

THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Matthew 13:1-23

1. Jesus uses parables to make people think about their own responses to his message. As you read this parable you may recognize that at different times you have been like each of the different types of soil. As you recall times when you presented fertile soil for the Word of God, what helped you create that receptive atmosphere? What lessons for life do you get from that?

2. Parents with children, teachers with pupils, speakers with listeners, are all like sowers in a field where the preparation of the soil is up to another – the child, pupil or listener. They can sow the seed but cannot guarantee that it will bear fruit. At times there may be a temptation not to try any more. The challenge is to sow in hope. When have you been surprised by the harvest you have reaped?

3. 'We are wasting our time here' may sometimes be the apparent wisdom in a group. Have there been times when you have gone against this apparent wisdom and seen your efforts bear fruit?

John Byrne o.s.a

MUSINGS: THE GOOD SEED

"Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God." **Pope Francis**

Jesus' parable of the sower is aimed at the people who listen, or ignore, his word. There are different ways of hearing God's word and they produce different kinds of fruit.

Working too hard to have time to hear God's word: There is the prejudiced hearer who has a shut mind. Such a person is unteachable and blind to the things of God.

The shallow hearer fails to think things out or think them through and lacks spiritual depth. They may initially respond with an enthusiasm, but when it wears off their mind wanders to something else.

Another type of hearer is the person who has many interests or cares, but lacks the ability to hear or comprehend what is truly important. Such a person is forever too busy to pray or too preoccupied to study and meditate on God's word. They may work so hard that they are too tired to even think of anything else but their work.

Then there is the one whose mind is open. Such a person is at all times willing to listen and to learn. He or she is never too proud or too busy to learn. They listen in order to understand.

From Women in the Bible by Elizabeth Fletcher

THE FAMILY

We read in the Gospel:

He went down with them then and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature and in favour with God's people

Luke 2:51-52

Our Lord Jesus Christ gave us the model of family life. He went down with Mary and Joseph and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favour with God and man. Let us pray for God's blessing on this family.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, giver of life: give your strength and wisdom to the father of this family.

Blessed are you, Holy Spirit, bearer of love: give your compassion and understanding to the mother of this family.

(Blessed are you, Holy Trinity, eternal and almighty: shadow with your protecting wings the absent/departed members of this family.)

Let us pray

Father,

We want to live as Jesus, Mary and Joseph

POPE FRANCIS

'Always there are doors that are not closed. Look for the doors that are at least a little bit open, enter and talk about common things and go on. Step by step.'

TROCAIRE THANK YOU

On behalf of the many communities and families which benefit from your support, I would like to thank you for your most generous donation of €4,283. You are transforming lives in Honduras, South Sudan and Somalia who are facing hunger caused by drought and constant conflict.

Eamonn Meehan, Executive Director, Trocaire.

JULY 30 : REEK SUNDAY 2017- CROAGH PATRICK

Reek Sunday takes place on the last Sunday in July each year.

Please note Mass times have changed this year and will be celebrated on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Full details on www.westportparish.ie/croagh-patrick/reek-sunday-2017 or contact the parish office Mon to Fri between 9.30am and 4.30pm on 098 28871.

CHANGES TO MASS TIMES

No 5.45pm weekday Mass until Autumn
No Adoration on Mondays or Fridays.

PARISH WEBSITE

www.ourladyoftherosaryparishlimerick.ie

Fr. Des McAuliffe P.P. Tel: 061 324825

Fr. Tom. Ryan C.C. Tel: 087 2997733

Parish Clerk: Margaret Clifford at *Church Sacristy*
Tel: 325288

Office Hours: 09:00-09:45 Weekdays
09:00-12.30 Sunday

MASS TIMES:

Weekends

Saturday Vigil 18:00

Sunday 10:00; 11:30

Weekdays:

Mon to Fri 10:00

Saturday 09:45

Baptisms:

Saturday 17:00

Sunday 12:15

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 15th	18:00	Betty Quilligan (A) Jim Fitzpatrick (1st A) Carmel Fitzpatrick (A) Tom Hamill (A)
Sun 16th	10:00 11:30	Christy Cleary (A) Gladys McMahon (A) Paddy, Brian, Geraldine and Clement McMahon (A) Bill Looby (A)
Mon 17th	10:00	Martina Power (A)
Tues 18th	10:00	Anne, Jean and John Healy
Wed 19th	10:00	Brid O'Gorman (A)
Thurs 20th	10:00	Neily Goggin (Rec. Dec.)
Fri 21st	10:00	McNelis Family (A)
Sat 22nd	09:45 18:00	Nelly Crowe (A)
Sun 23rd	10:00 11:30	Mary Yates (A) Olive Slater (A) Joan Daly (A)

Published by the Parish Pastoral Council