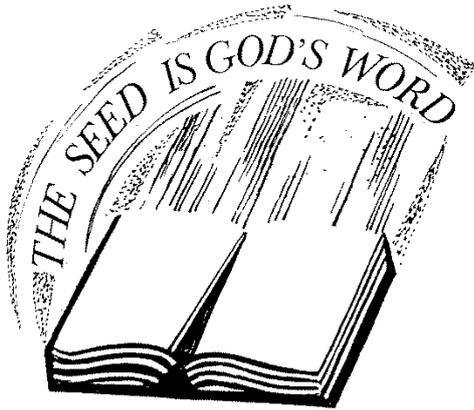


PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

*Serving St Benedict's, St Mary's & St Oswald's,
Warrington*



15th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

12th July 2020

Entrance Procession

Music: Come to the Feast – Marty Haugen

Greeting & Introduction

Penitential Act

Let us pray together:

**I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

Collect *(from Mass in Time of Pandemic)*

Almighty and eternal God,
our refuge in every danger,
to whom we turn in our distress;
in faith we pray
look with compassion on the afflicted,
grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners,
healing to the sick, peace to the dying,
strength to healthcare workers,
wisdom to our leaders
and the courage to reach out to all in love,
so that together we may give glory to your holy name.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

(Isaiah 55: 10-11)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without

watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Psalm Response

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

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel

(Matthew 13: 1-9)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.



He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Bidding Prayers

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

Music: Thou whose almighty Word – John Marriott

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept, O Lord, the gifts we offer
in this time of peril.

May they become for us, by your power,
a source of healing and peace.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Eucharistic Acclamations

Sanctus

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Mystery of Faith

**When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.**

Communion Rite

Music: Gabriel's Oboe – Ennio Morricone

Prayer after Communion

O God, from whose hand we have received
the medicine of eternal life,
grant that through this sacrament
we may glory in the fullness of heavenly healing.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Concluding Rite

Blessing & Dismissal

Distribution of Communion

Music: Sound the Trumpet – Henry Purcell

Acknowledgements

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SUNDAY REFLECTIONS



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Reflection by Sr Kathleen McGhee SND

We live in a very noisy world. We get so used to noise that we are surprised when we encounter silence. During the lockdown it became quite a talking point. We heard the sound of birdsong! Imagine!

The noise that our ears are subjected to on a daily basis does not, however, mean that we actually listen to what is going on around us. In fact, the noisy world

does not seem to be a listening world at all. The feeling of not being heard is a very common experience; we know when we are being ignored, treated with glazed looks, heard but not understood; above all when the evident dismissal of our words makes us feel totally rejected. Equally we know only too well when we are being respectfully heard and the hearer gives themselves to be truly present to me as well as to my words.

So it is with Jesus. He knows that while the crowd around were giving lip service to listening to him, only a few, a very few, were actually present to his word.

In order to make that clear, especially to his disciples, he tells a story – the story of a farmer scattering seed. He describes all the ways in which the seed comes to nothing because it falls in the wrong soil, and how even the seeds that fall in the very best of rich soil vary in how well they produce their crop.



He is describing, of course, the many ways his teaching is either received or rejected, what happens to his word when it reaches the ears of his listeners. And just as we ourselves are aware of being rejected when we are not listened to, so Jesus knows that the dismissal of his word is the refusal to accept him and the Father who sent him. It is the rejection of "the Word (that) became flesh and dwelt among us."

Poem by Veronica Aaronson

Hunt out wild flowers,
reach out, not to pick them
but as an offer of intimacy.

Stay open-hearted,
don't put your ear
to the ground to listen

for sap or soil, instead
tune into the words
written between the lines –

visible in the way bluebell,
pink campion, stitchwort
offer up their secrets,

have made themselves
vulnerable against
pale and dark greens.

This is an offering –
last chance to hear
this moment's prayer.

(From 'Nothing About the Birds is Ordinary this Morning', Indigo Dreams, 2019)