



SUNDAY 19TH JULY, 2026 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME. YEAR A Reflection on the Gospel (Matthew 13:24-35)

Experienced gardeners or farmers or bakers might take issue with Jesus' choice of images for God's empire or kingdom of the heavens. They may be singularly unimpressed by the methods of the farmer-gardener-God presented in today's Gospel reading.

An "enemy" planting weeds "all through the crop" is no surprise to readers familiar with the earlier part of this parable chapter, although the land-owner's decision to leave the weeds to endanger the wheat crop seems none too smart. Mustard, known for its propensity to grow wild and threaten the life of every other plant in the garden, makes for an equally strange kingdom analogy.

God's empire imaged as a baker woman taking yeast, a substance considered to be a corrupting influence in the first century Jewish world, and mixing it into twenty kilos of wheat flour, stretches the imagination in other directions. These images cut across the readers' expectations quite dramatically. What might they be telling us about God's kingdom of the skies?

In the parables of the mustard seed and the leaven, there is a movement from small to great that communicates something about the power of God to bring abundance of life from the most inauspicious beginnings. They do not seem to fit with the parable of the wheat and the weeds until we look a little more closely. The element of danger to the life of the whole is common to all three parables.

Maybe Matthew's Jesus is telling us that God is a God of risk who does not intervene but allows the weeds and endangering herbs to "infect" God's field. Harvest season will be time enough to divide the wheat from the weeds, the life-giving from the infectious. In the meantime, the good seed must take hold. The good will finally outweigh the evil. That is small comfort, of course, to those who suffer at the hands of evildoers.

In the parables of the mustard seed and the leaven, Jesus seems to be telling his hearers that their idea of infection or danger is different from his.

At one level, he engages the more-than-human and talks about respect for the complexity of eco-systems. At another, he is talking about societal inclusion: the people that many consider unclean or sinful or demon-possessed are not to be displaced from God's field or God's table. On the contrary, they may be the very ones who season the life of the whole.

Life is messy after all and God is in the mess. It is worth noting that the leaven parable offers one of the few occasions in the Gospel where God is imaged as female. While we know that God is neither male nor female, most of us have been conditioned to use only male images for God. The parable of the woman kneading dough validates the potential of female experience to reflect the life and activity of God in our world.

By Sr. Veronica Lawson, RSM

DEATHS & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for **Richard Vaughan**
who died recently and for
John Nettar, Elisa Franze, Mila Kolobaris
and **Ninette Lerch**
whose anniversaries occur at this time.
May they rest in peace.



SYNODALITY AND THE MARGINS

A synodal Church pays attention to voices often overlooked: the poor, the wounded, the disaffected, and those who feel distant from the Church. Their experiences matter, and their stories can teach us where renewal is most needed.

First Reading: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

A reading from the book of Wisdom

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly.

Your justice has its source in strength,

your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.

You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it;

but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there.

By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

The Word of the Lord.

(R.) Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 85:5-6, 9-10, 15-16. R. v. 5

(R.) Lord, you are good and forgiving.

1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice. **(R.)**
2. All the nations shall come to adore you
and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,
you who alone are God. **(R.)**
3. But you, God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

The Word of the Lord.

(R.) Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.'"

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: Ps 110:4-5

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.

MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026

Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli has formally convoked a Synod for the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

A synod is a gathering of God's people – bishops, priests and representatives – who come and discern together about matters regarding faith, governance and pastoral care. This process involves prayer, dialogue and consultation, aiming to foster a deeper understanding of the Church's mission in the contemporary world.

Preparations are underway for the Melbourne Synod to be held from 4 – 6 December 2026.

The purpose for the synod is to help shape the evangelical and missionary priorities for the Archdiocese of Melbourne for the years ahead.

The Synod will focus on three themes identified by the Archbishop:

- Young Discipleship
- Missionary Leadership
- Formation and Participation

During the months of July to mid-August 2026, faith communities are invited to enter into a consultation process to provide feedback in response to the themes.

The Synod theme papers are an important step in our journey of listening and discernment as we prepare for the Melbourne Synod. The papers aim to foster a spirit of hope and imagination – trusting that, as we walk together, God is calling us into a future marked by faithfulness, renewal, and deeper communion.

The suggested reflection process is a 'Conversation in the Spirit' or a Spiritual Conversation. This method is based in prayer and allows people to come together to both speak and to listen. Different from a discussion, it is an attentive listening process that aims to discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us. At the conclusion of each theme paper, there are prompt questions for reflection.

For each theme, we are encouraged to ponder:

- Where is the Holy spirit leading our Archdiocese at this time?
- Whom are we being called to accompany in faith more intentionally?
- How might we reflect the face of Christ more clearly in our local Church and community?

Take the Way of the Gospel – Growing a Vibrant, Vital and Viable Parish

Parish Amalgamation Process

Thank you to the Parishioners who joined the consultation groups after Masses the past 2 weekends.

We gathered a good amount of feedback and suggestions on **Who we can become** as our parishes join together as one.

As well as assisting the discernment of the name for the new Parish, the information is vital for future pastoral planning.

LAST OPPORTUNITY TO SUGGEST A POSSIBLE NAME
If you did not attend a consultation session, or needed more time to reflect on the name, it is possible to send us your preference this weekend.

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.

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION

What is Peter's Pence?

Peter's Pence is a donation that may be small in amount but has a profound symbolic value. It expresses love and trust in the Holy Father as the successor of Peter. It is a sign of belonging to and sharing responsibility within the Church.

The offerings, freely donated by Catholics throughout the world, as well as by people of good will, constitute an important source of support for the Holy See.

The annual Peter's Pence collection supports the Holy Father in his mission of service to the universal church. Your generous donations directly support the Holy Father's apostolic and charitable ministry, providing vital assistance to those suffering from war, poverty and natural disasters around the world.

**A collection will be taken up this weekend
18/19 July at all Masses.**

ROSTERS FOR READERS, MINISTERS & COUNTERS

New rosters to the end of October are available for pick up in the foyer of the church.

HOSPITALITY

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

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

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

ST. JOSEPH'S BY THE SEA RETREATS

Step aside from the busyness of everyday life and spend time in quiet reflection. Here at Mary MacKillop Spirituality Ministry, 16 Esplanade Williamstown, we have a wonderful selection of retreats coming up, each designed to nourish your faith and renew your spirit. For information contact (03) 9397 6012 or

williamstown@mmsm.org.au

OPEN HOUSE MELBOURNE:

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Saturday 25 July 2026 from 9.00am – 3.00pm at 278 Victoria Parade East Melbourne (Enter via the reception/foyer area). The open day is free of charge and no bookings are required. A brochure will be available for visitors to do a self-guided tour of the building.

The campus comprises a bluestone building, designed by William Wardell, that housed Catholic secondary schools (Parade College 1871-1967 and Cathedral College 1968-94) and a new building designed by Gregory Burgess.

The site was the winner of the 2001 Heritage Property Award of the Australian Property Institute and received a commendation in the 2000 Victorian Architecture Awards of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

NOVENA FOR 40th ANNIVERSARY OF ST JOHN PAUL 11'S VISIT TO ST LEO THE GREAT PARISH AND SCHOOL

Tuesday 28th July 2026

5.00pm – 8.00pm

St. Leo the Great Church

389 Mason Street Altona North

The novena is held on the 28th day of every month to St. John Paul 11 to commemorate his visit to the parish and school in 1986.

Each celebration will include Mass, Novena prayers and benediction followed by a time of fellowship.

ROSTER FOR THIS WEEK

18th & 19th July 2026

16th 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

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEK

25th & 26th July 2026

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time A

READERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm Krystyna Biront

9.30am Tere Tutai

Sam/Anna

READERS: **Corpus Christi**

11am Cass Pelino

AJ Pelino

MINISTERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm.....Kath Baker

9.30am..... Pina Guzzardi

MINISTER: **Corpus Christi**

11.00am..... John Santos

COUNTING: Phillip Marques

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

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.