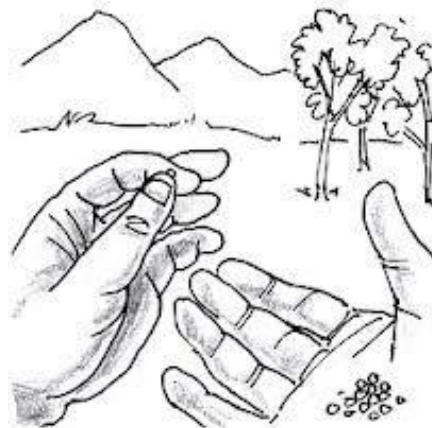


Reflection by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel is a wonderful example of the teaching style of Jesus. It even tells us that 'he would not speak to them except in parables'. Jesus used the parable form almost exclusively to share his message. He used imagery that was familiar to his audience; parables about the everyday life of a rural community: seeds, planting, growing, harvesting. The secret of Jesus' parables, when we understand the cultural context, is that there was always a 'twist in the tale' – what is called a 'discombobulating shift' – that turns the expected outcome of the story on its head.

This is nowhere more evident than in the image of the mustard seed. On the surface the parable is about the kingdom of God starting from very small, humble beginnings and growing into something great. However, immediately prior to this kingdom parable, Jesus has reminded us that the community makes a living out of growing grain crops like wheat for bread, etc. His parable about the mustard seed describes a tiny seed that grows into a great shrub 'so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade'. A farming community that was growing grain



crops would be greatly alarmed at the thought of actually attracting birds to their fields or even nearby. Jesus' message about the kingdom of God is that it is actually disruptive and invasive. The kingdom brings unrest and disquiet to the predictable. The kingdom of God is unsettling. This is a much more challenging parable than it appears from a literal reading.

PARISH HAPPENINGS

LOOKING AHEAD

Monday 18 June

- 11.00am SVDP meeting – AQ Room
- 7.00pm Italian Prayer Group – Church

Tuesday 19 June

- 9.00am Year 3's attending Mass
- 9.30am Playgroup – Hospitality Area
- 9.30am Scripture group – Library

Wednesday 20 June

- 9.30am Wednesday Friendly – Hospitality
- 11.00am BED Scripture Group – Library
- 6.00pm OLOG Diners – Pacific Golf Club

Thursday 21 June

- 9.30am Playgroup – Hospitality
- 9.30am Two Hearts – Church

Friday 22 June

No 9am Mass Communion Service Only

Let us remember in prayer all those who are sick Alan Ma, John Bielenberg, Barbara Pashen, David Zemek and those whose anniversaries occur around this time Charles Reed, William Hayes, Agnes Hayes, Patricia Bergin, Tonini Nobilio and the recently deceased Br Leo Larkin, Tony Whitby, Alan William Williams and Mary Hammill.

Important Notice RE 9am Mass 22 June 2018

On Friday 22 June there will be no 9am Mass. Instead it will be a liturgy of the word with communion. We apologise for any inconvenience and appreciate your understanding.

Sacrament of Eucharist – Date Claimer

Children Confirmed at Our Lady of Graces in May 2017 soon commence activities to help prepare them for the important step in their initiation - the Sacrament of Eucharist [First Holy Communion]. A Parent Meeting for parents of children this group will be held in the church at 7pm on Wednesday 27 June.

Last Week's 2nd Collection

Loose	\$889.40
Planned Giving	\$3,237.35
Total	\$4,126.75

Planned Giving Program

To obtain envelopes, Direct Debit or a Credit Card request, please complete the form on the back page of this newsletter and place on either collection plate or deliver to Parish Office.

Planned Giving

Envelopes for new planned givers are now ready to be collected from the white table near the entrance to the church. Please collect to save the parish the cost of postage.

Direct Debit Request and Credit Card Authority forms have also been sent to new givers and continuing givers increasing their pledge amount via email or post for those not on email. If you believe you should have received a form and have not seen one arrive in your mailbox, there are a limited number of forms available from the white table near the entrance. Please return your completed form via either email to fo.carina@bne.catholic.net.au, in the collection at Sunday Mass, in person to the parish office or via post.

Any queries or problems, please contact Chris (Finance Officer) via the above email or at the parish office on Monday, Wednesday or Thursday.

Electronic Giving Cards

For those who give via direct debit or credit card, we have created special cards for you to place in the 1st and 2nd collection. These are available from the entrance of the church. Please only take two so that the cards can be reused each week.

SOMETHING FUNNY



COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

The Good Samaritan Refugee Support Network

A screening of Constance on the edge at the Church Hall of Sts Peter and Paul, 25 Main Avenue, Bulimba. It will run from 2.00 pm – 4.00pm Saturday the 23rd of June, followed by discussion and sharing over afternoon tea. RSVP Tricia Vesely gsofficesqld@goodsams.org.au or you can phone 3267 3662. Alternatively you can call the parish office of St Peter and Paul Bulimba 3399 2386.

What is a Plenary Council?

A Plenary Council is a formal meeting of the bishops and other representatives of all the dioceses and eparchies of the Catholic Church in Australia. Its purpose is to discern what God is asking of us in Australia at this present time. While the church should be asking that question continually, a Plenary Council is a particularly graced instrument for seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance. And it has the authority to make church laws on the results of its discernment. Although in the end it will be the bishops who will vote on any future directions for the church in Australia, they will be making those decisions in the light of a long listening to the Holy Spirit speaking through the voices of any of the faithful who wish to speak around Australia. This makes the Plenary Council 2020 different from the last one in 1937. Everyone has a chance to participate and to express whatever the Spirit is saying to them in their heart. Vatican II taught that the Church should be more dialogic and participatory in its processes, involving all the baptised in the Church. The bishops have a ministry of teaching that necessarily involves a process of listening to the voices of the faithful before they speak. One of Pope Francis' favourite quotes from Vatican II (*Lumen Gentium*, 12) concerns how the bishops have access to the Holy Spirit, so that they are faithfully interpreting and applying what God has revealed and is revealing. And that access comes through a special gift that all the baptised have received at their baptism when they are anointed with chrism. That gift is called "a sense for the faith" (*sensus fidei*). Moreover, the whole church together has this special gift, what is called "the faithful's sense of the faith" (*sensus fidelium*). This, then, is what we hope to tap into during the preparatory stage leading up to the Plenary Council. We will be having "open dialogue and listening sessions". Each person's perspective will be valued. No individual has an infallible sense of the faith. We only have a sense of what God is wanting by allowing as many as possible to have a voice in the conversation God wants to have with the church. Singly we see a special viewpoint; together we see much more. We hope over the next three years "to listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches". This was the instruction given to the seven churches of Asia Minor in the Book of Revelation. From that time on Christians have met to listen to the Spirit at times of important decisions. We are called to do so again. Vatican II spoke of how God, who spoke in the past, "continues to converse" with the church (*Dei Verbum*, 8). Through our Plenary Council 2020, the Catholic Church hopes to enter more intensely into that divine-human dialogue.

<http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/>

NET Ministries

Hey!! Elisha here. Next year I will be joining the NET Ministries team! Last weekend I spoke at the 5.30pm Mass about my journey and how I am currently seeking donations to reach my \$6500 goal before January 2019. I just want to say a big thank you to everyone who donated after that mass. All together I raised a total of \$700 so far. This is such a big achievement for one night and again I thank you so much for your generosity. I still have a long way to reach my goal but I am hoping that you might be able to help out! If you are able to donate please contact me on elishahiscock@yahoo.com. Please keep me in your prayers.

Ignite Conference 2018 - Empty

Ignite Conference is a bold vision for the future of the Church. A Church passionate about discovering a real, present God and gathering a generation to be on fire for Jesus. Every year, Ignite Youth hosts one of Australia most powerful Catholic youth conferences. Ignite Conference draws together a network of high schoolers, young adults, ministry leaders, families, teachers, priests, and religious from around the country, sending them out with a passion for authentic faith in Jesus. Experience four days of real-world formation, encouragement in faith, great people and powerful worship. The conference will be held from **Thursday 27 - Sunday 30 September 2018 in Brisbane.**

If any of our Youth from the Parish wish to go either as a single or in a group, please contact the Parish office for more information.

Youth Evangelisation Retreat Day

This is the third of five FREE Year of Youth Retreat Days being held at the beautiful Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre. The details are as follows:

For: Young adults 18-30;

Date: Monday 25th June 2018

Time: 9:30am – 3:30pm

Venue: Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Ormiston

RSVP: (please respond by Monday 18th June)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CLTBDCP>

CATHOLIC LEADER

- * Brisbane Catholics with mental illness turn to their patron saint for prayers
- * New ACT law requires priests to break confessional seal
- * Archbishop Coleridge takes to Facebook to share why Jesus matters in modern Australia

Become a part of the parish Planned Giving Program to help your Parish grow.

We thank, sincerely, all Parishioners who contribute to Planned Giving. Your ongoing commitment and contribution assists the parish to budget for operating expenses (wages, rates, electricity, phones, maintenance etc) as well as parish pastoral planning (faith education, sacramental preparation, resources etc). To obtain Planned Giving Envelopes or to contribute by direct debit, complete this form and place on the plate, or contact the Parish Office. Planned Giving contributions are not Tax Deductable.

Surname: _____ **Given names** _____

Address _____ **P/code** _____

Phone _____

Email _____