



THE SPIRIT COMES TO US IN OUR WEAKNESS

It has been said that nothing is as strong as gentleness and that nothing is as gentle as real strength. Oftentimes gentleness is interpreted as a sign of weakness or indecisiveness. If God is all powerful, how is it that God does not judge our world? The book of Wisdom gives a glimpse into how the people of Israel reflected on this question in the centuries immediately preceding the birth of Jesus. What the surrounding people saw as God's weakness they had come to see as God's gracious strength which provides a model for our own lives.

The parable of the darnel addresses a similar question for the community of Matthew. In a time of opposition, they may have impatiently wondered why God had not forcefully intervened to establish the kingdom on earth. Jesus' parable of the darnel calls them to understand that the time of judgement will come when each person receives what their actions deserve. In the meantime, the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast are timely reminders that while the kingdom's beginnings may be humble and hidden the final outcome is assured.

Like Matthew, Paul saw that the period between the resurrection of the Lord and his return at the end of time was a time of struggle between good and evil. This struggle continues, and Paul reminds Christians of every age that we are not alone in this struggle since the Spirit is the one who carries our prayers and pleas to our gracious and loving God.

Christopher Monaghan CP

a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all 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!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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FIRST READING

Wis 12:13, 16-19

A reading from the book of Wisdom

In the place of sin, you give repentance.

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.

RESP 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

Rom 8:26-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Mt 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

Mt 13:24-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Let them grow together until the harvest.

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."

He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which



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Our Parishes acknowledge and honour the Bidjigal and Gadigal People as traditional custodians of this land, that we stand on.



16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Go Make Disciples, The Mission Plan for the Archdiocese of Sydney



Please pray for the Faithful Departed:

Recently Deceased: Zosia (Sophia) Sitakonski, Andree Mena, Sean McConville, Josephine Micallef, and all those who have died from the Covid-19 Virus.

Deceased: Agnes Brisbane. All the souls in Purgatory.

Anniversary: Fay Davis, Anthony Moore, Jim Tomlinson, Marie Stromboli, Maria Rodrigues, Anne Baker, Rebecca Soriano, Agnes Pinto, Suk Oi Wong, Rita Ciappara, Julie Laporte, Sue Melia, Jenny Moy, Anne Baker, Joaquim Sarmiento Jesuina Sarmiento, Beatrice de Araujo, Manuel Alvaro da Cruz, Dulce da Cruz, Raymond Carmichael, Archbishop Rush, Moyah Buckley, Yolande & Robert Aquilina.

The Sick: Sam Strano, Josephie Regan, Mary Vella, Robert 'Bob' Spanswick, Beatriz Visperas, Michael Victor, Marcus O'Dean, Mick Hall Angela Beveridge, Marie Cullen, Merley Nate Fien, Patrick Sargent, John Sarniak Thomson, Pam O'Grady, Heracleo & Mamerta Dela Torre, Santa Viselli and Ernie Ross. Pray for the sick, the dying, the poor and homeless in our parishes, and those suffering



Where will Fr. John be celebrating Mass next weekend?

Saturday - 29 July 2023 - 5.30 pm St Agnes' (Supply Priest)
Sunday - 30 July 2023 - 9.00 am St. Andrew's (Livestreamed)



Greetings to all parishioners and visitors of St Andrew & St Agnes Twinned Catholic Parishes of Malabar-Matraville. This Tuesday 25 July at St Agnes' War Memorial Catholic Church, 509 Bunnerong Road, Matraville at 7.00pm there is a Parent/Carer Information Evening for our Parishes of Malabar—Matraville First Eucharist (1st Holy Communion) Program. Those Parent(s)/Carer(s) of students in Year 3 of our Catholic Schools of St Andrew's or Sacred Heart are asked to be in attendance, together with Parent(s)/Carer(s) of Year 4 students in State School of our Parishes. This meeting is mandatory towards being part of this Parish Sacramental Eucharist Program. Commitment Masses for this program will be taking place in the next couple of weeks, let's keep them in your prayers.

Our Parish First Eucharist Celebrations will take place with an extra Parish Sunday Mass at St Agnes' Matraville Parish, Sunday 10 September at 11.15am. While at St Andrew's Malabar Parish there will be two extra Parish Sunday Masses on Sunday 17 September at 10.15am & 12 Noon. These are Parish Masses that you are welcome to attend. If you have any question regarding our Parish Sacramental Programs, please contact our Parish Office Malabar & Matraville, 6 Prince Edward St Malabar, Tues & Wed 8.30am—5.00pm and Friday 8.30am –2.30pm, 9311 2062 or standrewmal@gmail.com

I am wishing in our Twinned Catholic Parishes of St Andrew's & St Agnes' to form hospitality committees in which we can hold regular Sunday Morning Teas. I would appreciate if you can assist in becoming a member of our hospitality committees, just place your name on the sheet in the Sacristies of St Andrew's or St Agnes', if you would like to assist, many thanks.

God bless,

Fr John

We would like to thank Joseph Medcalf Funerals for their continuing kind sponsorship to our Parishes through the sponsorship of printing our Planned Giving Envelopes over the last 12 months. If you are wishing to use Joseph Medcalf Funerals who is Australian owned and family operated. They can be contacted on 9694 9494 (Operating 24 hours). Please note Medcalf's can provide an all ladies funeral crew if preferred.



PARISH OUTING BY COACH - Tuesday 15th August, South Coast Fairymeadow Illawarra Museum Wollongong. \$50 per person, includes Coach Fare, Museum Entry, Morning Tea and a 2 Course Lunch. Full payment by Sunday, 23 July.

Contact Kathy Sullivan: 9311-1749 or Marie Jennings 9661-7186.

As the 15 August is the Feast of the Assumption and a Holy Day of Obligation, there will be an evening mass at 7pm at St Andrew's together with a 9am Mass on