

## THE PARABLE OF THE



Wheat and Tares

### From Sunday's Gospel

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep, his enemy came and sowed darnel weeds among the wheat. When the shoots sprouted the weeds appeared as well. The servants wanted to pull up the weeds but, not wanting to risk damaging the wheat, they went to the owner and said, 'Do you want us to go and weed it out?' But the owner said, 'No, because when you take out the weeds you might pull up the wheat with them.' So the owner let them grow together until harvest time when the wheat could be separated from the weeds, and then the wheat could be gathered into his barn."

Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 19th July 2020. Matt. 13:24-30 (the 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)



**Pope Francis writes, "My dear young people we cannot grow up by ourselves; rather, we journey and grow in a community, in a family." "** Today's word is **Growing**. What will the farmer do

with the wheat? This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that the Kingdom of God is growing all around us. We live in a world where we see both good and bad and we can choose to be like the wheat or the weeds. We all make mistakes, but God is loving and patient and gives us time to grow into the people we were created to be. Each day is an opportunity to grow in God's goodness, and we can do this in different ways. Praying regularly, as a family if possible. Loving God and other people makes us like the wheat in the story. Throughout the summer holidays what can we do to help the world to grow as God intends? We can begin by trying to avoid wrongdoing and always trying to do what is right, to be more patient and always ready to forgive and be forgiven.



## Sacred Heart & St William

31 High Street  
Uppermill OL3 6HS  
[www.sacredheartparish.org.uk](http://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 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**July 19th 2020 (Matthew's Gospel)**

**The intentions are as follows:**

Sunday: Michael Hubert Friedrich  
Monday: People of the Parish  
Tuesday: Eileen Patricia Partington  
Wednesday: November Dead List  
Thursday: Margaret & Jack Holmes  
Friday: Sr Rita Wynn  
Saturday: Special Intention  
Sunday: Ann McCarthy

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

### Re-opening the Church



Last week I wrote an email which Susan, the secretary to the PPC, circulated to members of the PPC. The purpose of the email was to seek guidance as to when we should open the church for the celebration

of Mass and the other Sacraments. As we know very well Bishop Marcus has been insistent on safety – **‘the critical issue is that churches only reopen for private prayer and the celebration of Mass when all the measures are in place that will make it safe for them to do so.’** Safety as the top priority is something I am sure we all share. In last week’s newsletter I listed all the things that needed to be done before the church could be inspected by Fr Richard Carter, the Dean, and signed off as ‘fit for purpose’. The number of ‘places’ we will have in the church observing the two metre social distancing is 18. I mention places because if a group from the same household come they could take a ‘place’ and have more than one person in that place which means that theoretically there can be more than 18 people in the church while still maintaining two metre social distancing.

I am very grateful to members of the PPC for the time, thought and care they took in responding to my email. There is not enough space to go through the reasons they gave for the decisions they reached about when we should open the church and so I here give the figures. Of the 15 responses, 14 written and 1 oral, 13 of the 15 said that we should **NOT** open the church before September, 2 of the 13 asking if September was in fact too early. 2 of the 15 thought that we could open earlier than September at least for private prayer. It was suggested that we should not wait for an end to social distancing as this could well last for several more months or even years but that we should follow the guidelines of two metres for social distancing.

IN order to be ready to open in September we need to have in place:

1. Effective signage concerning entry, exit, one way system and seating arrangements
2. Volunteers to act as stewards with a list of their responsibilities

3. Volunteers to act as cleaners after every time the church is opened
4. The necessary PPE, cleaning materials and sanitising gel
5. A booking system for every Mass to enable track and trace should this be necessary – Susan Gibson has kindly offered to run the booking system

The current situation with regard to social distancing is likely to continue for the foreseeable future and so it is important to emphasise that those who volunteer are taking on a commitment which could well last for some time. When we open in September if stewards are missing or the cleaning has not been done the church cannot be opened. There can be no short cuts when it comes to the safety of parishioners, many of whom are of a vulnerable age. We need to be risk averse and it will be important to review the situation on a regular basis.

If you are willing to volunteer to act as stewards or cleaners please contact me in the first instance by phone or email. I am hoping to be away in August so the sooner you can contact me the better.

### Parish Finances



Sincere thanks to those who have sent cheques, left Offertory Envelopes, set up Direct Debits in lieu of the weekly offertory collection. £803.00 was paid into the parish account on Thursday. The envelopes that have been left this week will be paid in next week.



Mary Farmer will be completed the Big Sleep Out on Friday July 10th 2020. Mary thanks to those who have already sponsored her, if anyone would like to do so Mary writes: If people are interested in sponsoring me :

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/TheBigSleepOut2020>.

You can donate directly to their own justgiving website or mine:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Mary-Farmer3>.

You can write a cheque—'Sister Lucy Dunne Cornerstones day' or pass cash on to me as I will be able to get it to them. It would just help me to know who has donated if it is sponsorship money so know a total to pass on. Many thanks, Mary



The time is always right to do what is right.

Martin Luther King Jr