

Sunday 23 July 2023

# Weekly News

## EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome to our services today

9:15 am at St James

11:00 am at All Saints

Please join us for refreshment after the service

### MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR

Dear friends in Christ,

This week's Gospel seems almost as a continuation from last week, and 'seed' is the key metaphor in both readings. This parable too appears only in Matthew.

Whereas in the previous parable all the seed was good seed, sown by a good Sower, here we encounter two kinds of seeds sown by opposite Sowers. Furthermore, seeds in this parable do not represent faith **and** disciples but **only** disciples – disciples of God and of the evil one.

Addressing a growing concern within the young Christian community following the fall of Jerusalem, Matthew pairs the two parables together. In last week's parable, Jesus addresses the question of why responses to the gospel vary so greatly and so often seem unproductive.

In today's parable, the attention shifts from an external focus to an internal focus. Sometimes our own lives resemble the farmer's infested field, with weeds and wheat intertwined in our souls, hearts and minds.

As outlined last week in verses 14-16, what has been and continued to be required for understanding the secret of the kingdom is hearts that have not grown dull, eyes that can see and ears that hear.

With verse 36 Jesus turns from the crown and moves back inside the house once again with the admonition, "Let anyone with ears listen!" – at once a charge, a challenge and an offer. It is towards this God that we are forever moving.

On such a journey as this, it is not our job to determine who is within and who is beyond God's attention. It is rather our job to imagine everyone as belonging to this God, and therefore, with all that we can gather, to endeavour to embrace, through Jesus Christ our Lord, God's holy and purposeful ambiguity.

The parable's ending affirms that there is One who is stronger and smarter than the weed-sowing enemy. God will sort out the good from the bad. In a world where seeds of hatred and injustice are daily sown, the parable affirms unmistakably that God is still in charge. As an old hymn proclaims, "Though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet."

God Bless,

*Fr Jonathan*



### OUR CLERGY

Our Vicar is Fr Jonathan Jackson. He has all parishioners in his care and is in charge of all aspects of our worship.



Fr Jonathan may be contacted at:

0450 323 557

[jjackson@melbourneanglican.org.au](mailto:jjackson@melbourneanglican.org.au)

Our Honorary Associate Priest is the Rev'd Philippa Wetherell



Today we warmly welcome our regional bishop, Bishop Genieve, who will attend both our services.

### THE WEEK AHEAD

#### Thursday 27 July

10:30 am Eucharist at St James

7:30 pm Parish Council

#### Sunday 30 July

10:30 am Combined service at St James

**NB: no service at All Saints**

*See notice overleaf*

### READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY Feast of St James, Apostle and Martyr

Jeremiah 45

Psalms 126

Acts 11:27-12:3

Matthew 20:20-28

Take the Weekly News home

## COMBINED SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY

St James the Great patronal festival, on **Sunday 30 July, 10:30am** at St James Church. As this is a combined service, the Mass will use the Dudman musical setting. **All welcome! Please bring a plate of food to share.** We hope to see you all for this joyous celebration. Transport can be arranged for anyone who might need it – please contact Arnaud.

**NB: No church service at All Saints on that day.**

## BEANIES FOR SEAFARERS PROJECT

Question: I don't think I have enough wool to knit a scarf, can I mix the colours? Answer: Yes, of course. And, a multi-coloured scarf could be just the thing! Please place any completed items in the 'Beanies for Seafarers' boxes placed in the narthex of All Saints and at St James. Enquiries to Brad ([brad@miles.id.au](mailto:brad@miles.id.au)).

## CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation classes will be held every Saturday from 5pm – 6pm at All Saints from 29 July 2023

## GARDEN WORKING BEE

At All Saints' church grounds, from 3pm to 4:30pm on Saturday 5 August. Cutting grass, pruning, weeding, raking/sweeping, etc. "Many hands..." We will begin with a prayer, and finish with a cuppa. Bring gloves. RSVP Arnaud 0412 461 463.

## CHILD SAFETY

The Parish of South Darebin takes child safety seriously. If you have any questions, please feel free to discuss with our Child Safety Officer or read about the Diocese's Safe Ministry Policy on the All Saints' website. You can also contact Kooyoora, an independent Professional Standards company appointed by the Diocese, on 1800 135 246.

## FOOD FOR ANGLICARE

Thank you to those who brought food for the latest delivery to Anglicare in Preston. Please keep on buying extra non-perishable food and grocery items and bring them to church with you, as there are many people in need of assistance and Anglicare greatly appreciates this help.

## PROPOSED KNITTING CIRCLE

Would anyone like to form a church knitting circle, to share tips and encouragement? Please contact Alisha at All Saints.

## A PRAYER FOR GROWTH

God of Mission,  
who alone brings growth to your Church,  
send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning,  
wisdom to our actions, and power to our witness.  
Help our Church to grow in numbers,  
in spiritual commitment to you,  
and in service to our local community,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Amen.

## IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

We are asked to pray for: Liz L., Jenny, Jeffrey, Huw, Liz and Ron, Richard and Susan, Joseph, Chris and Jan, Roger, Gail, Helen, Susan, David, the Mathibe family, Julie, Kayleigh, and Kelly.

We pray for the recently departed, and for those whose year's mind occurs around this time, including Antonio Mortola, Edna Robinson, Christina Fernando, and Steven Ivan.

**To place a notice in the Weekly News**

text 0412 461 463

or email [arnaudgallois@outlook.com](mailto:arnaudgallois@outlook.com)

The Anglican Parish of South Darebin

*We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional owners of the land on which our churches were built, and pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.*

One parish with two worship centres, each with its individual style within the same tradition of worship.

## St James the Great

Cnr Newcastle and Pender Streets, Thornbury

Organist this week: Elizabeth Braithwaite

Cantor this week: James Braithwaite

COVID-Safe Officer: James Braithwaite

## All Saints

Cnr Walker and High Streets, Northcote

Organist this week: Kevin Wheeler

Cantor this week: Alma Ryrie-Jones

COVID-Safe Officer: Arnaud Gallois

Churchwarden: Alma Ryrie-Jones

Parish Council: Elizabeth Braithwaite, Arnaud Gallois, Alisha Hudson, Chris Peterson, Sadie Shimmin-Clarke, Laura Tsakmakis, Kevin Wheeler

Family Safety Champions Chris Peterson and Roberta Stead | Child Safety Officer Laura Tsakmakis

[www.stjamesthornbury.org.au](http://www.stjamesthornbury.org.au)

[www.allsaintsnorthcote.org.au](http://www.allsaintsnorthcote.org.au)