chapel)

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 12th July 2020



Recently Deceased: Cesarino De Girolamo, Doris Dielia

Death Anniversary: Josephine Smith, Geoff & Patricia Clarke, Young Hwan Ho, Yong Min Ho, Young Seok Seo, Soo Woog Jin, Maria Hur, Felix Beins, Cecile Beins, Jan Brayan, Mary Duck, Ces Regan, Roy & Bessie Landon and deceased members of Landon, Pigott, Stewart families, John & Bonnie Bowdern, Leslie & Isobel Johnson, Nunziato Laguzza and Caterina Francesco Mireni

Our Sick: Robert Lauw, Tenille Moujalli, June Phelan and Anne McIntyre, Adhy Guna S., Daisy and Nur Gouw

UPCOMING FEAST DAY:

Our Lady of Mount Carmel 16th July

PARISH NEWS:

- **We welcome into the family of God, Ivy Perera. Congratulations on your baptism!**
- **From 1st July, churches in NSW are open for Masses under the four-square-metre rule.** Our parish can now accommodate up to 150 attendees at a time subject to this ruling. See noticeboard or visit the parish website for guidelines when attending.
- **WE NEED YOUR HELP.** We need at least 4 volunteers to help wipe the pews after each Mass. Many hands make light work. HELP KEEP OUR CHURCH COVID-SAFE. Thank you. Cleaning supplies are on the table next to the sacristy.
- **New planned giving envelopes for the next financial year is now available for collection at the back of the church.** To those who requested to collect their tax receipt last weekend, it is now available for collection at the back of the church. To request a tax receipt, fill-in a form in the church foyer and place it in the box provided or visit the parish website home page and click the link to request a tax receipt.
- **Receipts for donations to St Vincent de Paul appeals,** including the recent winter appeal, are now available for those who requested them. Please collect your receipts from the table at the back of the church (not in the piety stall as they were previously). Thank you.
- **The Catholic Weekly is back!** Get a copy from the church foyer for only \$2.00.
- **A message from Francis David:** "Hi Parishioners, just letting you know that I am commencing singing lessons for all age groups. If interested, give me a call 0421 511 987"
- **Vigil Mass is being recorded weekly and uploaded every Sunday at 7.30am in our parish website, YouTube and Facebook page.** See parish bulletin header for URL/web address.
- **The parish office is on reduced hours.** Please leave a message at 9874 2533 and we will return your call. Best way to reach us is by email: parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

'Although the life of a person is a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God.' – Pope Francis

FR MARTIN MAUNSELL'S REFLECTION:

LIGHTS that we can LEAVE BEHIND!

John Ruskin (1819-1900) was a leading English art critic in his own right he was also a gifted poet and storyteller. One of his best stories was when he reflected on a scene from his rural home verandah late one afternoon that was high up over the town and below he saw the town lamp lighter on his horse lighting the town gas lamps. He would have been on horseback with one hand on the reins and a flaming oil canister in the other hand. Everywhere he went this man would leave a trail of lights blazing behind him.

The genius of John Ruskin shone when he wrote these very words; *"This lamplighter is a wonderful metaphor for a good Christian in that everywhere they go they leave behind them a trail of light for other people to benefit from."* The light of a good Christian is one where there is warmth in what they say and do as well as a sense of clarity in what they say and do, they don't leave people second guessing!

Nelson Mandela (1918-2013) on the night he was elected South African President spoke of the value of light when he said, *"When we let our light shine we unconsciously give other people permission to shine their light. As we liberate ourselves from our fear, our presence automatically liberates others."* These 2 great men form different times and continents continue to illuminate others!

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE:

- This year, due to Covid-19 restrictions, **the celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Terzito** will not be open to the public. It will be live streamed from Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Gladesville at 1.30pm on July 26. Link: <https://YouTube.be/eDPKOnkIKXk>
- **Can you picture yourself being a foster carer?** Family Spirit are seeking safe and stable homes for children for up to 6 months or longer. To learn more about becoming a carer call CCareline 13 18 1 9 from 8am–6pm, Mon– Fri or email: connect@familyspirit.org
- **The ACBC National Catholic Men's Gathering for 2020** is now being offered online for registered participants. The program aims to inspire & encourage all Catholic men with a vision for personal discipleship, service and mission in the family, parish, diocese & the world. Participate individually or gather with others from your parish. Cost: FREE. Event Program available from Aug 15. Registration/info: www.catholicmensgathering.com.au

LITURGICAL ROSTERS:

NEXT WEEK'S ROSTER – 19th July 2020

(AV Projectionist 9am Mass – J Chung)

Ministry	Vigil	7:30am	9:00am	10:30am	6:00pm
Senior Servers	A Rahme	M Maroun	V Chapman	G Evans	C Jonas
Readers	R: P David C: L Laybutt	R: C Dixon C: R Maroun	R: T Nassif C: P Ryan	R: Br J Curry C: A Maher	R: G Lamerton C: J Khalil

Counters will be advised as needed. Thank you.