



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



**July 23, 2023**

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**"Holiness does not consist in not making mistakes or never sinning. Holiness grows with capacity for conversion, repentance, willingness to begin again, and above all with the capacity for reconciliation and forgiveness."**

**POPE BENEDICT XVI**

## **READINGS**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading                      Wis 12:13, 16-19**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Rom            Rom 8:26-27**

**GOSPEL                      Mt 13:24-43/ Mt 13:24-30**

**Gospel exegesis:** Today's Gospel contains three parables, namely the parable of the mustard seed, parable of the yeast and the parable of the wheat and weed. The parables of the mustard seed and yeast tells us how God's kingdom, or His rule, grows in the human heart and in human lives from a very small beginning to fulness, through the power of the Holy Spirit. The parable of the wheat and weeds tells us how and why evil coexists with good in the world and how we should treat the evildoers.

**The troublesome weeds:** The "weeds" among the wheat in the parable are a variety of tares known as "bearded darnel." They resemble wheat plants so closely that it is impossible to distinguish the one from the other until the ears of seed appear. By that time, the wheat and darnel roots are so intertwined that the tares cannot be weeded out without plucking the wheat out with them. At the

end of the harvest the tares must be removed from the wheat by hand, because they are slightly poisonous. Sowing them in the wheat field was a crude way for an enemy to take revenge on a farmer. The weeds in the parable stand for **unrepentant sinners**, people whose priority is **themselves**, who **use others** for their own advancement or pleasure, instead of **servicing** them. These unrepentant sinners, unless they cooperate with God's grace, repent, and change their lives, will end up in **Hell**, "the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth." The **wheat** stands for the **righteous**, those who have **resisted** the **seductions** of evil, **repented** of their sins, and **battled** against selfishness in order to **follow Jesus Christ**.

**We should not be discouraged because of the "weeds" in the Church:** Why does God permit evil to triumph so often in this world? Why are the wicked allowed to prosper? Jesus answers these questions in the parable. The triumph and prosperity of the wicked are short-lived, whereas the reward of the Christian who suffers from their wickedness is everlasting. God uses the very wickedness and injustices of evildoers to perfect His elect. "From research and personal experience," says Dr. Howard Hendricks, "I've come to the conclusion that in every Church, 16 percent of the members will never change. But the tragedy I see is that the young pastors are leaving the ministry every day or getting disappointed because of that 16 percent "weeds."

What they should be doing is concentrating on the 84 percent who are ripe for change. That's where the real ministry of the local Church takes place." Bishop Sheen is presumed to have made this comment in one of his radio speeches: "The history of the world would have been different if the Christian authorities had shown compassion, patience, and mercy instead of expelling Hitler and Mussolini from the schools and Stalin from the seminary in disgrace as 'weeds.'" (Young Mussolini was expelled from his first boarding school at age 10 for stabbing a fellow student. Adolf Hitler was expelled from the monastery school at Lambach, when he was caught smoking on the monastery grounds.

Joseph Stalin was expelled in 1899 the Tiflis Theological Seminary for revolutionary activities like secretly reading Karl Marx, the chief theoretician of international Communism, and other forbidden texts. But these three became tyrant dictators perhaps in part because of the physical and mental abuse caused in their school days by their strong-willed fathers. Unfortunately, the Church

has not always shown her Master's tolerance. Galileo could testify to that. The spirit of the Inquisition lives on. Excommunications and anathemas may be out of fashion, but old habits die hard. Even in Christian countries the handicapped are institutionalized, the delinquents are penalized, the deviant are ostracized and the poor are patronized.

**Why we should NOT treat others as "weeds:"** The parable hints at why we should not treat others as "weeds," *i.e.*, evil or wicked. 1) Each one of us is a combination of wheat and weeds. In each of us there are elements of the Kingdom of God and elements that are deeply opposed to it. Even Paul recognized that struggle within himself (cf. Rom 7:21-25). God told Paul that it was precisely through his weaknesses that He could reveal His glory: "*My power is made perfect in [your] weakness*" (2 Cor 12:9). Relying on the power of God, we, too, must learn to be patient with evil-doers.

2) The time for judgment has not yet come because the Kingdom of God is still in the growing stage. Now is the time to expect conversion, because, with the help of God's grace, sinners can change. 3) Another reason we should avoid judgment is that we cannot draw a line which would neatly separate the good from the bad, because everyone is a mixture of good and evil. Here is Karl Rahner's piece of advice to enthusiastic "weed"-gatherers: "The number-one cause of atheism is Christians themselves. What an unbelieving world finds simply unbelievable is the presence of those who proclaim God with their mouths and deny Him with their lifestyles. Perhaps, the best defense of God would be to just keep our mouths shut and to live as He told us to. The Gospel would then have such a power and attraction that we wouldn't have to worry about defending it."

### **HAVE YOUR SAY! Marriage and Family Life Commission Survey**

The Marriage and Family Life Commission are in the process of planning their next diocesan events, courses and activities; many of which are FREE for families to attend. However, *we need your help!* In order for us to meet the current needs of our families and to be effective in our work, we would be very grateful if **all parents and carers of 0-25 year olds** could take a few minutes to complete our short survey to find out how we can best serve our local families going forward. The survey is anonymous and can be accessed via <https://forms.gle/Ug7ikfSNYQf4XLBa7> or from our Facebook Page at 'Marriage and Family Life, Diocese of Wrexham' at-

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100087071533098>.

**Please submit your response by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023.**

For any questions about the survey, or if you would like to give further feedback, please contact Jeanie Larkin at [mfl@rcdwxm.org.uk](mailto:mfl@rcdwxm.org.uk), or telephone 07542 268728

## **JULY 15/16 COLLECTIONS**

<b>Loose cash</b>	<b>164.54</b>
<b>Gift Aid</b>	<b>111.00</b>
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>275.54</u></b>

## **Mass Intentions June 22-28**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Offered by</b>	<b>Intention</b>
July 22, Saturday		For the Parishioners
July 23, Sunday	Lobo	For Lobo Family
July 24, Monday	Nell McMahoan	Thanksgiving
July 25, Tuesday	Marsh D'Silva	Nelson D'Silva RIP
July 26, Wednesday	Roshni Caralho	Sr. Alma Caralho
July 27, Thursday	Kathleen McDonagh	John McDonagh
July 28, Friday	Gillian and Jeremie	Wedding Anniversary

### **ANNIVERSARIES (July-22-28)**

Matthew Schwartz, '10., Michael Thorburn: Mary & Thomas Jones:, Bobby Jones Elizabeth Parfitt:, Elizabeth Parfitt:, Joseph De Haan '72: Jean Bloomfield '71: Tony Harrison '99, William Turner: Thomas Lord '98:

### **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](mailto:pantasaphstdavids@gmail.com)

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

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