

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help. Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 91)

ANTIPHON: Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

RESPONSE: Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

LECTOR: 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. **R.**

LECTOR: The just will flourish like the palm tree and grow like a Lebanon cedar. **R.**

LECTOR: 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. **R.**

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

Or

Holy Father, keep in your name those you have given me, that they may be one as we are one, says the Lord.

TODAY'S READINGS Ezekiel 17: 22-24; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10; Mark 4: 26-34

NEXT WEEK (12th Sunday, Year B) Job 38:1, 8-11; Psalm 106, 8-11; 2 Corinthians 5:14-17; Mark 4:35-41

The importance of listening in prayer

Prayer is Life

Fr David Hore CSSR shares his insights on the significance of thankfulness, reminding us to appreciate the ultimate gift of Jesus and the countless blessings already bestowed upon us in the Prayer is Life podcast titled Prayer and Listening. Go to: <https://majellan.media/prayer-is-life-podcast/>



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Planting the seeds of love



16 June 2024 11th Sunday Year B

Most things start small. Someone asks you to be part of a group and a few years later, on reflection, it turns out to have played a significant part in your life. You just kept turning up and something grew there almost unawares. Then, at a particular point, you may have come to understand God was present there and had been all along.

This is how parables work in today's gospel. They begin where we are, with the familiar, as Jesus speaks to the crowd about God's kingdom. In the first parable, seed is planted which sprouts of its own accord and grows steadily until the time to harvest comes. We're involved in the planting and the harvesting, and may help to facilitate its growth, but ours is not the key role.

This is a time of waiting – we wait upon God and God waits with us, and as we do we may recognise God is already present in our lives and the lives of others.

In the second parable Jesus could have mentioned a mighty cedar to suggest what the kingdom of God is like, instead he speaks of the nondescript mustard seed and the bush that emerges from it, 'the biggest shrub of all', where all nations and strangers may find shelter. From what seems insignificant to begin with, like turning up for the first time, there emerges what we could hardly have foreseen, in God's time.

Don't be concerned about the lack of dramatic signs in this time of waiting. It's not our job to

make something happen, because it is growing, and it will flourish. So, be patient as Jesus is patient, not waiting passively by, but alive to the presence of God and each another.

In the first reading from the prophet Ezekiel the Lord's power is revealed when he speaks of a 'noble cedar', an image of his kingdom, which he'll plant on the mountain of Israel. It will provide shelter for every kind of bird, like the mustard bush. The growth of the cedar and other trees won't depend on us, but on the power of the Lord and 'he will do it.' This promise is a sign of hope to his people, after their conquest and exile.

In the second reading Paul speaks of the tension between wanting to be with the Lord forever and his calling to live the good news of Jesus Christ. He recognises one depends upon the other. What we do in this life will be the response we make to Jesus in the life to come. So, we're called to live with confidence, walking by faith, doing what pleases him, until, in his presence, our lives will speak for us.

Keep turning up then, remain faithfully present to one another, and allow the seed that has been planted to come to fulfillment as God has promised.

This is what the kingdom is like, and we are to be its agents: it's the mission entrusted to us.

Damian Coleridge

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