

Sunday Message

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 12 July 2026 • Psalter Week 3

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

MATTHEW 13:1-23 (MATTHEW 13:1-9 SHORTER FORM)



In this passage, Jesus tells the Parable of the Sower, describing how the message of the kingdom of heaven is received differently by different people. The sower scatters seed widely, illustrating God's generous offer of the Gospel. The focus is not on the sower, but on the soil – the hearts of those who hear the word.

The parable identifies four types of soil: the path, where the seed is quickly snatched away; rocky ground, where the word springs up but withers without deep roots; among thorns, where cares and desires choke growth; and rich soil, where the seed bears abundant fruit. Each soil represents a condition of the human heart, reminding us that the reception of God's word is affected by openness, perseverance, and priorities.

Jesus explains that the "seed" is the word of the kingdom, and the varying results show both the promise and the challenge of discipleship. Some hear but do not retain; others accept superficially; others are distracted by worldly concerns. Yet, when we are prepared to listen, the word produces abundant growth, revealing God's patience and the transformative power of his message.

The parable encourages self-reflection: are our hearts like rich soil, ready to receive, nurture, and bear fruit from the word of God? ■

DO

This week, take a moment each day to reflect quietly on God's word, asking how it can take root in your life.



LEARN

God's word is powerful and fruitful, but it requires openness, attentiveness, and care in our hearts to bear the fruit of discipleship.



REFLECT

Jesus reminds us today that hearing the word of God is only the beginning. The seed falls widely, generously, but the fruit it bears depends on the condition of the soil – the openness of our hearts. Some hearts are like the path: the word is quickly lost, easily distracted. Some are like rocky ground: initial enthusiasm fades without deep roots. Others are choked by the worries and desires of life, leaving little room for growth.

Yet the parable also shows hope. Where hearts are receptive, the seed produces abundant fruit – thirty, sixty, even a hundredfold. God's word is powerful, patient, and persistent. Discipleship asks us to cultivate our hearts: to listen, reflect, and nurture faith, allowing it to take root deeply.

This Gospel encourages honest self-examination. How do we respond when God speaks to us? Are we attentive and committed, or do we let life's distractions prevent growth? The promise is clear: when we open ourselves fully to God, his word transforms us, shaping our thoughts, actions, and relationships. Like rich soil, our hearts can bear fruit that endures, showing the power of God's kingdom in everyday life. ■

SAY

"Lord, make me a good and faithful servant of Your Word."

St Francis de Sales

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.*

COLLECT

O God, who show the light of your truth
to those who go astray,
so that they may return to the right path,
give all who for the faith they profess
are accounted Christians
the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ
and to strive after all that does it honour.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Isaiah 55:10-11

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord:

'For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 65(64):10a-d. 10e-11. 12-13. 14 R. Luke 8:8

R: Some seed fell into good soil and yielded its fruit.

1. You visit the earth, give it water;
you fill it with riches.
God's ever-flowing river brims over
to prepare the grain. **R.**
2. And thus you prepare it:
you drench its furrows;
you level it, soften it with showers;
you bless its growth. **R.**
3. You crown the year with your bounty.
Abundance flows in your pathways;
in pastures of the desert it flows.
The hills are girded with joy. **R.**
4. The meadows clothed with flocks.
The valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy; yes, they sing! **R.**

SECOND READING Romans 8:18-23

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters: I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption, and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

R: Alleluia, alleluia.

The seed is the word of God, Christ the sower;
all who find him will live for ever.

R: Alleluia.

GOSPEL Matthew 13:1-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

(for shorter form read between > <)

> At that time: Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear.' <

Then the disciples came and said to him, 'Why do you speak to them in parables?' And he answered them, 'To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: "You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive." For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.'

'Hear then the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look upon the offerings of the Church, O Lord,
as she makes her prayer to you,
and grant that, when consumed by those who believe,
they may bring ever greater holiness.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*The sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for her young:
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.*

Or

*Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having consumed these gifts, we pray, O Lord,
that, by our participation in this mystery,
its saving effects upon us may grow.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



St Patrick's Church
King Street
Wellington
TF1 3AP

THE BEACON

Parish Priest: Fr Ravi Bosco
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Our Lady of the Rosary &
St Luke's Church
Church Road, Trench
TF2 7HG

Clergy: Fr Joe Donlan, Fr Michał Łatuszyński M: 07926 044405 E: stafford@pcmew.org
Parish Office: The Presbytery, King Street, Wellington, TF1 3AP E: ourladyandstpatrick2024@gmail.com T: 01952 – 242423
Safeguarding Rep: Cheryl Breeze M: 07748870755 E: olspsafeguarding@hotmail.com

Sat	11	17:30	Parishioners	St Patrick's
Sun	12	09:00	Francis Bayley (Anniversary)	Our Lady's
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time		11:00	Anthony & Lucille Gravina (Anniversary)	St Patrick's
		12:30	Baptism	St Patrick's
Mon	13	St Henry, K		
Tues	14	St Camillus De Lellis, P		
		12:00	Alan and Wayne Stansfield (RIP)	St Patrick's
Wed	15	St Bonaventure, B, D		
		10:00	Leavers Mass	Our Lady's
Thurs	16	Our Lady of Mount Carmel		
		19:00	Albert Dakin (RIP)	St Patrick's
Fri	17	Ferial		
		10:00	Anne Jackson (Requiem Mass)	St Patrick's
Sat	18	BMV on Saturday		
		17:30	Anna & John Dooney (Jubilee Thanksgiving)	St Patrick's
Sun	19	8:45	Polish Mass	St Patrick's
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time		09:00	Theresa Wall (Thanksgiving)	Our Lady's
		11:00	Parishioners	St Patrick's
		12:30	Baptism – Brianna Isabella Carrasco Cervoni	St Patrick's

SACRAMENT OF FORGIVENESS (CONFESSION)

30 minutes before Masses

RIP: Tony Hall (Requiem mass, 24/7, 11am, SP). We pray for everyone whose anniversaries are at this time.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

30 minutes before weekday Masses

BAPTISMS: Forms are available from the porch. Please hand your form to Fr Ravi. Baptism Preparation class on the last Saturday of the month at 12pm.

ROTAS (W, EM, C)

Sat 5.30: Lynne & Lewis, Ann N, Anne & John **18/7:** Lucy & Damien, Sherrel, Gay & Nicky

Sun 9: Kevin & Joel, Francis, Laura & Edith **19/7:** Katrina & Ria, Phillip, Bobbie John & Nick

Sun 11: Graham & Carmen, Jane, Diane & Collette **19/7:** Marvellous & Melody, Stephen, Kate & Geraldine

Weekly Offerings: Total: £1,578.33 - Standing Orders £763.12, Envelopes £257.70, Loose Plate £527.51, Dona: £30
We can only add Gift Aid if donations are identifiable.

Bank details:

SRCDT 234025

St Patrick Wellington

Sort Code: 30-15-52

Account Number: 54546760

SRCDT -234025

Our Lady & St Luke Telford

Sort Code: 30-15-52

Account Number: 54582160



Please scan this QR code to donate to your parish online. You can register your card for gift aid to be added to every donation

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Children who have not received communion are welcome to join in children's liturgy.

DATA PROTECTION PRIVACY NOTICE

Our two parishes sometimes collect personal information about parishioners. All personal information is collected, processed and stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. This is retained only as necessary and used by the Parish/Diocese for the benefit of the Parish and for legitimate reasons such as administrative and religious purposes. You can read our full privacy notice at www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice.

LIVESTREAMED MASSES from St Patrick's are available online at <https://churchservices.tv/wellington>

CATHOLIC FESTIVAL: *We Believe*, a festival of Catholic Life is happening at St Mary's College, Oscott, 24-27 July 2026. There is content for people of every age. Book a place here: <https://www.webelievefestival.com/>.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: As today is the last Sunday of the School Year it will be the last Children's liturgy session. Children's Liturgy will return for a new term in September. Also in September, there will be enrolment forms available for next year's Holy Communion cohort. We thank all our catechists and helpers who have led our sessions this year.

FETE: St Mary's & St Joseph's Summer fayre – offers a traditional afternoon of family fun, with stalls selling books, toys, plants, flowers, jams and brick-a-brac. Visitors can enjoy games, raffles, tombola, cakes, refreshments and a BBQ. Everyone is welcome to this event on Saturday, 22nd August, 2pm to 4pm at St Mary's Church, Shifnal.

ADOREMUS 2026: The National Eucharistic Congress Adoremus will be held in London on Saturday 10th October. Interested parishioners who wish to be part of the Shrewsbury Diocese Pilgrimage Group to Adoremus, please register with natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org.

Cleaning Volunteers: Thanks to new Cleaning Volunteers at OLoR! Great to have ladies responding to appeals for helpers for our monthly cleans. July clean is Saturday 18th at 5pm - feel free to join us if you're able!

Parish Pastoral Team: Many of our team members have started working in their groups, discussing and prioritising ideas for future conversation and action. Please note the following dates for our future meetings: 26 September 2026 (for Advent), 9 January 2027 (for Lent and Easter), 10 April 2027 (for Ordinary Time) and 26 June 2027 (for Evaluation and planning).

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS: Shallowford House in Stone is offering a 4-day craft retreat 20th to 23rd July: a chance to relax, enjoy a range of crafts plus worship, reflection and bible teaching. £395 residential cost: day rate £40, starting at 9.30a.m, to include lunch and all materials. Call 01785 760233 or www.shallowfordhouse.org to book.

CATHOLIC HOLIDAYS IN THE LAKE DISTRICT THIS SUMMER: During August and September, Castlerigg Manor in Keswick is opening its doors to

families, groups of friends, or private individuals who are looking for an affordable stay in the Lake District. Breakfast and evening meal are provided, and Mass is celebrated on site. For more information check out castleriggmanor.com/stay-with-us or contact director@castleriggmanor.co.uk / 017687 72711

MARRIAGE IN A RUT?: Or need help with deeper issues? Retrouvaille has helped thousands of couples find hope and healing in their marriage. Next dates: 2nd - 4th Oct. www.retrouvaille.org.uk/info Tel: 0788 7296983

St Lukes Leavers Mass: Parishioners are warmly invited to join the St Lukes Leavers Mass on Wednesday 15th July at 10am. The Mini Vinnies will be providing light refreshments after the mass and they would love to see you there!

SVP RAFFLE: The SVP National Summer Raffle tickets are available at Our Lady's. Please take a book of tickets - they cost £1 per ticket and there are 5 tickets in a book. To be returned to church by Sunday 30th August. Your support as always is much appreciated.

EVENTS MEETING: at OLoR Wednesday 22nd July at 7pm. All welcome. If you can't attend but would like notes of the meeting - please email paulineheffernan60@gmail.com

THANK YOU, FATHER PETER BURKE: Over the past week, Father Peter has generously stepped in to celebrate our Saturday and Sunday Masses. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for his kindness to support our parish community during this time. Father Ravi will be back to celebrate the Saturday Mass on the 11th July, so we give him the warmest welcome back!

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI - 800: As part of the Jubilee Year and in preparation for the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi, Franciscan churches have been designated as places of pilgrimage where the faithful may obtain a Plenary Indulgence under the usual conditions. We are therefore inviting parishioners from across the Diocese to join us for a special Pilgrimage Day at St Francis Church, Chester, on Thursday 17th September 2026, the Feast of the Stigmata of St Francis.

SUMMER HOLIDAYS: We pray and wish for all our students and teachers from both schools to have a happy sunny (not too sunny) summer holidays and a good rest. Have fun!