



SUNDAY 12TH JULY, 2026 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME. YEAR A Reflection on the Gospel (Matthew 13:1-23)

During the COVID 19 pandemic of 2020 to 2023, we necessarily distanced ourselves from others. Some of us focussed on the natural world so that our sensitivities sharpened and our planetary awareness heightened. We became more attuned to the complexity of nature and its rhythms. We observed the diverse feeding habits of the birds in the back yard, for instance, and their communication patterns.

There was new and renewed interest in gardening, in the growing of vegetables and fruit in pots or in built-up garden beds. Such changes in lifestyle conditioned us to use our eyes to see and our ears to listen, as today's Gospel invites us to do. Jesus' directive, "let anyone with ears listen", is a reminder that we do have ears and that we do not always hear, that we do have eyes and do not always see.

Ann Lewin's words come to mind: "Seeing or not seeing cease to matter. You have been prepared. But when you've almost stopped expecting it, a flash of brightness gives encouragement" (Prayer is Like Watching for the Kingfisher, 2011).

To what sort of being, of looking and listening does today's Gospel call us? The parable of the soil, of the seed, of the birds and the thorns, of the sun and the sower alerts us to Jesus' deep sense of connection with life in its multiple forms. It calls us to examine our connection with the natural world. For a long time, we have focussed on the human character in the parable, a character who evokes an agricultural world that is far removed from our post-industrial world, but not so far removed from the world of millions of people in our planetary home who live close to the soil and to earth's elements and who struggle to produce the food they need to stay alive.

Is the Matthean Jesus presenting in the sower an image of an estate owner or a tenant farmer or even a slave? Or is the reader being asked to imagine the sower, whether estate owner, tenant farmer or slave, as an image of an extraordinarily generous God whose life-sustaining gifts are there for all, no matter their

readiness to receive? It may not be one or the other but both.

What of the silty clay loam or red sandy soil, of the wheat or barley seed, of the birds and the thorns and the sun? We know that barley was domesticated some ten thousand years ago in what became bible lands and that these lands are also the original home of the finest bread-making wheat.

The birds and the thorns and the sun are for another reflection. We bring our experience of looking and listening and being into dialogue with the parable and search out its meaning for us. We trust that God will ensure an abundant harvest if we but learn to look and to listen to the needs of a planet in peril.

By Sr. Veronica Lawson, RSM

SICK, DEATHS & ANNIVERSARIES

Please pray for **Anna Tran** who is sick at this time. and for **Patrick Tonkin and John Fernandez** who died recently and for **Joseph Tabone, Peter Dang Van Lan and Kathleen Gibson** whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace.



A LISTENING CHURCH IS A CREDIBLE CHURCH

In a world where many feel ignored or dismissed, a Church that listens becomes a sign of hope. Synodality teaches us that listening can heal wounds and rebuild trust.

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC DIGEST

The June/July edition of the paper is available in the churches for parishioners to take home. It is full of news, stories and events from the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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.

(R). Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 64:10-14. R. Luke 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: Romans 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

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.

(R.) Thanks be to God.

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: Matthew 13:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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!'

The Gospel of the Lord. (R.) Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

NICENE CREED

**I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
He came down from heaven, *(All bow)*
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right
hand of the Father. He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Communion Antiphon: The sparrow finds a home, and
the swallow a nest for her young; by your altars, O Lord
of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who
dwell in your house, forever singing your praise.

What's in a Name?

A name is much more than a label—it expresses who we are and what we stand for. Just as parents carefully choose a name for their child, we too have the important task of choosing a name for our new parish.

While our churches and school will continue to be known as St Augustine's, Corpus Christi, and Annunciation, our newly amalgamated parish will need a new name and identity. That name should honour our history while expressing the mission and future we are building together.

Some of the newly formed parishes have chosen names such as Holy Family, Trinity, Christ the Light, Our Lady of Pentecost, and Our Lady of All Nations.

As we continue our journey of prayer and discernment, we invite everyone to reflect on what God is calling us to be. During our first round of consultation, one message came through clearly: people value the strong sense of welcome and belonging in our parish communities. Now we ask: Who do we want to be in the future?

Over two weekends, 4–5 July and 11–12 July, we invite parishioners to suggest possible names. When considering a name, please keep these principles in mind:

It should have a biblical or scriptural foundation.
It should reflect who we are and who we hope to become.
It should be simple, memorable, and easy to use.
It should be distinctive and not duplicate the names of recently established parishes.

Following our consultation, up to three proposed names will be submitted to the Archbishop by the Transition Team, who will make the final decision. We hope to present the full amalgamation proposal, including the results of our consultation, for his consideration in mid-August.

Please keep this process in your prayers as together we shape the future of our new parish community.

Fr Werner Utri

HOSPITALITY

All parishioners are invited to stay awhile after the **5pm and 9.30am Masses next weekend.**

Enjoy a Cuppa, whilst catching up with friends and getting to know more parishioners.

If you can bring a plate to share, it would be appreciated.

Growing a Vibrant, Vital and Viable Parish

Last weekend the Transition Team members met with Parishioners after Mass at Annunciation and Corpus Christi. We had some engaging conversations about planning for the future of our Parish community and excellent suggestions for possible names. This weekend consultations will be after Masses at St Augustine's.

Using a five-year timeframe, we will reflect on what we would like to do to support and strengthen our communities into the future. Together, we will consider the five characteristics of vibrant and vital parishes:

WORSHIP – liturgy

FELLOWSHIP – community and hospitality

SERVICE – outreach

FORMATION – proclamation and learning

EVANGELISATION – inviting new members

Following these conversations about **Who we can become**, we will also take some time to reflect on and discuss appropriate names for our new parish. Our churches will retain their current names.

You are welcome to attend whichever session best suits you. Each session will be held after Mass and will run for approximately **1 hour**.

Session dates and times:

- **Saturday 11 July – St Augustine's Church, 5:45–6:45 pm (following the 5:00 pm Mass)**
- **Sunday 12 July – St Augustine's Church, 10:15–11:15 am (following the 9:30 am Mass)**

Please visit the parish website for further information. If you are unable to join the gatherings, or need time to reflect on a possible new name you can send a suggestion to us. Please send your suggestion, including the reason for your choice, via the feedback box at the Churches or email to the Parish at yarraville@cam.org.au by noon on Sunday 19 July.

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION NIGHT

**For Parents and Children
St. Augustine's Church Yarraville
Wednesday 15 July at 6pm.**

The Confirmation Program is about to begin and families need to register ASAP. Application forms can be found on the Parish website - www.melbcatholic.org/yarraville and returned to the Parish Office prior to the Information evening.

PARISH PRIEST:

Rev. Fr. Werner Utri

PARISH SECRETARY: Emilia Balkan

PHONE: 0401 158 113;

(03) 9314 7710

EMAIL: yarraville@cam.org.au

ST. AUGUSTINE'S OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays

9.30am till 2.30pm

PARISH WEBSITE:

www.melbocatholic.org/yarraville

SAFEGUARDING: Pat Mc Laughlin

patmac766@gmail.com

PARISH CHURCHES

ST AUGUSTINE'S

71 Somerville Road Yarraville

CORPUS CHRISTI

376 Geelong Road, Kingsville

ANNUNCIATION

4 Nolan Avenue, Brooklyn

For email copy of **Bulletin**



Click QR Code

LITURGY TIMES

TUESDAY MASS

St Augustine's....6.00 pm

Exposition: 5.30 –6.00pm

WEDNESDAY MASS

Corpus Christi.....9.15 am

THURSDAY MASS

St Augustine's...9.15 am

FRIDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.15 am

SATURDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.30 am

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

St Augustine's...5.00 pm

SUNDAY MASS

Annunciation.....8.00 am

St Augustine's....9.30 am

Corpus Christi..11.00 am

St Augustine's..11.30 am

(Polish)

RECONCILIATION:

SATURDAYS after 9.30am

Mass at Corpus Christi

St. Augustine's...4.15pm

NEXT ITALIAN MASS

On hold until further notice

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION

The annual Peter's Pence collection supports the Holy Father in his mission of service to the universal church. A collection will be taken up next weekend **18/19 July** at all Masses.

SEAFARERS SUNDAY

The theme for Seafarers Sunday 2026 is 'Harbours of Hope:

The Church Alongside Seafarers,'

celebrating 'the local church as a place of welcome, refuge, and hope — a community offering both spiritual and practical safety to those who work at sea.

It invites congregations to reflect on how they can stand alongside seafarers through prayer, hospitality, generosity, and justice.'

Further information:

<https://www.missiontoseafarers.org/sea-sunday>

Though this Sunday's Mass readings does not have a special focus on the care of creation, all readings focus on seeds, soil, rain, wind, snow, harvesting, and all that emerges from them. God's promise of final fulfilment to all creation is the utmost 'harbour of hope' for our troubled world.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION SERIES

Wed 15 Jul—Artificial Intelligence & Transhumanism: 7pm-9pm at St James Church, 336 Derrimut Rd, Hoppers Crossing

To register your attendance, email: hopperscrossingnorth@cam.org.au

2026 NAIDOC MASS

Sunday 12 July 2026

11.00am at St. Francis' Church, 326 Lonsdale Street Melbourne, marking the end of NAIDOC Week.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY - We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

ROSTER FOR THIS WEEK

11th & 12th July 2026

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time A

READERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm Kath Baker

9.30am Pina Guzzardi
Sam/Anna

READERS: **Corpus Christi**

11am Julianna Barr

Edith Fletcher

MINISTERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm.....Greg Buhagiar

9.30am..... Agnes Hopmans

MINISTER: **Corpus Christi**

11.00am..... Joe Fusca

COUNTING: Krystyna Biront

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEK

18th & 19th July 2026

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time A

READERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm John Ryan

9.30am Pat Mc Laughlin
Sam/Anna

READERS: **Corpus Christi**

11am Joe Fusca

Mary Huynh

MINISTERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm.....Maree Ryan

9.30am..... Mary Joseph

MINISTER: **Corpus Christi**

11.00am..... Julianna Barr

COUNTING: John Ryan

SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

At Yarraville, Kingsville and Brooklyn, we hold the care, safety and well-being of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our communities. The Parish Statement of Commitment and Reporting Process are on display at the entrance of all the Churches and all Diocesan Policies are available on the website or at the parish office. www.cam.org.au/Professional-Standards/Statements