

# *St Teresa & St John Southworth Churches, Cleveleys*

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## **Sunday : 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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### **Gospel:**

#### **Matthew: 13:1-23**

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered by him he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, "Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!"

#### **Reflection - The Answer Lies In The Soil**

In the fruitful soil of human life the seed, that is the word of God, becomes flesh.

In the rich soil of care, the word of God takes root. In the thorny soil of suffering, the word of God consoles. In the flowering soil of friendship, the word of God makes sense. In the deep soil of faith, the word of God comes alive.

And in the times we fill our days with care and compassion, with patience and courage, with joy and with love, the word of God is sown by Jesus through us, and bears its rich fruit for everyone we meet.

## **Notices :**

\* **A very big thank you** for all your church collection money you gave at Mass last weekend in both our parishes, for all that was handed in in the weeks previous to that, and for those who took out bank mandates during the lock-down Your generosity and thoughtfulness really does help.

\* **Congratulations to those who are winners in St. Teresa's 100 Club draw, for the past four months :**

March : John Dover £15, Sue Cowell £10, Eileen O'Connor £5

April : Charlotte Benson £15, Veronica Brady £10, Frances O'Mara £5

May : Helen Meehan £15, Gerard Harring £10, Phil Gooden £5

June : Brian Tickle £15, Pat Bonnar £10, Gerard Brimelow £5

\* **Saturday Masses – Please note that from next Saturday, 18th July, there will be no more Saturday 9.30 am morning Mass at St. Teresa's**

\* **Tracking and Tracing** : Each time you enter church for Mass you will be asked for your name and telephone number. Apologies for any inconvenience, but this is now asked of us for the purposes of Tracking and Tracing.

\* **Our churches are open for daily Mass :**

At this stage it is important to remember that the Corona Virus has not yet been defeated, and we must continue to make sensible decisions for ourselves and for others in order to stay as safe as possible. In fact with our church practice our Bishop reminds us that we remain in a stage of transition, and the dispensation from attending Sunday Mass still holds. For the vulnerable it might be very wise to stay with what we have discovered in our prayer and spiritual lives at home, or, as Mass will be celebrated on Sundays **and** weekdays, to come to Mass during the week instead of Sunday. As it is, despite all the benches and seats we have in our churches, because of physical distancing not all of them can be used, and so the capacity size of the congregation will have to be reduced.

At the same time, as with other things, it will not be "All back to as it was before" It will be a "new normal", maybe for some time, with aspects which will certainly not seem to be 'normal' for us. For instance in the three pages of guidelines we have received, besides the physical distancing, we are instructed that during Mass there can be no singing, no Bidding Prayers, no Offertory procession or collection (there will be a basket near the door at the end of Mass), Holy Communion will be under one kind, the host, and received only on the hand, **and** - a short sermon!

### **The times of Masses for Sundays and weekdays:**

#### **St. Teresa's :**

Saturdays (Vigil Mass) : 6.30 pm

Sundays : 9 am and 10.30 am

Weekdays : Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.30 am

#### **St. John Southworth :**

Sundays : 5pm

Weekdays : Wednesday : 9.30 am

**Please note :**

- **If you can it is advisable that you bring a mask/scarf with you, otherwise the social distancing in church will be two metres + for you instead of one metre.**
- **Those who share the same household can sit together in the same bench, as long as you are distanced from any other person.**
- **Please allow the "stewards" (friendly parishioners!) to guide you when you arrive.**

(Reflections for the coming week are on the next page)

## **Daily Reflections for this week**

### **Monday (Malcom Muggeridge)**

When Mother Teresa's permission to leave the convent came, she stepped out with a few rupees in her pocket, made her way to the poorest, wretchedest quarter of the city, gathered together a few abandoned children and began her ministry of love. This act of superb, some would say outrageous courage and faith made a particularly strong impression on me. She was a nun, rather slightly built, not particularly clever, or particularly gifted in the arts of persuasion. Just with this Christian love shining about her, in her heart and on her lips. Just prepared to follow her Lord.

### **Scripture (Matthew 13:19-23)**

*When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown: this is the seed sown on the edge of the path. The seed sown on the patches of rock is someone who welcomes the word with joy but has no deep root deep down and does not last should some trial or persecution come. The seed sown in thorns is one who hears the word, but the worry of the world and the lure of riches choke the word and it produces nothing. And the seed sown in the rich soil is someone who hears the word and understands it; this is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.*

### **Tuesday (Meister Eckhart)**

*On frequently receiving Our Lord's body:* You may feel you have committed many sins and cannot atone for them. Go then to him, for he has worthily atoned for all guilt. You may be aware of nothing great in you but your own great poverty. Truly, if you wish to transform all your poverty, then go to the abundant wealth beyond measure, and you shall be made rich. You should say, 'I wish to come to you so that our wealth shall fill my poverty, your infinity shall fill my emptiness and your immeasurable, incomprehensible Godhead shall fill my base humanity.'

### **Scripture (1 Cor. 2:1-4)**

*When I came to you I did not come with any brilliance of oratory or wise argument to announce to you the mystery of God. I was resolved that the only knowledge I would have while I was with you was knowledge of Jesus, and of him as the crucified Christ. I came among you in weakness, in fear and in great trembling, and what I spoke and proclaimed was not meant to convince by any philosophical argument but to demonstrate the convincing power of the Spirit, so that your faith should depend not on human wisdom but on the power of God.*

### **Wednesday (Cardinal Basil Hume)**

The resurrection has power to transform our lives. The more we accept its truth, its reality, the greater will be our change in attitude towards God and in our view of the world in which we live. It is important for ourselves and our society that we retain and develop a wholesome faith, a sense of the eternal and the spiritual. We need to be armed with faith and vision.

### **Scripture (Jeremiah 1:4-8)**

*The word of Yahweh came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before I came to birth I consecrated you; I appointed you as prophet to the nations." I then said, "Ah, Ah, Ah, Lord Yahweh; you see, I do not know how to speak, I am only a child!" But Yahweh replied, "Do not say 'I am only a child' for you must go to all to whom I send you and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid, for I am with you."*

### **Thursday (Caryll Houselander)**

Jesus knew fear, temptation and failure. He suffered loneliness, betrayal, unrequited love, utter desolation of spirit, the sense of despair and death. And he overcame them all and he came back to the world bringing it life and peace and joy. He took our humanity, just as it is, with all its wretchedness and ugliness, and gave it back to us just as his humanity is, transfigured by the beauty of his living, filled full of his joy. Every day thousands of people receive Holy Communion. Christ's response to that dogged, devoted will of a multitude of insignificant people is coming to life in them. When the world seems to be finished, given up to hatred and pride, secretly, in unimaginable humility, Love comes to life again. There is resurrection everywhere.

### **Scripture (Isaiah 55:10-11)**

*Thus says the Lord: "Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do."*

### **Friday (Thomas Merton)**

Life in Christ is life in the mystery of the cross. It is not only a hidden supernatural participation in the divine life in eternity, but a participation in a divine mystery, a *sacred action* in which God himself enters into time and, with the co-operation of people who have answered his call and have been united in a holy assembly, the Church, carries out the work of our redemption.

### **Scripture (Ephesians3:17-21)**

*May Christ live in your hearts through faith, and them planted in love and built on love, with all God's holy people you will have the strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and the depth; so that, knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond knowledge, you may be filled with the utter fullness of God. Glory be to him whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine; glory be to him from generation to generation in the Church and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.*

**Martin Bennett**