

From Sunday's Gospel

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. Other seeds fell on rich soil and produced a great crop. This is like those people who hear my words and understand them; they yield a great harvest and produce now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!" You are warmly invited to learn more about the Gospel through your local parish church.

Adapted from Matthew 13:1-9 The 15th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A



Sacred Heart & St William

31 High Street
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www.sacredheartparish.org.uk
Please visit the website above.

For Daily Mass Readings, Video reflections and any updates go to Sunday Mass in the Newsletter

While the Church remains closed until Further Notice

Fr Bernard will continue to celebrate Mass

IN PRIVATE without any people present at 9.00am each morning

The 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 12th 2020 (Matthew's Gospel)

The intentions are as follows:

Sunday: People of the Parish
Monday: Francis Rafferty
Tuesday: Private Intention (A O'N)
Wednesday: November Dead List
Thursday: Joe Mullen
Friday: Sr Rita Murphy
Saturday: Tara Dyson
Sunday: Michael Hubert Friedrich

There will be only **one** Mass each day. **The Church will remain closed until further notice.**

Confessions by appointment.

Contact Details:

Parish Priest: Fr Bernard Bickers Tel: 01457 872603
Permanent Deacon: Revd Peter Rudd Tel: 01457 876559
Safeguarding Officers: Mrs Tessa Spalding Tel: 01457 873515
Mrs Michelle Moore



Pope Francis writes, "Good communication helps us to grow closer, it is important to listen. Listen carefully, young people; Jesus never disap-

points" Today's word is **Listening**. Jesus often uses parable to teach the crowds who came to listen to him. In this Sunday's Gospel Jesus reminds us how important it is to take time to listen to God and to be open to receive and act upon what we hear. This helps us to make wise choices and life decisions. A really good listener can be a very good friend to us because by listening s/he can help us to really understand what we are trying to say. We know how frustrating it is when we know the person to whom we are talking is not listening, they have their answer ready before we have asked the question! We listen to those we know speak the truth or who have something wise to say, and we know that a very important part of prayer is listening to what God has to say to us, rather than always talking ourselves.

The Ordinary Sundays of the Year

For the next three Sundays the Gospel passages will be taken from the third main block of Matthew's Gospel which tells of the Mystery of the Kingdom of Heaven. As we remember each block is made up of a narrative section and a discourse section where Jesus teaches us. This discourse section is made up of 7 parables. A helpful definition of a parable is given by C.H.Dodd in his small book on the Parables of Jesus. A parable is "a metaphor or simile drawn from nature or common life, arresting the hearer by its vividness or strangeness, and leaving the mind in sufficient doubt of its precise application to tease it into active thought."

In this section there are 7 parables the first of which we have this Sunday. It is probably one of the best known of the parables, the sower and the seed. By the time Matthew wrote his gospel one of the things that was keeping him awake at night was why some of the Jews accepted Jesus and his teaching, and others not only did not accept Jesus but were strongly opposed to those who did. It is highly likely that the explanation of the parable was not spoken by Jesus but composed by the evangelist as an explanation to this question.

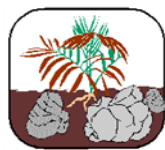
When we read the parable this weekend and think about it we can ask a different question, namely, how receptive am I to the word of God? Do I really listen to God's word in the scriptures, and if I do, do I try and put what I hear into practice in my life?

The Parable of the Sower

The Seed is the Word of God



The Path



The Rocky Soil



The Weedy Soil



The Good Soil

What type of Soil are You?

Is God Growing in Your Heart?

Parish Finances



Sincere thanks to those who have sent cheques, left Offertory Envelopes, set up Direct Debits in lieu of the weekly offertory collection. A further £800+ will be paid into the parish account in the near future.



'Don't live life in the past lane!'

Samantha Ettus

Opening of Churches for Public Worship



On Tuesday June 30th Bishop Marcus issued guidance (see last week-end's newsletter) concerning the re-opening of churches within the diocese stating that the "**critical issue is that churches only re-open for both private prayer and the celebration of Mass when all the measures are in place that will make it safe for them to do so.**"

Fr Bernard sent the following to the PPC for consideration and feedback.

There are several areas to be considered:

- Stewards** – two to be present when the church is open. They will need guidance as to their responsibilities and will need to wear appropriate PPE.
- Safe contacting** – in the most recent instruction from Bishop Marcus we will be observing the two metre distancing which will limit the number in church a maximum of 20, (this after a visit from the local Dean).
- Cleaning** – after each Mass the church has to be cleaned and sanitised. There will be a need for volunteers to be prepared to do this. It is suggested that the cushions be removed from the benches and stored upstairs. It is much easier to clean hard surfaces. If people need a cushion they are to be asked to bring their own and take them home after each visit.
- Signage** – there will be a one way system in operation and so clear signing will be important especially for entering and exiting the church. The church has two doors which will make this easier to control. Also signs for where people can and cannot sit.
- The distribution of Holy Communion** under the form of the host only – there are very clear guidelines concerning the distribution of Holy Communion which include the sanitising of the minister's hands before distribution. Those aged 70+ are strongly advised NOT to distribute Communion.
- The safeguards** which were put in place before lockdown remain in place, i.e. no holy water in the stoops, only single use paper, no sign of peace. In addition the votive candles will be removed until further notice.
- There is to be no congregational singing** until further notice. The Bidding Prayers may be omitted and the homily should be brief.
- There is to be a registration system** introduced in parishes to enable parishioners to 'book' a place at Mass. Contact details to be kept for 21 days for track and trace purposes.