



**St. David's Parish
Monastery Road, Pantasaph,
Holywell. CH8 8PE**



July 16, 2023

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“We plough the fields, and scatter the good seed on the land;
But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand:
He sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.

*All good gifts around us
Are sent from heaven above,
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
For all His love. (MATTHIAS CLAUDIUS)*

READINGS

1st Reading **Is 55:10-11**

2nd Reading Rom **Rom 8:18-23**

GOSPEL **Mt 13:1-23/ Mt 13:1-9**

Introduction: Today's readings are about the transforming power of the word of God when read, preached, and lived. They also warn us not to be disappointed at the absence of immediate results. We must take a positive and optimistic view of our missionary efforts, as we keep on bearing witness to Christ's Gospel. The parable of the sower in today's Gospel challenges us to listen intently to God's Word, to be open to it, and to allow our lives to be shaped by its power. The parable reminds us that man's reception of God's Word is determined by the condition of his heart. **The first reading (Isaiah 55:1-11)** Written for the exiles who

would return from Babylon to Judah, the chapters are meant to comfort a dispirited people. There are promises of fertile land and restoration, water for the thirsty, and secure defense against enemies as the result of Yahweh's power, and mercy. What Isaiah means is that, like rain and snow which water the earth so that seeds may sprout and grow, God's word will accomplish its purpose, in this case, to return the exiles to their homes in peace. Their return will be an everlasting memorial to the power of Yahweh's word. Thus, today's passage promises spiritual fertility.

It implies that God will make the peoples' religious lives fruitful, as He has done for their land. And it could bespeak a promise that God will make fruitful the work of the prophet, whose job it is to proclaim His word. In this reading and in today's Gospel, we are assured that God shares His abundance with us and that His plans will not be frustrated. That is why Jesus in today's Gospel talks about the wonderful effects on human life from the rain-like Word of God.

The second Reading (Romans 8:18-23) explained: In this passage, descriptions of our spiritual distress are combined with descriptions of nature's distress. Following in Jesus' footsteps, Paul reminds the community in Rome of their obligation to trust God's word. But he does not use Isaiah's farming imagery. Instead, Paul states that the sin of Adam has brought corruption both to humankind and to nature. Genesis 3:14-19 describes nature turning against the convicted Adam and Eve. For Paul, then, what God is doing for us in Christ will redeem, not just mankind, but nature too. Paul uses agricultural imagery when he explains to his readers that they enjoy "the first fruits of the Spirit." Paul advises us to be patient in awaiting redemption and the kingdom.

Gospel Exegesis: A parable to boost morale: The word "parable" comes from the Greek word *parabole*, which means putting two things side by side in order to confront or compare them. And that is exactly how Jesus uses parables: He places a simile from life or nature against the abstract idea of the reign of God. Jesus' parable of the seed sown in various soil types was an attempt to boost the morale of his frustrated disciples. They were upset and discouraged because they realized that their master was facing opposition and

hostility from the scribes, Pharisees, and priests. The synagogues refused to admit him to preach, so, Jesus had to go to beaches and hillsides. Some of the Pharisees were planning to trap him, and the common people were more interested in his ability to heal them than in his preaching. Using the parable of the sower in today's Gospel, Jesus assures his confused disciples that the "Good News" he is preaching will produce the intended effect in spite of opposition and controversy. Matthew may have included this parable in his Gospel, because his own Judeo-Christian community had experienced similar adverse reactions from their fellow-Jews, just as people today are frustrated in their attempt to live the Gospel in our consumerist, hedonist, secularist, materialist, and atheistic/agnostic society.

JULY 8/9 COLLECTIONS

Loose cash	112.81
Gift Aid	166.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>278.81</u>
<u>Second Collection</u>	<u>121.36</u>

Donation of Flowers for the Church

Decorating the church with flowers is an honour given to God. Those who would like to donate flowers please contact Angela Taylor

Mass Intentions June 15-21

Date	Offered by	Intention
July 15, Sat	Amanda Gardiner	Maria Gardiner RIP
July 16, Sun		For First communicants
July 17, Mon	Angela Gonsalves	For healing
July 18, Tue	Mathleen McDonagh	For Rosie and Johnpaul Mongan
July 19, Wed	Sheila Waard	Maureen O'Conner
July 20, Thu	Margarida Dias	For deceased members of the family
July 21, Fri	Roshni Caralho	For childless couples

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FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

On **July 16th, Sunday**, four children will receive the First Holy Communion during the 10.00 am Mass

- 1) Noa Edwards
- 2) Maxie khloe Dela Cruz
- 3) Piotr Byzdra
- 4) Violet Elizabeth Doherty

ANNIVERSARIES (July-15-21)

Paul McArdle, Catherine McGrath: Mary Agnes Jones '89:
Ernest John Richards:, Joseph Cushnahan: Pat Place: Sr.
Catherine Foley '03:

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

Sacrament of Confession at 11.30 am on Saturday
ON EMERGENCY ANY TIME 0741-749-4277

Website: <http://www.pantasaph.org>

Email: pantasaphstdavids@gmail.com

Phone: **0741-749-4277**, 01352 711053,

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