



# THE SAVING WORD

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

23 JULY 2017

## 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.**

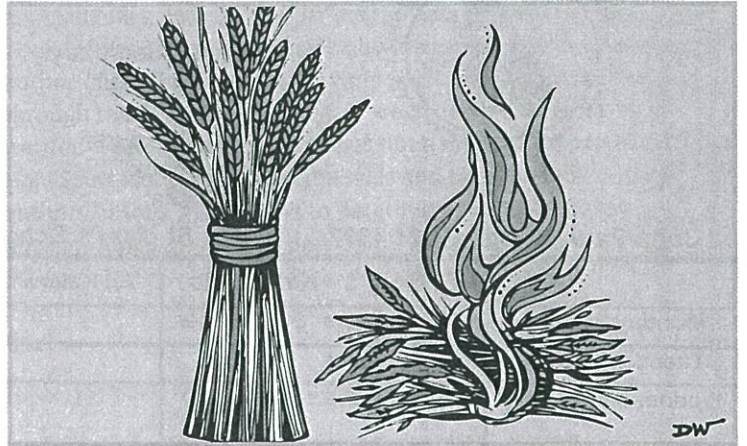
## SECOND READING

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 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.

*Shorter form 13:24-30.*

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# Reflections on the Gospel

## THE COMMUNITY DOES NOT WEED OUT THE WEEDS

Today's Gospel is taken from the world of Galilean farmers. Galilee, where Jesus grew up, was almost entirely covered with carefully tended fields, in contrast to the desert areas of Judea where herds of animals were more common. The parable of the Wheat and the Darnel (Weed) is rooted in nature and in the behaviour of people. Darnel is a poisonous plant often found in wheat fields. The 'enemy' who sows darnel would be a jealous neighbour. Jesus uses this situation to describe how people living in the kingdom of God should behave. The critical point of the parable is the householder's decision to let the darnel and wheat grow together.

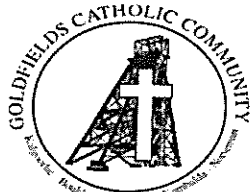
By this parable, Jesus tells his disciples that the harvest is assured; the wheat will ripen as the owner intends. It is the same with the mission of Jesus. Whatever damage people may cause, nothing can defeat this mission, not even the wiles of the devil (the 'enemy' in the parable). But co-existence is not the final stage. At the harvest, the wheat (the righteous) are gathered into the owner's barn; while the weeds (the children of the evil one) are used for fuel. 'Burning' symbolises their bad end.

At the start of the Jubilee Year of Mercy Pope Francis said in his homily: 'Here, then, is the reason for the Jubilee: because this is the time for mercy. It is the favourable time to heal wounds, a time not to be weary of meeting all those who are waiting to see and to touch with their hands the signs of the closeness of God, a time to offer everyone, everyone, the way of forgiveness and reconciliation.'

Who knows, with the grace of God and the patience of the community, the 'weeds' may eventually turn into wheat?

**Fr Gil Alinsangan SSP**

**The Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Year A – 23 July 2017**



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	<b>St Mary's - Kalgoorlie</b>	<b>All Hallow's Boulder</b>	<b>What Is On</b>
<b>Monday 24 July</b>	9.30am mass SCC chapel		
<b>Tuesday 25 July</b>	6:45am Mass		6.00pm Home Rosary
<b>Wednesday 26 July</b>	6.45am Mass		4.00pm Sisters Preparation Class 5.30pm Novena OLP (with Reconciliation)
<b>Thursday 27 July</b>	6.45am Mass	9.30am Mass	
<b>Friday 28 July</b>	6.45am Mass		
<b>Saturday 29 July</b>	9.30am Mass SCC Chapel 6.30pm Mass		Reconciliation 11:30-12noon St Mary's
<b>Sunday 23 July</b> <b>Sixteenth Sunday</b> <b>in Ordinary Time</b> <b>Year A</b>	10.00am Mass 11.30am Baptism	8.00am Mass 5.30pm Mass  *Reconciliation before each Mass	Readings 17th Sun in Ordinary Time Year A 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading: 1Kg 3:5,7-12 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading: Rom 8:28-30; Gospel: Mt 13:44-52
Coolgardie —Mass 10:30am Sunday (1st & 3rd) —Mass 5pm Saturday (all other weekends) Southern Cross—Mass 6pm Sat & 8:30am Sunday			
Kambalda—Mass 9:00am Sunday (2nd, 4th & last) —Mass 5pm Saturday (all other weekends) Norseman—Mass 12:30pm Sunday (2nd & last)			

### **Good Wheat Among The Weeds**

What is your offering to the Lord? What offering does the Lord ask of you? Beginning with the Entrance Antiphon and Collect this week our liturgy of the word challenges us to know where our heart is and if we are living for God. Our power to do things well rests in seeking and doing God's will. God is the sovereignty and strength over all things, in him we learn to be 'virtuous and kindly' (Wis 12:13, 16-19).

When our lips utter in sincerity "Thy will be done", in that humility we acknowledge that it is by God's power that we can even utter such words and that we can seek the help of the Holy Spirit to know, begin and carry out his will (Rom 8:26-27). 'The Spirit himself expresses our plea'. It is thus by the power of the Spirit at work in us, we are able to change and be productive in building God's Kingdom here on earth. God's mercy is truly shown to be at work both toward us and in us (Ps 85)

As followers of Christ in the world we are likened to seeds planted by Jesus himself, the sower. But in the world we wrestle with those who have ulterior motives and self seeking, those whose vices paralyse them from believing in and trusting in Christ and his power to save. Often it can be like so many around us opposing the Christian way of life that we begin to feel pressured and squeezed into unbelief. This is the work of the evil one and is like the darnel (a weed) among the good wheat. But such is God's mercy that no matter what threats we may face in the world and even within ourselves, we keep believing in, trusting and seeking God so as to be saved in Christ Jesus (Matt 13:24 -43).

### Decorated Cake Raffle Results

Your generosity as a Parish is amazing. \$767 was raised in just two weekend Masses, from the decorated cake raffle, going towards the clearing of the land around All Hallow's Church, Boulder. Gino Rampellini was the lucky winner, the cake helping to celebrate his daughter's 40th Birthday this weekend.

### Southern Cross Community Mass

Southern Cross Day will be celebrated next Sunday 30th of July. Mass will be at 10.30am, followed by refreshments. The bus will leave from St Mary's Church car park at 7.30am boarding from 7.15am. Cost per person will be \$15.00.

### Saturday Morning Catechesis

The M.C.Sisters have resumed their Saturday morning catechesis. For those parents who aren't aware, the sisters run a morning session each Saturday for primary school aged children at 10.30am to 12pm. I encourage our parents to bring their children to these classes. They are a great way for children to grow in their faith and love of God.

### Catechesis Corner

#### God's self revelation in Sacred Scripture

Sacred Scripture is the truth of God written down in human language. The Bible expressed the ultimate truth of God in human language. We call the Scriptures 'Sacred' because the books of the Bible were inspired by the Holy Spirit. The primary author of the Scriptures is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit worked through the human co-authors to write down exactly what He wanted written. However this was not a mechanical process, the Holy Spirit worked through the skills and talents of the human authors. It took many years to determine which books were authentic and considered part of the Canon of Scripture. The official list of books in the Bible was finally declared in the 4th century. Why read the Bible? The answer is in the name of the book;

Basic, Instruction Before Leaving Earth.

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#### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.

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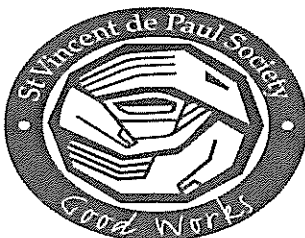
Every child matters  
every day



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