

The Parable of the Sower

TODAY'S Gospel will appeal to all farmers and gardeners. The parable of the Sower is the first of a group with variations on the theme of cultivation. Later we will hear about the seed growing while the farmer sleeps, and also about the problem of weeds and how to deal with weeds.

Some parables are meant to give us encouragement when times are rough, while others are intended to give us a salutary warning.

Today's Gospel does both as it falls into two parts.

Firstly, there's the parable itself. In this we're told that the growth of the seed is threatened in a variety of ways. Nevertheless God guarantees a bumper harvest. This is meant to encourage us when we fear that the very life of the Church is threatened by opposition to the Word, or when we, personally, feel overwhelmed by temptations and the demands Christ makes on us. We are urged to place our trust in God. That's the punch-line of this parable of encouragement, which is especially necessary for all of us in the difficult task of handing on the word of God. God guarantees that in spite of all the difficulties the forces of evil cannot overcome his kingdom.

But then Matthew's Gospel presents Christ as explaining this parable to his disciples. Now there's a shift in interpretation from the sower and the bumper harvest, which God guarantees, to the different ways in which we receive the seed. As the parable shifts from God to us, it becomes a warning rather than an encouragement.

It now raises uncomfortable questions for each of us. Are we shallow enthusiasts whose faith withers under the heat of temptations from within and opposition from without? Do we allow our commitment to following Christ to be undermined by the company we keep, what we read and watch on TV or the internet? Is our Christian life suffocated by our worldly preoccupations and cares? These are questions we must all ask ourselves.

With this interpretation what began as an encouraging parable has developed into a warning. We need both approaches.

Isidore O.P.

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

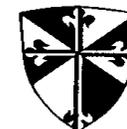
Year A (Weekdays II)

13 July 2008

The Newsletter of

HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER

Served by the Dominican Order: website www.torch.op.org



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 Priory phone: (0116) 255 3856 Fax/recorded times of services: 255 5552
 Parish Priest: Fr Leon Pereira 252 1501 For home visits: 255 3856

Sunday Masses	This week	Mass Intentions	Next week
7:30pm Vigil	Fr Fabian	<i>Pro populo</i>	Fr Fabian
8:00am	Fr Isidore	Isabelle O'Reilly, RIP	Fr Euan
9:30am Family	Fr Fabian	Margaret O'Reilly, RIP	Fr Leon
11:00am Solemn*	Fr Leon	Bill Barnes, RIP	Fr Fabian
7:00pm	Fr Euan	Juan Diego & Lina Henao	Fr David

* The Choir is on holiday, and will return on Sunday 10 August.

The Novena to Our Lady is each Saturday, at 6:45pm. It is taking place every week for nine Saturdays, leading up to the feast of the Assumption on 15 August. Books for recording your petitions and thanksgiving are in the Lady chapel.

Sunday Evening Services	12 July	Confessions	19 July
5:45 Rosary	Fr Fabian	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Euan
6:15 Sung Latin Compline	Fr Leon	4:00 - 5:00pm	Fr Fabian
6:40 Benediction	Fr Euan	7:00 - 7:20pm	Fr David

Entrance Antiphon:	In my justice I shall see your face, O Lord; when your glory appears, my joy will be full.
1st Reading:	Isaiah 55: 10-11
Psalm Response:	Some seed fell into rich soil, and produced its crop. (Ps 64)
2nd Reading:	Romans 8: 18-23
Alleluia:	Speak, Lord, your servant is listening; you have the message of eternal life.
Gospel:	Matthew 13: 1-23
Communion Antiphon:	The sparrow even finds a home, the swallow finds a nest wherein to place her young, near to your altars, Lord of hosts, my King, my God! How happy they who dwell in your house! For ever they are praising you. Or Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood will live in me and I in him, says the Lord.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend: Offertory Collection £916.71; SVP £46.65; St. Martin's Missions £3.80; Holy Souls £10.35; Grenada £2.20.

Last week's collection for the Day for Life came to £357.64.

There is a retiring collection this week for the Apostleship of the Sea.

Correction: Last week's list of 200 Club winners was actually for the June draw.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

The week ahead...		
Monday:	St Camillus de Lellis, priest, religious - <i>optional</i>	
Tuesday:	St Bonaventure, bishop, doctor, religious	
Wednesday:	Our Lady of Mount Carmel - <i>optional</i>	
Thursday:	Bl Ceslaus of Poland, friar, priest - <i>optional</i>	
Friday:	Feria	
Saturday:	Saturday Mass of Our Lady - <i>optional</i> . Novena to Our Lady at 6:45pm.	
Next Sunday:	16 th Sunday <i>per annum</i> . Readings:	
	Wisdom 12: 13. 16-19	Romans 8: 26-27
		Matthew 13: 24-43

Maryvale Institute, Birmingham, is offering its annual summer school in Latin and Greek from next Wednesday 16 July to Saturday 19 July. You can study either of those languages from scratch, or take your existing basic knowledge further. Or - if you have got some way with the languages - you can read some exciting texts and discuss them linguistically and theologically.

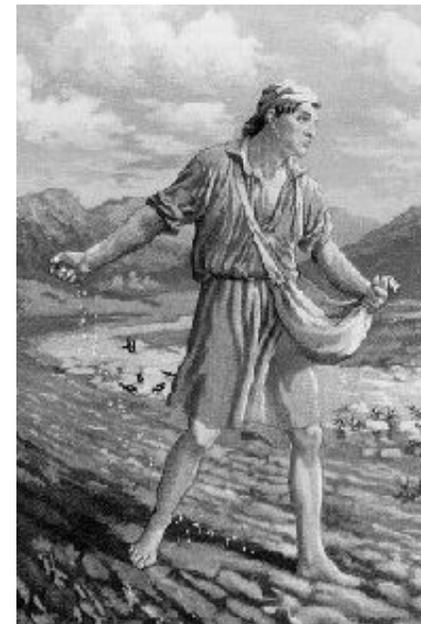
Please apply to Sr. Valentina at Maryvale (bookshop@maryvale.ac.uk - 0121 360 8118). Please also warn Fr Richard Conrad that you are coming (richardp.conrad@yahoo.co.uk) and say what you have done so far by way of Latin or Greek so he can assign you to a group.

Damascus Volunteers - a Gap Year opportunity from September 08 to July 09. St Paul's School are looking for volunteers to help provide opportunities for the personal and spiritual development of young people at the school. Includes paid visits to Lourdes and Rome. See the noticeboard.

Ride & Stride. This year's sponsored ride and walk, visiting the churches of Leicestershire, will take place on Saturday 13 September. Please make a note in your diary now! Sponsorship forms will be available nearer the time.

The Greenbelt Festival. Sarah Bibb, a Student Youth Worker at Leicester Cathedral is planning to take a group of young people to the Festival at Cheltenham Race Course over the August Bank Holiday, 22 to 25 August. Details from Sarah.Bibb@LecCofE.org or phone 248 7468.

Please join us in the Parish Hall after the 9:30am and 11:00am Sunday Masses for tea, coffee, fruit-juice etc. The Hall is in Wellington Street. There is the chance for a chat with members of the Dominican Community and with parishioners. We particularly welcome visitors to our Parish.



Today's Gospel: The Sower

The Catholic Chaplaincy at Leicester Royal Infirmary is covered by priests from Holy Cross. Please do not call the Priory if a relative in the LRI needs a priest urgently: instead ask the ward staff to bleep the Roman Catholic Chaplain. Messages for non-urgent visits to Catholic patients in the LRI can be left at the Priory or at the LRI Chaplains' office; but please note that messages may not be picked up until the end of the chaplain's working day.

If you have any event or information that you would like publicising in this Newsletter and/or on the noticeboards, please hand in posters/information to the Priory, marked 'Newsletter'. In the case of events and other dated material please try to give 4 weeks' notice for inclusion in the Newsletter. All publicity depends on space available.

Red Cross Appeal for Refugees & Asylum Seekers. The Red Cross has issued a revised list of items needed to support these destitute vulnerable people:

- ◆ Dried items: rice, pasta, cous-cous, maize mealie-meal, sugar, salt, porridge, cooking oil, flour (self-raising), spices, palenta, mashed potato (Smash), tea, coffee, powdered milk, water, fruit juice, semolina;
- ◆ Tins: baked beans, soup, fruit, rice pudding, sauces, vegetables;
- ◆ Pre-prepared food: cereal bars, chocolate, biscuits, nuts, crisps, pot noodles;
- ◆ Baby items: nappies (sizes 2-4), baby wipes, food, milk, lotion, talc, clothing, equipment;
- ◆ Toiletries: toothpaste, tooth brush, soap, moisturiser, shampoo, conditioner, toilet paper.

Please leave these items at any Mass. We thank you for your continued support.

Services at Holy Cross during the week:

Mass: Monday to Saturday, at 10:00am (with sermon) & 12:40pm.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Wednesday 10:30am - 12:30pm with Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary and simple Benediction at 12noon.

On Mondays to Fridays (except Bank Holidays) the church is open from 8am until 4pm.