

**PARISH OF ST MARY IMMACULATE & THE HOLY ARCHANGELS
KELVEDON, ST. BERNARD COGGESHALL, ST JOHN HOUGHTON TIPTREE,
(Twinned with St Joseph's Mission, Besters, KwaZulu-Natal)**

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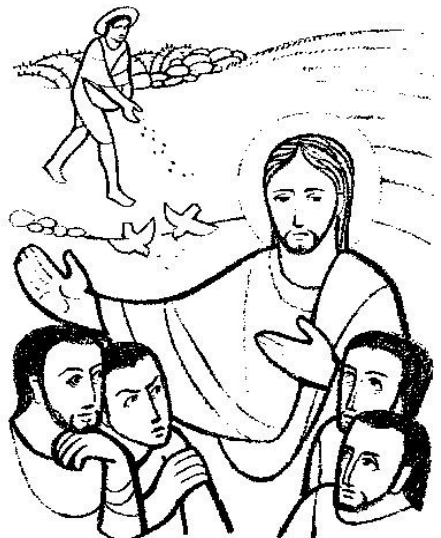
PARISH NEWSLETTER

23rd July 2017

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF YEAR

Let them both grow till the harvest.

First Reading	Ws 12:13.16-19
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 85:5-6.9-10.15-16
Second Reading	Rom 8:26-27
Gospel	Mt 13:24-43



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY: In this part of his Gospel St Matthew collects together a number of Jesus' parables about the Kingdom of God. Today we have a second parable based on the sowing of the seed. This time it concerns not the yield of the harvest, but where weeds come from and how we should regard them. This is what philosophers of religion call 'the problem of evil'. If God is both good and all-powerful, where does evil come from? For pagans it was a reality but not a moral problem. Their gods were not all-powerful or good and human beings suffered the consequences of infighting between them. Equally for an atheist evil and suffering are realities but there is no god to blame. Our Lord offers an explanation in terms of a world of time and space where for a time God tolerates the existence of evil and suffering for the sake of a greater good. Only at the end of time, when we see the full picture, will we understand why this is. His focus is on the evil that comes from human beings rather than natural disasters. Often good and evil are intertwined and difficult to distinguish except with hindsight. Our human reaction to rush in and root out evil may do more harm than good. Darnel is also known as 'cockle' or ryegrass. It is generally believed that the presence of a fungus *Claviceps purpurea* (ergot) is what makes the plant toxic. It bears a close resemblance to wheat until the ear appears. The spikes are more slender than those of wheat. The wheat will also appear brown when ripe, whereas the darnel is black.



PRAYER NEEDS: Please continue to pray for those parishioners who are sick especially **Alec Ross, Michelle Bryant, Samantha Upton, Margaret Britain, Paul Britain, Vanessa Dann, Angelina Barber, Mrs Van Stolk Senior, Denis Wood, Hayley Hetzel, Julie Trueman, Deborah Lee, Bill Sullivan, Pam Loath, Karen Kelly, Sheila Faulkner, Mike Gibson, Donovan Bushing, Rebecca Dillon, Brian Harper, Anne Entwistle, Audrey Hopwood** and any unknown to us.

ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember **Patrick Stynes, Anne Phillips, Margaret O'Leary, Bob Hastie, Margaret Parker** and **Mary Cooper** whose anniversaries occur at this time.

TRIDENTINE MASS: As it is a fifth Sunday there will be an additional Mass according to the 'Extraordinary Form' next Sunday at 3.00 p.m.

FR GORDON HOLIDAY PLANS: It has not been possible to arrange weekend cover – it is becoming increasingly difficult for priests from outside the EU to obtain the necessary visa – and so the plan is to be away Monday to Thursday during August except for 14th - 17th since the Feast of the Assumption falls on the Tuesday. Most of the clergy will also be away 4th - 8th September on the Diocesan Centenary clergy retreat at Ars.

THANKS: John Disley has been bowled over by the overwhelming tsunami of support and affection over the past few months. Letters, cards, calls and offers of help show what a caring and active parish we belong to. He also genuinely feels your prayers working.