



parish newsletter

13 June 2021 | Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“To what shall we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it? It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants.” - Mk 4:30-32b

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

Live the Liturgy *Inspiration for the Week*

Jesus compares the Kingdom of God to a mustard seed, the tiniest of seeds. When planted, the tiny mustard seed grows into a tremendous tree with large branches.



So too in each of our lives small things can have profound effects. God can use one of our more insignificant gestures to radically change another person's life. It may be the kindness of a smile, our willingness to accommodate someone, listening to someone's story, helping someone who is hurting, standing up for someone who is right or complimenting someone on something they did. We all have God given gifts and talents. What are some of yours? Our task is to use our talents creatively, consistently, lovingly, and generously. Because we are always guided by the Holy Spirit, things that may be insignificant or unnoticed to us can profoundly change the life of someone else. While we may think we are small and insignificant, God can make us large and magnificent. All we have to do is open ourselves to being used. We trust that God will take care of the rest.

Reflecting on the Gospel

A favourite motto of St. Teresa of Calcutta was, “do small things with great love.” This is how it works in the kingdom of God. God can do tremendous things with the smallest gesture, especially when it is done in love. We can clearly see that our world is suffering greatly. People are struggling to find peace, navigate through conflicts, earn a sustainable living, find security and enough food to eat, and work through political tensions and conflicts. In the light of the magnitude of the difficulties that exist around us and even within us, we can find ourselves floundering to discover practical, effective solutions. How can something so large be helped by someone as small and seemingly insignificant as me? While whole systems and structures may be out of the league of our

personal influence, are we really that helpless in the midst of all of the turmoil, sadness, and suffering?

If we believe that God is with us and that God is still working to bring about the glory of God's kingdom, then the answer is no. We are never helpless or without hope. Armed with a strong life of prayer, we can always flee to God and ask for inspiration, wisdom, and especially love. We are all blessed with unique gifts and talents and it often seems that considering all that the world lacks, love and charity remain at the top of the list. Life can easily become a battleground of hostility. Because life is challenging and difficult, anger is not far away. We see it on people's faces and hear it in their voices. There is a measure of frustration that permeates all avenues of life.

It is even felt in the air.

As people of faith, we know that what we see here is not the end but only a part of something far greater to come. We know that God's kingdom is where we are ultimately meant to be, and the Gospel is the way to get there. If love and charity can prevail in us, then God will be able to do what God does best. God will use us to scatter the seeds of his kingdom. Through our small gestures, those seeds can receive the nurturing attention that is necessary for them to bear great fruit. We cannot fall victim to the strife that is around us. We have to keep ourselves refreshed and focused so that even in small ways, we can become part of the solution, not the problem. Love and charity, which come from God, can help to heal the ills of the world. May we bring these simple gifts to the everyday simple tasks of our lives! Watch how big the plant grows!

Everyday Stewardship

Recognise God in your everyday moments



St. Anthony Can Find Anything— Even You

“Tony, Tony, come around! Something is lost and it must be found.”

Did you learn this one when you were a kid? In my experience there are even a lot of lapsed Catholics—or people who were never Catholic at

all—who know that when you lose something, St. Anthony becomes your best friend. Missing keys? Pray to St. Anthony. Can't find your favourite sweater? St. Anthony. Forget where you parked your car in the mall lot? St. Anthony—okay, you get the idea. Whatever it is, large or small, important or trivial, Tony has a reputation for finding the lost things.

It's a devotion that can seem a little like superstition—witchcraft, even?—if you don't really understand it. Mumble an incantation to a dead guy and you're guaranteed to find your sunglasses. But as with most traditions that are old, beloved and effective, looking a little closer reveals the truth of the matter.

When we lose something really im-

portant, what do we do? We make the whole household stop what they're doing to join the search. Having St. Anthony as a friend means you ask him to stop what he's doing to help, too. And how he helps is by taking the matter exactly where all matters need to go — straight to the feet of Christ.

Here's the real genius of St Anthony: he takes the most mundane, commonplace occurrence — misplacing socks — into an encounter with the divine and truly all things great and small are gifts from God. He grabs our hand and points to the cross. “That's what you're looking for,” he tells us.

In the end, Tony doesn't really find the lost things. He finds the lost people.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

First Reading

And all the trees of the field shall know that I, the LORD, bring low the high tree, lift high the lowly tree, wither up the green tree, and make the withered tree bloom. (Ez 17:24)

Psalm

It is Good to give you thanks, O Lord.

Second Reading

We are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. (2 Cor 5:6-7)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The seed is the word of God, Christ the sower; whoever finds the seed will remain forever. Alleluia!

Gospel

“It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade.” (Mk 4:31-32)

This Week

13	ELEVENTH SUNDAY (B)	Ez 17:22-24/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 [cf. 2a]/2 Cor 5:6-10/Mk 4:26-34
	10.30 Mass St Mary's People of the Parish	
	17.00 Mass St Mary's Harry Burnikell (RIP)	
14	Monday	2 Cor 6:1-10/Ps 98:1, 2b, 3ab, 3cd-4 [2a]/Mt 5:38-42
	12.05 Mass St Mary's Theo Joyce (RIP)	
15	Tuesday	2 Cor 8:1-9/Ps 146:2, 5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a [1b]/Mt 5:43-48
	12.05 Mass St Mary's Ints of John Osmialowski & Family	
16	Wednesday	2 Cor 9:6-11/Ps 112:1bc-2, 3-4, 9 [1b]/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
	12.05 Mass St Mary's Ints of Molly South	
17	Thursday	2 Cor 11:1-11/Ps 111:1b-2, 3-4, 7-8 [7a]/Mt 6:7-15
	10.30 Mass St Cecilia's Patrick Farrell (RIP)	
	12.05 Mass St Mary's James Atkinson	
18	Friday	2 Cor 11:18, 21-30/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [cf. 18b]/Mt 6:19-23
	12.05 Mass St Mary's Peter Lewin (RIP)	
19	Saturday	2 Cor 12:1-10/Ps 34:8-9, 10-11, 12-13 [9a]/Mt 6:24-34
	10.15 Confession St Mary's	
	11.00 Mass St Mary's Ints of Pat Stevenson	
	18.00 Vigil Mass St Cecilia's John Whelan (RIP)	
20	TWELFTH SUNDAY (B)	Jb 38:1, 8-11/ Ps 107:23-24, 25-26, 28-29, 30-31 [1b]/2 Cor 5:14-17/Mk 4:35-41
	12.05 Mass St Mary's Margaret Ballantyne (RIP)	
	17.00 Mass St Mary's People of the Parish	



Bernadette, Jean Maureen Christopher, Paula, Liz, Peter, Emilia, Jean, Teresa, Cath and Norman, the sick sisters at Oaklea.



Margaret Ballantyne
If you would like a name added to our prayer list, please email or call the parish office.

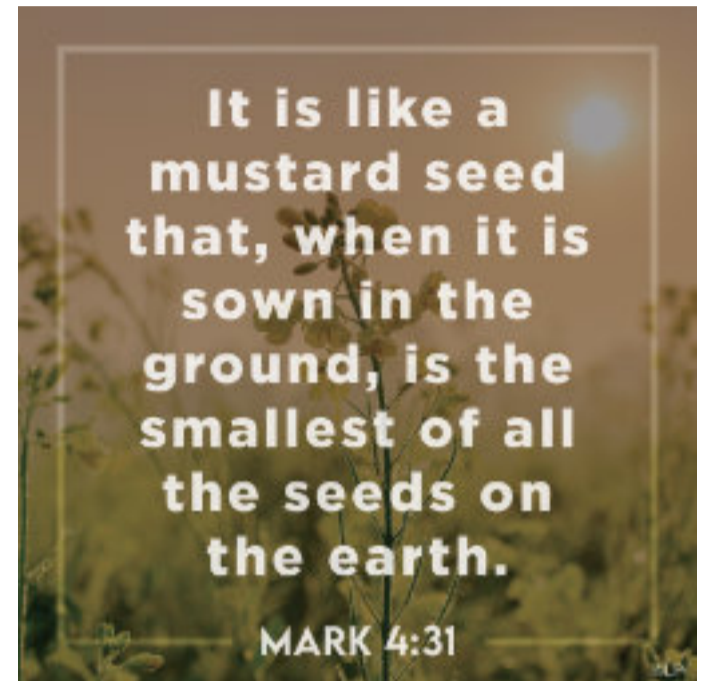


Questions for the Week

First Reading: The prophet Ezekiel's image of God growing Israel into a mighty majestic cedar tree bearing fruit, with birds nesting in its branches was intended to be words of comfort for the exiled Israelites in Babylon. How do you find God's comfort in times of distress?

Second Reading: Paul encourages the believers in Corinth to be courageous in knowing one day all will appear before "the judgement seat of Christ." How confident are you in reflecting on judgement day?

Gospel: Mark tells us that Jesus often spoke in parables to the crowds about the kingdom of God. Today's parables speak to the often unseen and subtle growth of the kingdom of God in our midst. How might you better observe the kingdom of God at work in your life?



News & Announcements



40 Hours' Devotion

We're just a few weeks away from the start of our 40 Hours' Devotion. Thank-you everyone who has already signed up to keep watch with Jesus. Please remember that you also sign up to a spot even if someone else has already put their

name down. You can also turn up at any time during the 40 hours with Jesus: there's no need to book.

We need some more volunteers to help with the stewarding. We expect that some COVID regulations will still be in place during the 40 Hours and if you can help please put your name on the sign-up sheets at the back of the church.

Can you bring flowers? One of the most striking visual aspects of the 40 Hours' Devotion is the flowers. If you would like to donate some flowers to be used in a display we'd be very grateful. Also, we'll make sure that vases are available so that when you come to visit the Lord you can bring him flowers.

Flock Notes

The gospel today is all about little things making a big difference. Mustard seeds, for example, become large shrubs; and the seeds the farmer plants grow into a crop without his understanding how.

These powerful images are important for us Christians to keep in mind. How often do we hear an announcement at Mass that help in needed for a particular task or ministry? How often do we think, 'I'd be no good at that.' How often do we think that our contribution would be too small or insignificant to make a difference, and therefore hold back on offering it?

Today's gospel, therefore, is a bit of a kick in the spiritual backside - if you'll pardon the expression! But it's a kick we all need from time to time. It takes away the number one excuse we use to get ourselves off the hook for volunteering or putting our names forward. If we take today's gospel seriously then we have no good excuse any more.

The mustard seed is small and insignificant and

Income

Collections	£4,755.16
Rent	£380.00
Candles	£496.04
Fundraising/Donations	£270.00
TOTAL	5,901.20

Expenditure

Heat & Lighting	£2,664.99
Repairs & Renewals	£25.97
Wages	£503.79
Water Rates	£547.46
Council Tax	£245.63
General Administration	£1,143.41
TOTAL	£5,140.25

Thank-you for your continued generosity!

May 2021



Road Closures Next Sunday

The Sunderland 10k run is taking place next Sunday morning. Road access to the Church and around the city centre is restricted. Please plan ahead if you're coming to the 10.30 Mass.

look what difference it makes! Our individual contributions might not measure up to much in our sight or the estimation of others. But isn't it supposed to be God's sight and estimation that matters? Every time we judge our contribution too small to be worth offering we're refusing the chance for God to do something amazing in our lives, for ourselves and for others.

The parable of the farmer is similar. Who among us can say with certainty that they understand and know God's plans for their lives? How many of us can claim an insight into the way that God allows our gifts and talents to grow and be used for the benefits of others? Put another way, who can know all the different ways God uses us to plant the seeds of his words in the hearts of the people around us?

When we say no - or don't say anything at all - to opportunities to minister and serve we're frustrating the work of God in our lives. This side of eternity we'll probably never know all the different ways God uses us and the difference we make to others. Unless of course, we say 'no' or keep quiet. But who wants that for a legacy?



Why do we do that?

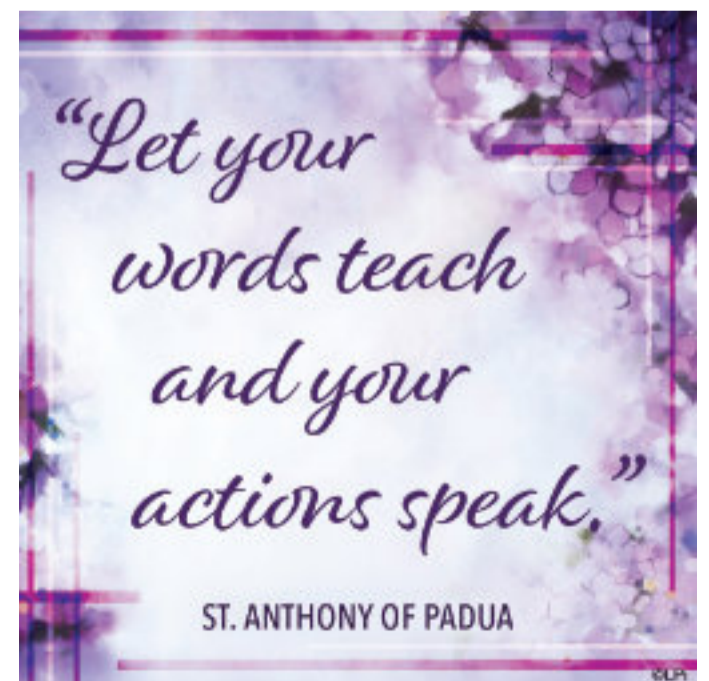


Question: Where does the money go that is collected each week at Church?

Answer: This is a good question! Every parish has financial obligations, including the basic operation

of the buildings, salaries, maintenance, and improvements. In addition, there are schools to support, programmes to run, charities to be funded, and operational expenses like hosts and wine for Mass, music books, vestments, and so on. In some cases, cemeteries and other buildings need attention. Finally, there is the diocesan assessment that each parish pays to help run the diocese and the support services provided to each parish.

Most parishes manage to get by with the collection, a few fundraisers and endowments. But contrary to popular opinion, cash flow is also a problem, and many parishes operate in the red. The Stewardship Committee is responsible for assisting the parish priest in fiscal management, and good stewardship is the basis for successful programmes.



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Rev Eddy Barker, Parish Deacon
Canon Alexander Barrass, Priest in Residence



A parish of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle
Reg Charity 1143450



Confession: Saturday 10.15am and after Mass until 12:30pm.