

*Ibrahim, Wani and (born in prison) Maya from Sudan, well known notorious case of religious persecution, is a reminder that "by nature, every human being is given certain rights, including the fundamental right of belief, which no government can justly attack. It is in the common interest of humankind to defend those persecuted for expressing their beliefs and practicing their religion." Let's pray for the persecuted Christians in Islamic countries.*



**Let's pray for Divine Peace in the Middle East**



*Lord Patten has been recruited by the Vatican to sit, if not at the right hand of God then not so very far away, as chair of a high-level committee to advise Pope Francis on media strategy. Patten, whose CV*

*also includes being a cabinet minister, European commissioner, and governor of Hong Kong, will preside over an 11-strong body made up of six lay experts and five Vatican officials. His job will be to find ways of bringing the Vatican digital media strategy up to date, sort out overlapping responsibilities and, where possible, make savings. Card. G. Pell said Sir Patten was "a man with wide and senior experience in public life."*

Truly, this well known parable resonates with most people because we can all relate to the idea of God's Word being received more by some people than others. It is testament to the strength of this parable that it continues to be received in the 21st Century just as clearly as when it was directed to rural workers sitting by the lake listening to Jesus in 1st Century Palestine. The experience of the sower would have been quite commonplace among those listening to Jesus. Jesus is telling this parable to offer encouragement to his disciples who are surprised when the good news of the Basilea or Kingdom of God is not accepted by more people. Some of the disciples were feeling discouraged because they felt that Reign of God movement would lead to commitment from fellow Jews rather than the conflict they were experiencing at the synagogue. While we can translate the parable into the Third millennium experience of hearing God's word, we are less concerned with the sower who appears to distribute the seed rather carelessly because the focus is more on when we are receptive to 'hearing' God's Word. There are times in our lives when we represent the 'good soil' but there are also times when we are the less receptive soil. This parable reminds us of the constant generosity of God's love, again and again, God offers us the opportunity to bear fruit, to live lives that attract other people to the reality of the Reign of God in our world. Today there is a significant amount of apathy about Christianity and in some cases there is organised opposition to the institutional Church and so this parable offers us hope and encouragement in the difficulties we face. Today we see less people coming to mass and a growing indifference across a whole generation about to the importance of God in their lives. We live in a safe, wealthy country where the majority of people have more than the basics of life so it is easy to fall into the busyness of everyday life, feel self sufficient and squeeze God out. That is why it is so important that those who have heard the Word of God and understand it bring that experience of love into our neighbourhood, our workplace, our families, our friends. This is how we can contribute to God's harvest one hundredfold.

## St Michael's Catholic Church

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13<sup>th</sup> July 2014 (A)

## 15<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday

**1<sup>ST</sup> READING:** Isaiah 55:10-11

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

**2<sup>ND</sup> READING:** Romans 8:18-23

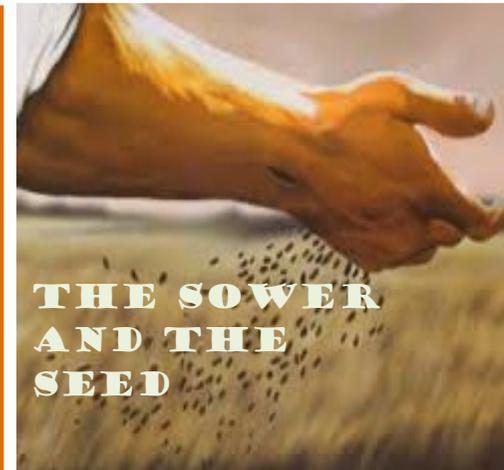
**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Alleluia, alleluia! The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL:** St Matthew 13:1-23

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

The sparrow even finds a home, the swallow finds a nest wherein to place her young, near to your altars, Lord of hosts, my King, my God! How happy they who dwell in your house! For ever they are praising you.



**THE SOWER AND THE SEED**

### WEEKEND MASS TIMES:

Sat. Vigil: 5pm

Sunday: 8am, 9:30am & 5pm

### WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:

Mon, Tues & Thurs: 7:30am

Wed: 6pm

Fri: 9:15am

Sat: 9:15am (Sthn Cross Hostel)

**HOLY HOUR:** Wed: 5pm

**RECONCILIATION:**

Wed: 5:15 – 5:45pm

Sat: 4:15 – 4:45pm

**BAPTISMS:**

Sundays 9:30am Mass

**BAPTISMAL PROGRAMME & WEDDINGS:**

By appointment

**ANOINTING MASS:**

Quarterly: 1<sup>st</sup> weekend

**1<sup>ST</sup> SAT OF EACH MONTH:**

11am Mass in honour of Our Lady.

**PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMME:**

**100%** tax deductible. Please join by contacting parish office.

**FAITH FORMATION:**

Sundays 3:30pm (in presbytery)

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Mon, Wed & Fri 9am to 2:30pm

**MASS INTENTIONS:**

**Sat 9 :15am:** Grace Axo (sick) **Mon:** †Raymond Fraser  
**Sat Vigil:** †Salvatore Blanco **Tue:** Camille Del Castillo (16<sup>th</sup> B/day)  
**Sun 8am:** Ollie Sarmiento & family-safe journey **Wed:** †Carmen Delgado  
**Sun 9:30am:** †David Klos **Thu:** †Tomo & Micelina Pedisic  
**Sun 5pm:** †Norma Ellen Delprado **Fri:** †Carmel Dunn

**OUR SICK:** Marie Busuttill, Pat Raby, Maria De Andrade, Mollie Burgess, Patricia Flannery, Josephine Helback, Carmella Cicciari, Joy Williams, Moira Butler and Jenny Yang...

**Foley Gardens Self-care Retirement Village – waiting list available. Please call Fr. Jerzy on 93491292 or 0411125357 for further details.**

**Happy Birthdays to: Dorothy Giuliano (13<sup>th</sup>), Grace Guerrero (14<sup>th</sup>) and Enid Webster (15<sup>th</sup>)**

**Reminder: Feast Day of the Blessed Mother of the Church** will be celebrated in our Parish this Sun (13/07) at 12pm with Mass followed by lunch in the hall. All welcome.



*Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination to Priesthood to Fr. Anthony Simari on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2014. May God bless him as he continues in his Priestly Ministry for many years to come. Celebrations will be held for Fr. Anthony soon.*

**Tax Receipts FYR 13/14 and Planned Giving Envelopes for new FYR 14/15 are now ready for collection from Patricia in the church foyer.**

**FAITH FORMATION: This Sun (13/07): Church History. Sun 20/07: The Creed; Sun 27/07: Bible Studies; Sun 3/08: Christian Sacraments. All sessions are held in the presbytery from 3:30pm to 4:30pm.**

**This weekend: Vigil:** J Haggar (A) F & G Hogan (R) S Kim, Volunteer (C) G Guerrero (M)  
**8:00am:** G Diab (A) M Marshiella, T Long (R) A Burke, Sr Betty (C) P Low (M)  
**9:30am:** A Varghese (A) H Evening, S Gerakiteys (R) M Tjokrowidjaja(C) A Burton (M)  
**5:00pm:** R Yang (A), Volunteer, A Fernandez (R), Volunteers (C) **Counters:** B Dunn, H Morris

**Next weekend: Vigil:** J Haggar (A) B Purdon, T Bell (R) F & G Hogan (C) G Guerrero (M)  
**8:00am:** G Diab (A) V Meyer, R Wijaya (R) P Chen, R Houghton (C) P Low (M)  
**9:30am:** A Varghese (A) I Lie, J Lie (R) I Tjahjadi (C) A Burton (M)  
**5:00pm:** R Yang (A), A Baby, R John (R), Volunteers (C) **Counter:** M Wells

Pope Francis has lamented the abandoning of the traditionally Christian practice of not working on Sundays, saying it has a negative impact on families and friendships. Francis on Saturday travelled to Molise, an agricultural region in the heart of southern Italy where unemployment is chronically high. While he said poor people need jobs to have dignity, he indicated that opening stores and other businesses on Sundays as a way to create jobs wasn't beneficial for society. Francis said the priority should be "not economic but human," and that the stress should be on families and friendships, not commercial relationships. He added: "Maybe it's time to ask ourselves if working on Sundays is true freedom. He said that spending Sundays with family and friends is an "ethical choice" for faithful and non-faithful alike...At one point, the pope, speaking off the cuff, encouraged parents to spend more time with children. He quipped: "Waste time with your children!" He said he liked to ask parents, "do you play with your children?"



*Thank yous to Romano Yang for his ministry at the altar and outstanding dedication in maintenance of the church gardens. Happy 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday to you on 28<sup>th</sup> of July.*

*Happy 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday to Daniel.*



**Welcome back from holidays!!!**



*Thank yous to Joseph Haggar for his exceptional ministries at the altar and in the classroom as a Catechist. Congratulations for completing the basic one & two, intermediate & advanced accreditation courses at the CCD.*

*Church mission on the local or global level relies on the generosity of everyone. Planned Giving is one of the ways that we can achieve this goal. Joining this system of weekly 100% tax-deductible donations, we can become caring members of our local Church. Those who wish to take part, Planned Giving envelopes will be available soon. Anonymous participants are also welcome. Your local Church counts on you and your generosity.*



**2014-2015.**

20<sup>th</sup> July , 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of landing on the Moon.



*"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."*