



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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JOY AT THE RICH HARVEST

While the land of Israel could boast of fertile oasis-towns like Jericho, there were many places where farming was difficult. As the Gospel parable points out, rocky and uneven soil predominates, and farmers have to work hard to render the ground arable (see Is 5:2). After the early rain has softened the soil, ploughing begins. Sowing is done either before or after the ploughing. In the parable, the sower may be sowing with care, but he ends up wasting seed because conditions are so difficult.

But the extravagant harvest gives a clue to the message of the parable. On average, one might expect a four- or five-fold return on sowing. So thirty-, sixty-, or a hundredfold is really unexpected. If a tenant farmer produces such a harvest, he will satisfy the landowner, provide seed for the next sowing, and have enough for his family to eat.

The extravagant harvest, which boggles the imagination, tells us that this is clearly due to God rather than the human effort. The parable may describe an ordinary scenario, but is pointing to 'something more.' The yields are exaggerated, but not when applied to the sowing of the 'seed of the word' done by God who is a generous provider. The parable points to what the prophet Isaiah declares: just as the rain and snow do not return to the heavens without watering the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, so the word that goes forth from my mouth does not return to me empty (Is 55:10-11).

Because of the difficulty of sowing and nurturing the seed, the sowers may sow in tears. But because of the Lord who is always the 'Lord of the harvest,' these sowers will sing when they reap (cf. Ps 125:5).

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:

St Clement of Rome Church

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Office Hours: Monday—Friday 9:00am-3:00pm



Parish Priest : Monsignor Franco Cavarra (Parish Office 9850 3262) or (Presbytery 9850 6073)
Italian Chaplain: Fr Vito Pegolo (0419 736 890), **School Principal:** Mr Michael Heenan (9850 1216)
Pastoral Associate: Cecilia Tan (9850 3262), **Parish Secretary:** Bernadine De Silva (9850 3262)
Communion to the Sick: Trish Atherton (9850 2746) **Clifton Centre:** Mary Hansen (9850 1860)
St Vincent de Paul Helpline (1800 305 330)

ARCHBISHOP'S GOLDEN JUBILEE OF PRIESTLY ORDINATION

Saturday 22 July, 11am St Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Cathedral Place, East Melbourne Everyone is invited to and will be welcome at this special Mass to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Archbishop Denis Hart's ordination to the priesthood. This Mass of Thanksgiving on the 50th anniversary of the Archbishop's priestly ordination will be followed by light refreshments at the Central Hall, 18 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy.

60th Birthday Celebration

St Mary's, Castlemaine would like to invite Parishioners to Fr. Wahid's 60th Birthday celebrations on Saturday 22nd July at St Mary's Hall, Hargraves St, Castlemaine. Starting with Mass at 6pm, followed by dinner, drinks and light entertainment. Please RSVP Betty on 5470 5530 or Juliet on 0422 344 907. It would be lovely to meet you all over a shared meal.



Baptism Welcoming

This weekend, we welcome :

Marianna Mustica
Amelia Calello
Alannah Bello

Please pray for these children and their families

Sacramental Program 2017

Enrolment for Sacraments closed for 2017. Applications for 2018 now being accepted. Forms can be downloaded from the parish website.

CONFIRMATION :

Parents' Information Session: Thursday 20th July 2017 @ 7.30pm in the Clifton Centre

Commissioning Mass: Saturday 22 July 2017 @ 5.30pm

Day of Reflection : Wed 26th July from 9am—3pm

Confession : Sat 29th July after 9.15am Mass

Rehearsal & Archbishop's Talk : Tue 1st Aug from 9am—12noon

Confirmation: Sun 6 August, 2017 @ 2.30pm at St. Patrick's Cathedral

FIRST EUCHARIST FOR THE CHILDREN ATTENDING STATE SCHOOLS

Classes commence: Tuesday, 18 July 2017 @ 4.30pm-5.30pm in the Clifton Centre

Reconciliation before First Communion: Saturday 23 September 2017 @ 10.00am

First Communion for After School RE children: Saturday 23 September 2017 @ 5.30pm

The fee to cover all administrative and resource cost is \$150 per sacrament per child. Fees payable on enrolment through the Parish Office. Please see Bernadine who is in charge of accounts. Enrolment forms can be downloaded from the website or collected from the Parish Office. All enrolment forms must be completed and submitted by the last date for enrolment.

MASS TIMES, RECONCILIATION & OTHER SACRAMENTS

Mass Times: Sat 5:30pm (Vigil), Sun - 9am, 11am (Italian) & 6pm (Maronite Community Mass)

Tues 9:15am (Italian), Wed-Sat 9:15am. Eucharistic Adoration: Tues-Fri 8-9am (in the Chapel)

Reconciliation: Sat 10am (and on request). Marian Devotions: Sat 8.40am.

Baptisms: Welcoming (3rd weekend) & Baptism (4th weekend) every month. Weddings: By Appointment.

Recently Deceased : Egisto Toniolo, Mario Ciciriello, Vincenzo Paglia, John D'Arcangelo, Gilda Canil, Mayang Mabolis

Death Anniversaries : Saviero Valmorbida, Frank Bellomo, Paul Eana, Ermanno Cappola, Filippo D'Angelo, Antonio Caifano, Carlo Dalla-Riva

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen

PARISH DIARY

Tue 18th July @ 4.30pm—Eucharist Classes in the Parish Office
 Thurs 20th July @ 7pm—Bible Studies in the Clifton Centre
 Thurs 20th July @ 7.30pm—Confirmation Parent's night in the Multipurpose Hall
 Fri 21st July @ 6pm—Youth Group in the Clifton Centre
 Sat 22nd July @ 5.30pm—Commissioning & Community Mass Year 6 (Confirmation)
 Sun 23rd July @ 12.30pm—Baptisms

Collections Last Weekend
1st Collection (Thanksgiving)
 Actual — 1,835
2nd Collection (Presbytery)
 Actual — 916
Many thanks & every Blessing!

Next Film - "The Red Turtle" at Family Care Sisters

This beautifully animated film is a superb visual first collaboration between Dutch animator/director Michael Dudok de Wit and the famous Japanese Studio Ghibli. A man is shipwrecked on a desert island and must face the challenges of nature and survival, initially alone. His story is simple, yet poignant, becoming more mysterious, meditative and profound as life's milestones are expressed in the cycle of birth, death and rebirth. There is no dialogue in this film, which allows for the subtle influence of the visual images, silence together with natural soundscape and film score. This film quietly asks big questions about ambition, acceptance, the beauty of companionship, love and death.

Where: Family Care Sisters. 69 Alto Ave. Croydon
When: Wed. 15th August 2017
Time: 9.50am – 3pm. BYO Lunch. M/Tea, Tea/Coffee provided.
Cost: \$25
Bookings: Ring 9723 6797

The Yarra Deanery of Catholic Churches is offering Training in Mental Health For those who take Holy Communion to the Sick and Elderly



Many of those who take Holy Communion to the sick and elderly can be faced with challenging mental health issues.

This course teaches an awareness for adults in how to best deal with such challenges. The neighbouring parishes in the Yarra Deanery – the parishes in Bulleen, Doncaster, Doncaster East, Donvale, Heidelberg, Heidelberg West, Ivanhoe and Templestowe - recognise a duty of care to the wonderful volunteers who support the sick and elderly and take our most precious gift to them.

This course runs over two nights, for two hours each night. Hand-outs will be provided. The number of participants is limited to a maximum of 15. The course will cover anxiety, depression, paranoia and issues related to cognitive decline such as dementia and advanced Parkinson's.

When: 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm on Thursdays 10 and 17 August 2017.

Where: St Kevin's Catholic Church, 26-44 Herlihy Road, Lower Templestowe, 3107.

Instructor: Bill Spawton, Mental Health Nurse. Bill has been an instructor to the instructors in mental health first aid training.

Cost: Nil to participants.

Registration is essential. If you are interested in attending this course please contact: Garry Nolan via email on: min.gn@bigpond.com

Liturgy Roster

	Sat 5.30pm	Sun 9am
15/16 July	<i>Sacristan</i> John Bruce	Francis & Gloria Ng
	<i>COMMENTATOR</i> Linda Cultrera	Grace Canatelli
	<i>Reader</i> Jacinta De La Cruz	Jim Cowhey
	<i>Special Ministers</i> Maree Marsi	Grace Canatelli
	May Teh	Anne Fusca
	Martin Teh	Rita Gagliardi
		Fulvia Gerasolimo
		Gabriella Grande
		Eleanora Mascitti
		Sylvia Mascitti

	Sacristan	Elroy De Witt	Francis & Gloria Ng
22/23 July	<i>COMMENTATOR</i> Jacinta De La Cruz	Jim Cowhey	
	<i>Reader</i> Rene De La Cruz	Sylvie Duff	
	<i>Special Ministers</i> Enza Wilcox	David Mitchell	
	Warwick Wright	Pam Mitchell	
	John Bruce	Maria Papalia	
		Elsa Waters	
		Chris Zordan	
		Trish Atherton	
		Grace Canatelli	

A FESTIVAL OF SPIRITUAL FILMS Saturday 22 July, 9.30am-4.30pm

O'Connor/Pilkington Rooms, 214 Richardson Street, Middle Park The Carmelite Centre Melbourne presents this festival of five spiritual films. Each film will be introduced by the moderator, Peter Thomas. After each film, time will be allocated for discussion about the points raised in the production. Each of the five films presents a different perspective on spirituality and the spiritual life. THE FILMS: The rising tide of silence. A reflective portrait of one of today's most influential spiritual teachers, Thomas Keating. The teacher The Dalai Lama reflects on those elements that help us to live spiritually fulfilling lives. End of the earth A group of Romanian and French pilgrims lead us on a journey to Santiago De Compostola. The sacred stones A story of conflict between western values and aboriginal spirituality in the Northern Territory. Thérèse: An Australian journey The extraordinary response to the relics of Saint Thérèse that toured Australia in 2002. Tea, coffee and light refreshments will be available; participants are encouraged to bring their own lunch and popcorn or, during the lunch break, to go to one of the great nearby cafés. Cost: \$30 Details: 9690 5430

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/291649

DOWNLOAD FLYER AT THIS LINK: <http://www.cam.org.au/portals/0/2017/ParishUpdateFlyers/PU23/FestivalOfSpiritualFilms.pdf>