



Reflection by Greg Sunter

Today's reading features three parables about the kingdom: the weeds in the field; the mustard seed; and yeast in the flour. They are three fascinating parables about something undesirable or unwanted being mixed in with something that is apparently good – and Jesus presents them as descriptions of what the kingdom of heaven is like.

Let's look at the imagery of these parables. Darnel is a weed that looks exactly like wheat while it is growing. Only once the ears have formed can it be distinguished from the wheat. It is a malicious prank to sow darnel among wheat.

The mustard seed grows into such a large tree that birds come and nest in it. Why would any farmer want to deliberately plant a tree in the middle of his fields that attracts birds that will destroy his crops?

Three measures of flour is an enormous amount of flour; enough to make 50 or 60 loaves of bread! Yeast begins to ferment the dough mixture and if not baked the dough goes mouldy and goes bad. To leaven that much dough at one time is somewhat foolish. The Hebrew word used for leavening in scripture is *Chametz*, it literally means 'sour'. It is that essence by which things decay. Leavening is a fermentation process – a process of breaking down or corruption.

To describe the kingdom of God in these ways may seem a bit odd. Can the kingdom of God be a 'corrupting' or 'souring' or 'irritating' influence? The kingdom message of Jesus can be seen as a corrupting force in that it set about corrupting and destroying what was a flawed system. The parables also demonstrate that it only takes a tiny amount of this 'corrupting' influence to have a dramatic effect.

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He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfill the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables
and expound things hidden since the
foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Second Reading Rom 8:26-27

The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

Gospel Acclamation See Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;

you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 13:24-43

(or shorter form Mt 13:24-30)

Let them grow together until the harvest.

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, and sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."

First Reading Wis 12:13.16-19

In the place of sin, you give repentance.

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything,
to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly.

Your justice has its source in strength,
your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.
You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned

and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement,

you govern us with great lenience,

for you have only to will, and your power is there.
By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people

how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men,

and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 85:5-6. 9-10. 15-16. R. v.5

(R.) Lord, you are good and forgiving.

1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice. (R.)
2. All the nations shall come to adore you
and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,
you who alone are God. (R.)
3. But you, God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me. (R.)

IN YOUR PRAYERS



SICK

Rosemarie Cini
RECENTLY DECEASED
Richard Vaughan, Margaret Goullet, Michael Kennedy

ANNIVERSARIES

Max Symington, Gus Vella, Maria Carni,
Minnie Joseph, Felomino Balmes, Aubrey Devlyn, Philip Muscat, Caterina Romeo

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) Are you interested in becoming a Catholic or do you know someone who is? Are you a person in search of the meaning of life? There will be a series of *Enquiry Nights* for those interested in learning more about becoming a Catholic. They will take place on **Tuesdays 21st & 28th July at 7.00pm in the Parish Centre Meeting Room**. For further information, please contact the Parish Office.

BAPTISMS AT ST PETER'S

19 July 2026 at 12noon

Adele Pekez

Levi Harris

Indi & Harper Lowerson

Please pray for these children and their families.

PARISH SUPPORT

Thank you all for your continued support. For those who prefer to, online donations can be made as follows:-

Presbytery Collection – 1st Collection

Account Name: St Peter's Presbytery A/C BSB: 083 347 Account No. 665417521 Reference as your first initial then surname, or you may remain anonymous

Church Collection – 2nd Collection

Account Name: St Peter's Church Account BSB: 083 347 A/C No. 535304676. Reference as your first initial then surname and if known, your giving number e.g. ASmith T/G 500

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Wed 22 July St Mary Magdalene

Sat 25 July St James, Apostle

PARISH NEWS

PARISH MASTER PLAN – PARISH CONSULTATION

As we begin the process of developing our Parish Master Plan, I warmly invite all parishioners to join us for a time of prayerful listening and conversation. Your voice, ideas, and hopes for our parish are important and will help shape our shared future.

Please join us at the **Parish Centre** on either of the following dates:

Friday 24 July – 10:00 am

Sunday 26 July – 11:45 am

As preparation, please take home a consultation handout available at the church. You are welcome to reflect on the questions and complete it before the meeting. Please bring your completed handout with you to the consultation. If you are unable to attend either session, you may return your completed handout to the Parish Office.

Thank you for your prayerful support and participation. Everyone is most welcome.

PARISH MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE

A heartfelt thank you to all who have generously volunteered to serve on our Parish Master Plan Committee. Your willingness to share your time, gifts, and experience is greatly appreciated.

Please keep the committee and our parish consultation process in your prayers as, together, we seek God's guidance for the future of our parish.

A NEW WAY TO GIVE

Starting next weekend, our parish will be introducing a simple new way to give. Small wooden NFC (Near Field Communication) tags will be placed on the pews. Just tap your smartphone to be taken straight to our parish giving page. Whether you'd like to make a one-off gift or set up a regular donation, it only takes a moment. As with all offertory giving, contributions go directly to the church account as normal. If you'd like help using it, our parish team will be happy to assist. As always, cash and envelope giving remain available at every Mass and those giving directly online, by credit card or direct debit, remain as normal.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES

On Saturdays 25th July and 1st August at the 6.00pm Vigil Mass and Sundays 26th July and 2nd August at the 10.30am Mass, the Year 4 children are making their 1st Holy Communion. Please keep these children, their teachers and families in your prayers

NEW FAMILIES TO ST PETER'S

We welcome all new families into our Parish. If you wish to be enrolled onto our Census, please take a Parish Census Card from the narthex, to fill in and return.

NOTICES FOR PARISH BULLETIN

If you have a death anniversary you would like included in the Parish Bulletin, please notify the Parish Office by the Wednesday afternoon prior to the weekend you would like it published. Mass offering envelopes are available in the narthex.

CATHOLIC MISSION: PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH APPEAL – 'THANK YOU'

Thank you for your generous support of the Church in Malawi and the communities it serves. **Last weekend's Special Collection raised \$2,275.75 (incl. cr cards)**. Because of your kindness, children like Yamikani will have greater access to education, nourishment, and the opportunity to build a hopeful future. And if you chose to become a Mission Partner with a monthly gift - thank you so much for your ongoing commitment. To learn more about the work of Catholic Mission in Malawi and around the world, please visit catholicmission.org.au/our-work. Thank you again for your compassion, and please keep this impactful work in your prayers. **Please return any envelopes by next weekend.**

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC DIGEST – OUT

NOW We have a limited number of printed copies Melbourne Catholic Digest available in the narthex. Or read online at: <https://melbournecatholic.org/melbourne-catholic-digest-archive>

ST PETER'S PARISH, KEILOR EAST

2a Parkside Avenue

Keilor East Vic 3033

Parish Priest: Rev. Anil Mascarenhas

Parish Secretary: Helena Meredith

Phone: 03 9337 4141

Parish Office Hours: 8.30am-4.00pm
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

Email: keiloreast@cam.org.au

Website:

<https://www.melbocatholic.org/keiloreast>

Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/St-Peters-](https://www.facebook.com/St-Peters-Parish-Keilor-East-248965765799277)

[Parish-Keilor-East-248965765799277](https://www.facebook.com/St-Peters-Parish-Keilor-East-248965765799277)

ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Acting Principal: Anne Tadinac

Phone: 03 9337 4111

Email:

principal@spkeiloreast.catholic.edu.au

Administration: Siobhan Thompson

MASS TIMES

Weekend Mass Times:

9.15am Saturday Morning Mass

6.00pm Saturday Vigil Mass

8.30am, 10.30am & 5.00pm Sunday Masses

Weekday Mass Times

9.15am Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

RECONCILIATION

9.45am Saturday after 9.15am Mass (or upon request of Parish Priest)

ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

2026 PARISH THANKSGIVING PROGRAM

We are grateful for the school families ongoing support of the Parish Thanksgiving Program (2026 family contribution), which continues to sustain the life and mission of our parish. May God bless your families with peace and joy.

The Parish of St Peter's, Keilor East and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community.