

## READINGS AND REFLECTION FOR THE 11<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME.

NB Readings differ for 8.30am Mass this week.

### **Scripture Themes**

*Many of us seem to seek gratification through clamouring for what is new or immediate. Instant products sell best! A farmer waiting patiently from seedtime to harvest is not the dynamic image presented here. The Church moves too slowly for many today. The parables of growth remind us that God's power is at work in us and will generate the development of the Kingdom of Christ through our prayer and patience.*

### **A READING FROM THE FIRST BOOK OF THE PROPHET EZEKIEL 17:22-24**

The Lord says this:

'From the top of the cedar, from the highest branch I will take a shoot and plant it myself on a very high mountain.

I will plant it on the high mountain of Israel.

It will sprout branches and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar.

Every kind of bird will live beneath it,

every winged creature rest in the shade of its branches.

And every tree of the field will learn that **I, the Lord**, am the one who stunts tall trees and **makes the low ones grow**,

who withers green trees and makes the withered green.

I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.'



**The Word of the Lord.**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM PS 91:2-3. 13-16**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your truth in the watches of the night.

***It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.***

The just will flourish like the palm-tree and grow like a Lebanon cedar.

***It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.***

Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God, still bearing fruit when they are old, still full of sap, still green, to proclaim that the Lord is just. In him, my rock, there is no wrong.

***It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.***

### **A READING FROM THE 2<sup>ND</sup> LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS 5:6-10**

We are always full of confidence when we remember that to live in the body means to be exiled from the Lord, going as we do by faith and not by sight – we are full of confidence, I say, and actually want to be exiled from the body and make our home with the Lord.

**Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are intent on pleasing him.** For all the truth about us will be brought out in the law court of Christ, and each of us will get what he deserves for the things he did in the body, good or bad.

The seed is the word of God, Christ the sower;  
whoever finds the seed will remain for ever. *Jn 15:15*

**A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK 4:26-34**

Jesus said to the crowds: 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time: he starts to reap because the harvest has come.'



He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is **the smallest of all the seeds on earth**; yet once it is sown it **grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.**'

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone. **The Gospel of the Lord.**

**REFLECTION: DISCUSSIONS AT THE PLENARY COUNCIL AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD!**

'What can we say the kingdom of God is like?' *Mark 4:26-34*

Jesus certainly used well natural phenomena to teach vividly his audience in his day. In our day, we can visit where Jesus lived and see what he meant by 'the mustard seed'. A species grows there which will leave dark specks on our hand after groping through leafy branches. These are the mustard seeds which will provide eventually generous shelters for the birds of the air. The startling contrast between the tiny seeds and the large shrubs encourages us not to judge by appearances. God is at work among us. It is God's reign that Jesus is preaching. All are invited to find a home in the community of Jesus' disciples. This bold principle will underpin some discussions at the Australian Plenary Council beginning in October. It will require awareness, rich insights, wisdom, faith, hope and love and compassion on our part. ....'From little things, big things grow!...'-

*This love cannot be mere words; it needs to be an imitation of Christ's own love for every person, a love that forgives, transforms, and brings those who hear him into the fullness of life. (Refer to the Inclusive, Participatory and Synodal – Discernment Paper p. 6)*

How can the Church promote life in Christ in which Jesus invites all to share,  
in the face of risks to life, to human dignity, and to the environment?

Let us be praying for the success of the Plenary Council beginning October, 2021:

.....*Fan the Flame!*

Let us pray that our faith communities will be encouraged and strengthened  
when our dialogue gets messy and we cannot see where the Spirit is leading us.

**[www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fantheblade/](http://www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fantheblade/)**