

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Thurgoona



Mary said to the servants: "Do whatever He tells you" John 2:5

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Ph: 02 6088 6222 **Parish Priest:** Fr Anthony Dunne **Acolyte:** Denis Golden

Presbytery Account (First Collection) BSB 066-789 Acc. 100 005 587

Parish Account (Second Collection) BSB 066-789 Acc. 100 003 738

MASS TIMES

Saturday (Vigil) 5pm

Sunday 9:30am

Monday 8am

Tuesday 10am

Wednesday 8:00am

Thursday 5:30pm

Holy Hour 4:30pm

Friday 8am

Saturday 8am

Anointing of the sick Mass 10am

2nd Tues of Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec

Reconciliation

Thurs during Holy Hour 4:45 - 5:15pm

Sat 4:30 to 4:55pm before Vigil

Sun 9 to 9.25am

Or anytime, just ask Fr

Baptism and Marriage By appointment

Working Bee Sat 9.00am to 11am



15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A 16/07/2023

First reading

Isaiah 55:10-11

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.'

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 64(65):10-14

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

Second reading

Romans 8:18-23

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.

Gospel Acclamation

1S3:9,Jn6:68

Alleluia, alleluia! The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever. Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 13:1-23

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such large 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 from 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: 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.'

Prayers of the Faithfull:

For our sick, Carmel Baker, Francis Blatchford, Rod Blatchford, Fr Terence Mahedy, Richard Drum, Lorie McLennan, Fr Reece Beltrame, Peter Tydeman, Gwen Abikhair and Jackson Davis.

We pray to the Lord. **R.** Lord hear our prayer.

For our recently departed, Bernice Struck, Lourdes Quinn, Eileen Jacobs, and those who's anniversaries occur at this time.

We pray to the Lord. **R.** Lord hear our prayer.

Communion Antiphon

Jn 6: 57

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

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ANNIVERSARIES

Albert Morris, Fr John Ware, Patrick Power, Marlene Moona, Peter Werhun, Annette Joseph and Neville Peterson

PARISH NOTICES

Bishop Mark's Visit:

Thank you to all the people who helped out with the morning tea for Bishop Mark's Visit last Sunday. It was a great success with many parishioners taking the opportunity to meet the Bishop.

Catechists:

We **urgently** need Catechists for Thurgoona Public School. Please contact Fr Anthony on 02 6088 6222 if you can help with this important work.

Mobile Phones: Please mute your Mobile Phone or turn it off during Mass.



Readers: Sat: 5:00pm Mary Seidel Sun: 9:30am Michael Sparshott

Next week: Sat: 5:00pm Denis Golden Sun: 9:30am Mark Mannering

Cleaning Roster: Sat 22nd July Marion Whyte



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THE GROWTH OF THE KINGDOM

Today's readings converge in their concern that we take time to wonder and reflect on the nature of the kingdom of God, its growth in the world, and in our own lives. Despite its brevity, the reading from Isaiah is a powerful statement of hope in the ability of God's word to foster life and bring about growth.

As the people of Israel struggled to rebuild after the exile Isaiah proclaimed his conviction in the power of God's word. As Christians, how do we maintain our hope when the world is in confusion? How can we speak of the power of God's word when it is often challenged by our experience of the world desperate for healing and peace? After nearly 2000 years these questions may even be more critical for us than they were in Paul's time. For Paul the key lies in the image of the world and ourselves being involved in the painful process of giving birth. Christians have already received the gift of the Spirit as a foretaste and pledge of what is yet to come.

Jesus' timeless parable of the sower invites us to take heart that despite opposition the seed of God's kingdom has been planted in our world. Opposition, difficulties, and misunderstanding are surely present, but the growth of the kingdom is assured. Perhaps the most pressing question of all is whether we have ears to hear, and the faith to believe, that the kingdom will take root and grow in our world and hearts. *stpaulcenter.com C Monaghan CP*

THE WORD'S RETURN

Today's readings, like last week's, ask us to meditate on Israel's response to God's Word, and our own. Why do some hear the word of the kingdom, yet fail to accept it as a call to conversion and faith in Jesus?

That question underlies today's Gospel especially. The kingdom's mysteries are unfolded to those who open their hearts, making of them a rich soil in which the

Word can grow and bear fruit. The first fruit of the Word is the Spirit of love and adoption poured into our hearts in Baptism, making us children of God, as Paul reminds us in today's Epistle. In this, we are made a "new creation", the first fruits of a new heaven and a new earth. Since the first humans rejected God's Word, creation has been enslaved to. But God's Word does not go forth only to return to Him void, as we hear in today's First Reading.

His Word awaits our response. We must show ourselves to be children of that Word. We must allow that Word to accomplish God's will in our lives. We must take care lest the devil steals it away or it be choked by worldly concerns. In the Eucharist, the Word gives Himself as bread to eat so that we might be made fertile, yielding fruits of holiness. *Extract: Scott Hahn stpaulcenter.com*

