

Theme of the Week - Grain of wheat

The Gospel from Sunday marks the time where Jesus realises he is close to his purpose; his ultimate suffering and then death. In doing so Jesus also states the reason behind, the reason today that we all are reflecting on this and other themes of the week, Jesus came to glorify God's name and make us glorify his name, for us to believe in God and live our lives in accordance to his will. Today we listen to the Gospel because of the life of Jesus!

Over the course of the last few weeks, we have seen in multiple Gospels people astonished by Jesus. Whether it is when Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law and then others bring their sick to Jesus; Peter and James in astonishment of the event of the Transfiguration or when Jesus' disciples are in the temple where he drove out the traders and the disciples remembering what he had said and how it related to scripture. And the Gospel from Sunday starts with people being in awe, coming to see Jesus because they had heard about him and his ministry. Jesus was different, is different, will continue to be different! Someone does us an ill will to you, we anger; Jesus says we are to forgive. We do all we should to look after ourselves but others do not; Jesus does not say well done for what we have done, he says go and help those others. People may not live their lives as we think they should; Jesus says love thy neighbour. Jesus goes against our instinct of how to behave and we, like the Greeks who came to see Jesus in the Gospel, should be in awe of Jesus. Jesus speaks and when we all listen and act out his teaching, we can all be Christ in one another.

Later in the Gospel Jesus teaches and this resonates with his upcoming Passion. The single grain of wheat falling on the ground remains a single grain of wheat. However when it dies it turns into a harvest. 2000 years ago, Jesus came to teach and he could have gone on to teach for many years. However, imagine if Jesus carried on what he was doing for the rest of his life, became old and died a quiet death, not the one we remember on Good Friday. Would we be saying Jesus' name today? Would we know the ministry of Jesus? Jesus in his death creates the harvest, the harvest that in his death and resurrection, others will see Jesus as the Son of God. Others will proclaim his word, others will pass their faith on to others, and so today we too can proclaim Jesus as the Messiah.

Lastly, let us reflect when Jesus says, *"Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour."* Here we can reflect on Jesus at the start of his passion and being in the Garden of Gethsemane praying to his father. Jesus knows what is going to happen to him but still prays to see if something else can happen. In this year of prayer, we too will pray for certain things, our families, our friends, our studies. Remember, there will be times when things do not go right for us, where we too may feel abandoned. Just always remember, God is with us, more so in our time of need than any other. We too have a purpose, God too loves us and we too can harvest his Word.

Grain of wheat

Weekly Reflections
17th March 2024



A reading from the Gospel of St John (12:20-33)

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.' By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

Prayer for the Week

Heavenly Father, we pray.

Lord Jesus, enlighten us with your presence and the sure knowledge that your death allows us to witness the harvest of your love. Grant through your grace that we too can harvest our love for one other through acts of kindness and generosity.

Through Christ our Lord

Amen.

Feast Day - St Joseph 19 March



The husband of Mary and Jesus' foster-father, Joseph appears in the Gospels of St Matthew, Luke and John. The divine pregnancy of his betrothed was revealed in an angelic vision, and he humbly accepted his future role. After Mary gave birth, he was warned by an angel to flee, he took his wife and son to Egypt. When they returned he was a caring and nurturing father, Joseph raised Jesus and trained Him as a carpenter.
Joseph was:

Day 1

Why do you think the Greeks at the time wanted to see Jesus?

In what ways has Jesus asked you to look at something differently i.e. if someone has done you wrong, how do you feel? How does Jesus teach us to feel?

Day 2

How is Jesus like a grain of wheat that dies and harvests?

How can we harvest the Word of God?

Day 3

Each day three of each week in Lent will be given to pray two Stations of the Cross:

Station 9: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

Station 10: Jesus is crucified

Loving and Compassionate