

Reflection on today's gospel: Mark 4: 26-32

The short parable at the beginning of our Gospel today, describes amongst other things, the sense of mystery of God and faith; the person who scattered the seed does not know how it sprouts and grows – yet they still plant it, in the faith that it will grow and yield plants.

Growth and change are often insidious; it can be encouraging to look back over a span of time prayerfully reflect on our journey. We may notice things as subtle as a shift in attitude, which will allow us to see things more as God does. Often other people see change and growth in us, that we cannot see ourselves.

Growth in nature similarly requires patience. It can feel like an eternity before we see shoots from the seeds or bulbs we planted. They cannot be hurried, but we can prepare the way for them as best we can, be this through clearing the ground of weeds that may stifle them, or preparing the soil so they grow in the best way they can. Are there things that we need to weed out? How can we nourish our soil? Now that lockdown's easing, retreats, times away and quiet days are becoming possible again, as are meeting face to face with a soul friend or spiritual companion.

Rev Alison



Codes for the Zoom worship at 10.30

These are codes for Sundays from 11.04.21 until the end of June

Meeting ID: 843 1587 4178

Passcode: 180903

Telephone numbers (as previously) 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196

NEXT SUNDAY 20.06.2021 3rd Sunday after Trinity

SERVICES 10.30am by Zoom, 12 noon in Church

READINGS

OT Job 38: 1-11

NT 2 Corinthians 6: 1-13

GOSPEL Mark 4: 35-41



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St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 13th June 2021

Second Sunday after Trinity

10.30am by Zoom (phone-in available)

12 noon Mass in Church

Thank you to all those who have made suggestions about how we move forward out of restrictions, and back to a new normal. A summary of this will have been given to the PCC on 9 June with some further discussion ensuing. A few **ground rules** might be helpful: we will move slowly trying to establish patterns by the autumn, and guided by national and other church recommendations; we may experiment with new timings for short periods; this will be a 'new normal', in other words not all of what we did before will be automatically re-instated; we will try to learn from this pandemic experience, both the good and the bad; our connections to the local community are our purpose and lifeblood, so this is the moment to be bold and outward looking.

A prayer for the feast day of **St Anthony of Padua** (13 June) known for his preaching:

Almighty ever-living God, you gave Saint Anthony of Padua to your people as a preacher of great power and a patron in their needs. Grant that, with his help, we may follow the Christian way of life, and feel your aid in all our trials; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Fr David



Collect

Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Ezekiel 17: 22-24

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. All the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the Lord have spoken; I will accomplish it.

2 Corinthians 5: 6-10 (11-13) 14-17

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. [Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to

boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.] For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Mark 4: 26-34

Jesus also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.' He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.' With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Post Communion

Loving Father, we thank you for feeding us at the supper of your Son: sustain us with your Spirit, that we may serve you here on earth until our joy is complete in heaven, and we share in the eternal banquet with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

House Group. Tuesday evenings. Please contact Ian Totterdell for Zoom details.

Community Larder The Community Larder will be collecting on **Tuesdays only** from 10am-12noon. The collecting point is in the Choir Vestry via the Tower door. Please continue to be generous.

Knit and Natter Update for June 2021

Until Thursday 17th June, we shall be following the pattern of Sunday services—one on Zoom and one in person. Zoom K & N will continue from 11.15am to 11.55am, thanks to Vanessa. At 19 Maple Road we shall meet in person from 10.30 to 12 noon for tea, coffee and chat. We shall review our meeting pattern again after 21st June. All details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

200 Club If you would like to join the 200 Club please see Andrew Withers.

Advance Notice Young at Hearts will start on June 23rd with a cream tea and a good ol' natter. The 3 Musketeers are looking forward to seeing all our old family.

Christine Trigger: Christine's funeral will be on Wednesday, 16th June at 11am at St Luke's Countess Wear.

