



# PARISH MATTERS

The Parish of Sydney City South acknowledge the Gadigal People, the traditional custodians, who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation of this land.

15th & 16th July 2023 | 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Fr Paul Smithers  
Parish Priest  
Rector, Shrine of Our Lady of  
Mt Carmel, Waterloo  
pp@citysouthcatholic.org.au  
Presbytery: 93536310 (NEW)

St Joseph, Rosebery  
Our Lady of Mt Carmel, Waterloo  
St Vincent de Paul, Redfern

Parish Office  
74 Rosebery Ave  
Rosebery NSW 2018

Postal Address  
PO Box 1067  
Strawberry Hills NSW 2012 |  
Office 93536300  
secretary@citysouthcatholic.org.au  
www.citysouthcatholic.org.au

#### Parish Team

Fr Josh Miechels (Assistant Priest)

ap@citysouthcatholic.org.au

Michelle Davies (Secretary)  
Cristina Leontini (Secretary)

secretary@citysouthcatholic.org.au

Ruth Rawlinson  
(Operations Manager)

manager@citysouthcatholic.org.au

Sr Rosemary (Pastoral Associate)

pastoral@citysouthcatholic.org.au

Elizabeth Arblaster  
(Pastoral Associate for Mission)

mission@citysouthcatholic.org.au  
0491 939 577

Dear friends,

This is Fr Josh's final weekend with us before he heads to World Youth Day on Wednesday and then to his new appointment as Administrator of the Parish of Berala. On behalf of everyone, I thank Fr Josh for his ministry among us. May the Lord continue to guide him.

With Fr Josh's departure, there will not be Mass on Thursday morning as I have another Mass elsewhere. I am unsure if there will be another assistant priest, but I have assured the Archbishop I am ok and that I have a fantastic team and parishioners who support me and the vision of the parish.

I love today's Gospel about the sower and the seed. It captures how Jesus as our window into understand God is superabundant in his love and mercy. The sower is not strategic about where he sows the seed, rather he just throws out the seed, hoping some of it will land in fertile ground. As ambassadors of the Gospel, called to be witnesses of faith through baptism, all we need to remember is to keep offering the seed of God to others. We can't allow stress or discouragement or disappointment to get in the way of being generous. Often we withhold the seed of the Gospel because we think the way someone lives their life is not worthy of the Seed of God. Who are we to judge? Let us be inspired by St John Chrysostom who wrote about the motivation of the sower:

*How can it be rational, as the gospel says, to sow seed among thorns, on rocky ground or on the path? With regard to seed and soil it would not be rational. But with regard to souls and teachings it is very much to be praised. For a farmer would be rightly blamed for doing such a thing since it is impossible for rock to become soil, or for a path not to be a path or for the thorns not to be thorns. But with rational beings it is not so. It is possible for rock to change and become fertile soil, and for a path no longer to be frequented or be accessible to any passerby but become rich arable land and for thorns to be cleared and the seed to have ample space to grow. For if it had not been possible, this sower would not have sown his seed. If a change did not occur in everyone, that was not the fault of the sower; it was the fault of those who did not wish to change. He did what belonged to his part. If they abandoned what they received from him, he who showed such love for humankind is not to blame.*

God bless,

*Paul*



## PRAYER INTENTIONS

---

*Parish of Sydney City South  
under the patronage of Our Lady,  
St Joseph &  
St Vincent de Paul*



Weekday Mass times:

**Monday**

7.30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion,  
Rosebery

**Tuesday**

5.00pm Our Lady of Mt Carmel, Waterloo.

**Wednesday**

7.30am St Joseph's Rosebery

**Friday**

8.00am Our Lady of Mt Carmel Waterloo

**Normal Sunday Mass Times**

**Waterloo:** 5pm Sat Vigil

**Rosebery:** Sunday 7.30am & 9.00am.

Reconciliation @ Rosebery 8.30am.

**Redfern:** 11.00am

**Schools in Our Parish:**

Our Lady of Mt Carmel, Waterloo

96991407

info@olmcwaterloo.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mrs Marg Holles

St Joseph, Rosebery

9184 6630

info@stjrosebery.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mr Bernard Ryan

St Joseph Preschool & Long Day Care,  
Rosebery

1A Kimberley Grove, Rosebery, NSW 2018

9030 4677/ 0457 036 456

scecs.rosebery@syd.catholic.edu.au

Director: Faye-Maree Genovezos

Jarjum School (Jesuits) Redfern

117 Redfern Street

99365450

Principal: Katherine Zerounian

**Recently Deceased:** Evelyn Micallef, Lizetta Santarossa, Sr Onofier

**Anniversary:** Uno Balchin(8/7), Cynthia Purcell (8/7), Jay Rosenstraus (10/7), Luizinha D'Souza (13/7), Bernardette Whitney (14/7), Robert Morgan (15/7), Francesco Graziani (17/7), Elizabeth Anson (17/7), Stephanie D'Souza (19/7),

**Deceased:** Raymond & Dorothy Blackman, Gino Mio & Mio Family, Joseph & Rose Lia, Paula & Miriam McGill, Thelma, Arthur & Janice Gray, Ethel & George Gray, Bill & Pat Clarke, John & Eileen Dennett, Arthur & Edna Dennett, Sydney & Violet Green, Hazel Holly, Arthur & Rose Dennett, John and Rosemary Cooley, Bill, Muriel, Marc & Jamie Wickert, Shirley Turner, Sr. Patricia Wilkinson, Anna, Stanley & Jim Atkins, Jay Rosenstraus.

All Souls, especially those that have no one to pray for them, All Souls of the Unborn, All souls in Purgatory.

**Those who are sick:** Maria Tsiailis, Cherry Ermita Dela Cruz, Theresa Flores, Lourdes Lubrin, Emmi Moeljowati, June Elliot, Lyndall Storey, Margie Humilde, Rafael Pastorza, William Gonzales, Nhia Nguyen, Marina Fox, Jo-Anne Davies, Maureen Maher, Lidia Freitas, Sr Dominic Furlong OSU, Ana Lucia Solorzano, Jack, Ruby, John Gavan, Geraldine Carrington, Therese Mullaney, Manolito Agnilar

**If you wish to be included in bulletin lists, please email the Parish Office. For Mass Intentions please email before 10am Friday.**

**Friendly reminder:** In accordance with the Sydney Archdiocese privacy policies and State and Federal laws—if you are wanting a living person's name to be published in the bulletin, we require their written permission.

**Donations can be made via website or given to Fr Paul directly.**  
**secretary@citysouthcatholic.org.au.**

### READING ROSTER

Mass		Readers
<b>5:00pm</b>	This	Bianca Rodrigo
	Next	David McConachie
<b>7:30am</b>	This	Stephanie Chow
	Next	Josette Merchant
<b>9:00am</b>	This	Terri Lumibao
	Next	Jenny Jago
<b>11:00am</b>	This	Sandra Truong
	Next	tbc

**Thank you to all who are supporting the parish financially.**



Please use the QR code, Tap N Go, Support Us Tab from Website or contact the Parish Office to make a donation OR be set up for a monthly donation using your credit card.



**A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney:**

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org).

You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance.

The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

# Dates for your Diary

- ◆ 15th July - Farewell to Fr Josh after Vigil Mass
- ◆ 16th July - Feast of Our Lady of Mt Carmel
- ◆ Sunday 10th September –Parish Retreat Day  
Save the date! Our parish retreat will be given by the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia. All are welcome.

## Hospitality Roster: August

Date	Location	Volunteers
5/8	OLMC Waterloo	Julia Nekich: coordinator & food Bianca Rodrigo: food Lenette Carter: food
6/8	St Joseph's Rosebery	Bob Kanginan: set up Critina Leontini: food, serve & pack up Dennis Timmins: food Martin Kelly: serve & pack up Mary Hidajat: food

Our playgroup resumes soon! Please share the dates with friends and family who might be interested. If you have any questions, contact me on 0491 939 577. Pax, Elizabeth

## EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND OUR ST JOSEPH'S COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP



Tuesday 25th July  
Thursday 10th August  
Tuesday 22nd August  
Thursday 7th September

**St Joseph's Catholic Church**  
**Parish Office, Rosebery**  
(74 Rosebery Ave, Rosebery NSW 2018)



**St Joseph's**  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL  
ROSEBERY



SYDNEY  
CITY SOUTH  
PARISH

## Parish Giving Program

### FY2024 Parish Giving Program.

We invite you to join our Parish Giving Program. Contributions to this program can be via cash in supplied envelopes (in the second collection) or by a set monthly credit card deduction. At the end of the financial year our program members will receive a receipt showing their contribution for the year.

**In the FY2024 year we can offer a 100% tax deduction on your contributions to this program.** Please note for administrative reasons we can only offer the deduction on giving via the program.

It is the contributions of our community that fund our Parish via your generosity in the second collection and Parish Giving Program. Your contributions fund the maintenance and upkeep of our buildings, parish programs, outreach and much more! We are so grateful for your support.

If you have any questions about giving please contact us at email above or at the Parish Office: 9353 6300

**NOTE: If you are already part of the Parish Giving program you do not need to register again. Your enrollment continues until we are otherwise notified.**

### FY2024 Envelopes

For our Program members who have selected the cash option your envelopes will be available at the back of the Church (originally selected on your form) from this weekend. If you cannot find your envelopes let us know and we will ensure it is sent to the right church for you.

### FY2023 Tax Receipts

In FY23 we were able to offer an 80% tax deduction. Receipts will be sent by mail this week. Tax receipts have been mailed out this week unless you requested your receipt via email.

### Financial Update

#### Week Ending 9 July

First Collection	Supports the Clergy Remuneration Fund	\$ 624
Second Collection (includes Parish Giving Program/ does not incl tap& go)	Supports the Parish	\$ 592

## Sacrament of Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated this year on **Friday 1st September** at 6.30pm by Bishop Danny Meagher DD

Registration forms are available at the parish office or on our Parish website. Completed forms need to be returned to the Parish Office by Wednesday **19th July** or emailed it to Sr Rosemary- [pastoral@citysouthcatholic.org.au](mailto:pastoral@citysouthcatholic.org.au)

### REQUIREMENTS FOR ENROLMENT:

Children should be in **Year 5 or 6 and above**. We only celebrate Confirmation every two years. The child must be a **baptised** Latin Rite (Roman) Catholic. If the child was not baptised in this parish, a copy of their baptismal certificate is required.

Information Night: Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> July 7.00pm <b><u>Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church Waterloo</u></b>		
Rite Of Enrolment Mass Any Mass on Weekend of 29 <sup>th</sup> /30 <sup>th</sup> July		
Depending on the number There may be two groups – max of 10 in each group		
	Wednesday Group 1 at 7pm Rosebery	Tuesdays Group 2 at 7pm Waterloo
Lesson 1	2 <sup>nd</sup> August	1 <sup>st</sup> August
Lesson 2	9 <sup>th</sup> August	8 <sup>th</sup> August
Lesson 3	16 <sup>th</sup> August	15 <sup>th</sup> August ****
Lesson 4	23 <sup>rd</sup> August	22 <sup>nd</sup> August
Practice / Reconciliation	30 <sup>th</sup> August	Our Lady of Mt Carmel
Confirmation Mass	Friday 1st September	Our Lady of Mt Carmel

## Baptism

We congratulate **Vincent** on his baptism at Rosebery on Sunday.  
God bless him and his family.



## Project Good Samaritan

I want to express my gratitude to everyone who has continued to show their generosity over the past few months by contributing to our toiletries drive. The response has been truly overwhelming, and as a result, the shelves of the storeroom at the Redfern Office of St. Vincent de Paul have been restocked.

After speaking with the team, we have made the decision to spend the next month collecting snacks and assembling snack packs to provide to individuals who visit the office and those who are currently experiencing homelessness. These snack packs are designed to be easily distributed and consumed without requiring any preparation. We are actively seeking pre-packaged snacks to create similar packs to the one shown in the image.

Items to consider:

- Muesli Bars
- Small tuna cans with ring pull
- Small bean mixes with ring pull
- Dried crackers in individual packs
- Cheese and biscuit packs
- Small bags of chips
- Lunch-to-go packs
- Dried fruit packs
- Small juice drinks
- Packets of wooden forks

Once again, thank you all for your support, as we would not have been able to continue this Project without your ongoing help.

Vanessa Madunic

Project Good Samaritan Co-Ordinator



## Scripture Reflection

Today's Gospel marks the beginning of the third long discourse given by Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew. Over the next few weeks, the Gospel readings will consist of the entire 13th Chapter of Matthew's Gospel, a lengthy teaching discourse.

Throughout this discourse, Jesus will offer several parables to illustrate for his listeners what he means by the kingdom of heaven. He begins with the parable of the sower, which appears rather straightforward—of course seeds grow best in good soil. Seeds that miss the soil, are sown on rocky ground, or are sown among other plants will not grow. The surprise in the parable is the enormous yield of the seed that is sown on good soil.

Jesus then explains his use of parables. Jesus seems to suggest that he uses parables to teach because the meanings of parables are not self-evident. The hearer must engage in some degree of reflection in order to comprehend the message of a parable. In this way, the medium—the parable—models the point of the parable of the sower. Those who are willing to engage themselves in the effort to understand will be rewarded by the discovery of the message and will bear fruit.

To bring home the point, Jesus interprets the parable of the sower to his disciples. The different types of soil in which the seeds are sown are metaphors for the disposition with which each individual hears the teaching about the kingdom of heaven. Some will be easily swayed away from the kingdom of heaven. Some will receive it for a time but will lose it when faced with difficulties. Some will hear the word but will then permit other cares to choke it out. Yet some will receive it well, and the seed will produce abundant fruit.

© Loyola Press 2023

## The Mission of the Church

### Part 2: Caring for the Poor

Last week we looked at the first aspect of the mission of the Church: to love and worship God. This week, let's look at our mission to care for the poor.

Mother Theresa worked with some of the poorest people on earth. When she accepted the Nobel Prize in 1987 she said this: "[Jesus] said that at the hour of death we are going to be judged on what we have been to the poor, to the hungry, naked, the homeless. And [Jesus] makes himself that hungry one, that naked one, that homeless one, not only hungry for bread, but hungry for love, not only naked for a piece of cloth, but naked of that human dignity, not only homeless for a room to live, but homeless for that being forgotten, being unloved, uncared, being nobody to nobody, having forgotten what is

human love, what is human touch, what is to be loved by somebody, and he says: 'Whatever you did to the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.'

The Church teaches us about the Works of Mercy we should perform to respond to many kinds of poverty.

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Give shelter to travellers
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead
- Instruct the ignorant
- Counsel the doubtful
- Admonish the sinners
- Bear patiently those who wrong us
- Forgive offenses
- Comfort the afflicted
- Pray for the living and the dead

Have you been in need of these works of mercy? Have you seen others in need?

Caring for the poor cannot be separated from the love of God. When we live life closely with God, he changes how we look at other people (even people we do not like):

"I learn to look on this other person not simply with my eyes and my feelings, but from the perspective of Jesus Christ. His friend is my friend. Going beyond exterior appearances, I perceive in others an interior desire for a sign of love, of concern... Seeing with the eyes of Christ, I can give to others much more than their outward necessities; I can give them the look of love which they crave." (Pope Benedict, *God is Love*, 18)

Servant of God, Dorothy Day, spoke about her deep sense of needing to be fed in order to go out to others:

"I was saddened last week when a former nun told me she was tired of going to Mass daily. She had been doing that for fourteen years, and no longer felt it necessary. So much routine... One could only point out that breathing was routine, and eating was routine, and many a time we had no appetite, food even seemed disgusting to us. We go eat of this fruit of the tree of life because Jesus told us to. ... He took upon himself our humanity that we might share in his divinity. We are nourished by his flesh that we may grow to be other Christs. I believe this literally, just as I believe the child is nourished by the milk from his mother's breast."

Jesus, let us see each person we encounter as your friend. Help us to be sensitive to all their needs. Help us to see how we can be a friend to each person.

Pax, Elizabeth

**"Contemplation is nothing else but a secret, peaceful, and loving infusion of God, which if admitted, will set the soul on fire with the Spirit of love."**

**St John of the Cross**

## Feast of Our Lady of Mt Carmel

This Sunday we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Mt Carmel, one of our parish patrons.

The site of Mt Carmel was part of a grant known as the Mt Lachlan Estate, and in 1858 it was in the possession of Sir Daniel Cooper who gave it as a gift for the site of a Catholic Church. On top of the hill Archbishop Polding dedicated the church after another church on a hill Mt Carmel in Palestine. Our Marian connection can be summed up in this letter by Fr Fr. Mícheál O'Neill, O. Carm, Prior General of the Carmelites:

“Our Marian tradition has its roots in the dedication to Mary of the first oratory built by the hermits in the midst of their cells, close to Elijah’s spring, in one of the peaceful valleys on Mt Carmel. This meant that they were acknowledging her, the Mother of their Lord, as the Lady of the Place. Both oratory and spring, on that mountain in the Holy Land, continue to remind us that our forebears chose to live in allegiance to Jesus Christ, under the loving gaze of Mary and in imitation of her and of the prophet Elijah, whose solemnity we also celebrate in July. Our forebears were among the many medieval pilgrims who flocked to the Holy Land. Like other pilgrims, they chose to remain there, and eventually sought to form an eremitic community on the slopes of Mt Carmel. Together they lead a life of penance, that is, of ongoing conversion, that they might «live in allegiance to Jesus Christ and serve him from a pure heart and a good conscience» (Rule, 2). The notion of allegiance as conceived and lived out in the Middle Ages, meant that these hermit-brothers of Carmel would have developed a living bond with the Holy Land that was then considered to constitute the actual patrimony and kingdom of their Lord. They committed themselves to remain in this land, in their hermitage, engaged in a spiritual battle (Rule, 18-19) in the service of their Lord.”

Just like Mt Carmel in Palestine, so too Mt Carmel in Waterloo has been and continues to be a place of contemplation, community and service. As we renew our devotion to Mary, we honour her again as the Lady of the Place and place the people of the Holy Land under her motherly care in the confidence that the more fervently we show our desire for peace, that peace that only our God can give, then the surer we are that our prayer will be heard, and there will be peace.



In the year 1251, in the town of Aylesford in England, Our Lady appeared to St. Simon Stock, a Carmelite. She handed him a brown woolen scapular and said, “This shall be a privilege for you and all Carmelites, that anyone dying in this habit shall not suffer eternal fire.” In time, the Church extended this magnificent privilege to all the laity

who are willing to be invested in the Brown Scapular of the Carmelites and who perpetually wear it.

As Our Lord taught us to say the Our Father, Our Blessed Mother taught us the value of the scapular. When we use it as a prayer, Our Lady draws us to the Sacred Heart of Her Divine Son. It is good, therefore, to hold the scapular in the hand. A prayer offered while holding the Scapular is as perfect as a prayer can be. It is especially in time of temptation that we need the powerful intercession of God’s Mother. The evil spirit is utterly powerless when the wearer of a scapular faces temptation, calling upon the Holy Virgin in this silent devotion.

To be eligible for the scapular promise, one must be enrolled in the Brown Scapular Confraternity. This is a simple ceremony which can be performed by any priest.

## Children’s Missals for Loan

We have a great range of children’s missals available for children age 3+. If you would like to borrow one during Mass, come and see myself or Sr Rosemary at the door before the 9am Mass at St Joseph’s. Pax, Elizabeth



## Parts of the Mass

---

### Entrance Antiphon

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;  
I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

### Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you became flesh. Lord have mercy.  
You offer us salvation. Christ have mercy.  
You lead us rejoicing to the Father. Lord have mercy.

**OR**

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,

*And, striking their breast, they say:*

through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;

Then they continue:

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.

### Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,

we bless you,

we adore you,

we glorify you,

we give you thanks for your great glory,

Lord God, heavenly King,

O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

you take away the sins of the world,

have mercy on us;

you take away the sins of the world,

receive our prayer;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father,

have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

### Nicaean Creed

I believe in one God,

the Father almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the Only Begotten Son of God,

born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God,

begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,

and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried,

and rose again on the third day

in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory

to judge the living and the dead

and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins

and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### Holy Holy (Sanctus) Vigil Mass

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth.

Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis.

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.

Hosanna in excelsis.

### Lamb of God (Agnus Dei) Vigil Mass

Agnus Dei,

quitollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei,

quitollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei,

quitollis peccata mundi: dona nobis pacem.

### Communion Antiphon

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood

remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

## PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL, THE ARCHANGEL

(Promulgated by Pope Leo XIII)

St. Michael the Archangel defend us in battle; be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into Hell, Satan and all the other evil spirits who prowl through the world, seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

# Liturgy of the Word

## 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.'

## Responsorial Psalm

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

You care for the earth, give it water,  
you fill it with riches.  
Your river in heaven brims over  
to provide its grain. **R**

And thus you provide for the earth;  
you drench its furrows,  
you level it, soften it with showers,  
you bless its growth **R**

You crown the year with your goodness.  
Abundance flows in your steps,  
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **R**

The hills are girded with joy,  
the meadows covered with flocks,  
the valleys are decked with wheat.  
They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **R**

## A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

## 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

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such 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!'

**LIVING GOSPEL**

## Scatter that seed!

*The teaching of the parable of the sower is as true for us today as it was in its original context. The word of the kingdom continues to fall on people who are at various stages of readiness to receive it. What Jesus suggests to his disciples – and to us – is that the 'good soil' can't always be predicted. Jesus doesn't tell his disciples to only sow the word in people who are receptive. Rather, he wants them – and us – to scatter the word everywhere and to rejoice when it does find good soil and yields a rich harvest.*

