

FIRST READING

Wisdom 12:13,16-19

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 85

O 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.
- 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.
- 3. But you, God of mercy and compassion, slow to anger, O Lord, abounding in love and truth, turn and take pity on me.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:26-27

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.

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24-43 (or: 13:24-30)

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 servant 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 servant 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.' "

He put another parable before them, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches."

He told them another parable, "The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through." In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy: I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, "Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us." He said in reply, "The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!"

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Let them grow together

Can true humility and compassion exist in our words and in our eyes unless we know we too are capable of any act? —St. Francis of Assisi.

We are all a mixture of weeds and wheat and we always will be. We are simultaneously saint and sinner. That's the mystery of holding weeds and wheat together in our one field of life. It takes a lot more patience, compassion, forgiveness, and love than aiming for some illusory perfection that is usually blind to its own faults. Acknowledging both the wheat and weeds in us keeps us from thinking too highly of ourselves and also from dismissing ourselves as terrible. [1]

The words that are translated as "let them" in Jesus' statement, "Let them grow together" can also be translated as forgive them. It's the same words Jesus spoke from the cross in St. Luke when he says, "Father, forgive them" (Luke 23:34). Forgive the weeds? Love the weeds? The gospel is always a challenge. So, yes, forgive them. Love them. Maybe that's how the wheat begins to disentangle its roots from the weeds. [2]

It takes uncommon humility to carry both the dark and the light side of things. The only true perfection available to humans is the honest acceptance of our imperfection. This is precisely what Divine Perfection can help us do; only God in us can love imperfect and broken things. Learning how to love—which is our life's project—is quite simply learning to accept our messy reality. If you love anyone, then you have learned to accept them despite their faults. You see a few things you'd like to change in your partner, your children, yourself. By the Largeness of God within you, you are able to trust that the good is deeper than the bad, and usually well hidden. This is probably why so many of Jesus' parables are about hiddenness, seeking, and finding. [1]

"Some things in life cannot be fixed. They can only be carried." (Megan Devine)

In befriending life, we do not make things happen according to our own design. We uncover something that is already happening in us and around us and create conditions that enable it. (Rachel Naomi Remen)

[1] Richard Rohr [2] Michael Marsh

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

19th July 2020

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Eucharistic Prayer 2

DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 18th July 2020

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Tom Gardner	
Sun 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Margaret Stopyra	<i>16th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
11.00am	<i>H. Family</i>	For our parish	
5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	<i>Collection: Good Shepherd</i>
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	John Bowman	
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Alan Dacre	
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Francis Flood	<i>Feast: St. Mary Magdalene</i>
Thur 9.15am	<i>H. Family</i>	Victor Cookson	<i>Feast: St. Bridget</i>
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Bernard Ward	<i>Feast: Martyrs of Cumbria</i>
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Harry Murphy	<i>Feast: St. James</i>
Sun 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	William Farrell	<i>17th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
11.00am	<i>H. Family</i>	For our parish	
5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	

Masses received this week:

Alan Dacre, William Farrell, Harry Murphy.

Acknowledgement

Thank you for further donations for the Food Bank, SVP and Cafod Emergency Appeal.

BIDDING PRAYERS

We pray for Francis our Pope, and for all bishops, priests and deacons, that they may be inspired by Christ's commandment of love and service to all in their vocations.

We pray that those who sow the seeds of evil, falsehood and discord in this world may be converted by God's grace to become instruments of truth and unity.

We pray for those, both in our parish community and in the wider community, who are suffering from coronavirus or other infirmities, from loneliness, isolation or depression, or from uncertainty about what the future holds for them.

We pray for the sick and the housebound of our parish and for those who care for them, particularly: Joan Anderton, Bill Embery, Lawrence Dunnagan, John Myerscough and Alice Myerscough, Kathleen Kellett, Chris Goldsmith, Frank Stanton, Betty Murphy, Marie Gardner, Carole Adnitt, Joan Green, Frances & Les Farrer, Kevin O'Neill.

May they be blessed by Our Lord's healing and strengthening touch.

Pray for those who have died recently: Canon Frank Cookson, Pamela Wareing;

... and for those whose anniversaries are around now: Norah Matthews, Collette Rigby, Kathleen Warburton, Peter Meade, Eneas McNulty, Roy Anderton, Bernard Ward, Graham Irving, James Stott, Bridget Coulton, Brian Maguire, Patrick Mason.

Lourdes Pilgrimage

Sadly our Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes cannot take place this year. However our Pilgrimage Committee will present a virtual pilgrimage during the week of 24th July - 1st August, when we would have been in Lourdes. The virtual pilgrimage will primarily be accessed through the pilgrimage facebook page with prompts and reminders being posted before events: <https://www.facebook.com/LancastersLourdesPilgrimage>. Links will be posted on the pilgrimage website at www.lancasterlourdes.co.uk and the Diocesan website.

Our Lady of Lourdes is the Patroness of our Diocese. This is an opportunity for us to honour her and to dedicate to her care those who are sick.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES are now available. Thank you to those who have already collected them, and thanks also to everyone who brought the offerings they'd saved up from previous weeks.

Virtual 'Coffee Morning' We have another zoom Coffee Morning today. Log in details: Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89197912583>
Meeting ID: 891 9791 2583 Thanks again to Angie for facilitating and hosting this.

Preston 5km Challenge for CAFOD's Coronavirus Appeal.

The target was £2500 but the different challenges people undertook actually raised £4045 plus Gift Aid for CAFOD. Well done to everyone who took part and to Peter Towers for organising it.

Parish Centre

St. Anthony's Parish Centre has now reopened.

Weekday Mass will now be at St. Anthony's Mon, Tue, Wed and Friday at 9.15am; Thurs only at Holy Family. This is to simplify the need for thorough cleaning at Holy Family.

Church is open!

We are now open for Mass. Rather more people made their way back last weekend but we're still well within capacity so there will be no extra Mass on Saturday at 10.00am from this weekend. Although we have to do things differently we're getting into a routine with the new normal.

THANKS again to our volunteer stewards. If you are able to join them we'd be very glad to hear from you. The wider we can spread the load the better. Unless there are sufficient stewards public Masses are not allowed. Contact parish.priest2@btinternet.com OR pjnewsham@aol.com OR phone: 01772 724576

Our stewards will ask you for your telephone number. This is simply so that we can contact you in the event of anyone at your Mass later being diagnosed with covid 19. Hopefully we won't need to use this and the record will be destroyed after one month. Its an additional layer of safety for everyone.

If you or a member of your household/bubble have any of the COVID19 symptoms you should not attend church. The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays remains suspended.

1. To minimise movement in church Stewards will direct parishioners to fill the benches from the front (you may light candles at the statues first if you wish but remember that sanitising liquid is highly flammable so keep your hands away from the flame.). You will probably not be able to go in your 'usual' bench but that will give you a new perspective!
2. There will be standing room at the back of church when all the benches are occupied but you must still keep the 2-metre distancing.
3. Stewards will direct you for Holy Communion. Please do not form a long queue in the centre aisle because you will be close to people in benches.