

11th Sunday of Ordinary Time (b) 16th June 2024

Introduction

*leader: Greet the people and name the Sunday of the Year (see above)
Acknowledge visitors and welcome them.
Remind everyone about refreshments at the end of Mass ????
Announce the theme of the liturgy (see next)*

Theme – WALKING BY FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE

*leader: As St Paul comments in today's second reading;
to walk by faith means
that worldly standards for judging have ended.
Our belief in the death of Jesus
includes a new standard of judging
– it is the mustard seed. Though the seed is small
and inconspicuous, it grows into the largest shrub of all!
Believers in God's presence in history are not to be content
with worldly symbols and outward appearances.
For them, the cross becomes the way to discern what is most real.
(Announce the opening hymn:)*

Greeting

*presider: (Ki te ingoa o te Matua, ✠ o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu: /
In the Name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit)
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose table we share,
be with us:*

or

Good evening/morning and the Lord be with you:

*all: **And with your spirit.***

Penitential Rite *Invitation to Repentance*

either (confer with the Projectionist beforehand if you choose the: 'I confess'.)

*leader: Gathered together in Christ, let us ask forgiveness with
confidence, for God is gentle and compassionate.*

*all: **I confess: . . .***

and / or

*leader: Friends in Christ, the seed of God's kingdom grows whenever we look at
the world afresh have new joy; rejoice in beauty; or we are encouraged to
seek the good in a new and defining way. But our hearts are burdened
with the cares of life: - (pause) - Lord, have mercy:*

*all: **Lord, have mercy:***

leader: We grow careless and neglect to pray: - (pause) - Christ, have mercy:

*all: **Christ, have mercy:***

leader: We allow ourselves to be discouraged, instead of living in trust:

- (pause) - Lord, have mercy:

*all: **Lord, have mercy:***

leader: May almighty God, cleanse us of our sins and through the celebration of this Eucharist make us worthy to sit at the table of the kingdom.

*all: **Amen***

GLORIA *invitation*

either

leader: With all the voices of heaven, let us sing praise, honour and glory to God.

or

leader: With peoples everywhere, let us glorify our God in joyful song.

Opening Prayer

*leader: (Kia inoi tatou / Let us pray: ...) O God,
at whose bidding the seed will sprout
and the shoot grow toward full stature,
hear the prayer of Your assembled people.
Make us trust in Your hidden ways,
that we may pray with confidence
and wait for Your kingdom now growing in our midst.
We ask this 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:*

*all: **Amen.***

Introduction to the first reading: *(Ezekiel 17: 22 – 24)*

leader: Ezekiel expects a restoration of the monarchy after the Exile. The image of the cedar is a source of the image of the mustard bush in today's gospel. The cedar symbolises more than a mere restoration. It points to something greater. It points to the ultimate hope – the realisation of the Messianic kingdom itself.

Introduction to the second reading: *(2 Corinthians 5: 6 – 10)*

leader: Paul is coming to terms with the possibility of his own death before 'the parousia' (the reigning of God). His hope of resurrection is not wishful thinking or an unrealistic dream, but a powerful motive to live now to please the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

*all: **Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***The seed is the Word of God; Christ is the Sower;
All who come to him, will live forever. Alleluia!***

Introduction to the gospel reading: *(Mark 4: 26 – 34)*

leader: Mark records the parable of the seed's growth. Sower and harvester are the same. The emphasis is on the power of the seed to grow of itself without human intervention. Mysteriously it produces blade and ear and full grain. The realm of God, initiated by Jesus, by his proclaiming the Word, develops quietly yet powerfully, until it is fully established by him at the final judgement.

Homily Notes (*presider*)

- *St. Paul says "We continue to be confident . . . we walk by faith, not by sight, I repeat, we are full of confidence". What is it of which we are confident? The simple truth is that we are confident that God loves us, that the love of God is stronger than anything else in the universe and any universe beyond it. We can sin, we can turn away, we can hide, we can die. Even so, the life-giving love of God will prevail.*
- *So, there is no reason to fear. What ever happens we will not be separated from God. Even if we were to lose our faith, God would still hold us near and dear. Sounds a bit naive and even stupid? After all, there is plenty to be afraid of in this world.*
- *Our faith is surrounded by doubts. The bad prosper; children suffer; thousands die in famines, floods, earthquakes and violence. Friends grow apart and relationships sour. We will die. Where can we find clear proof of God's love? We doubt we can.*
- *We cannot deny those doubts without being dishonest. Non-believers have an easier time of it. They can just say, "That's the way it is" and get on with their lives. We believers have to face the hard questions.*
- *According to today's Gospel passage, Jesus recognises the problem. He came to proclaim the realm of God, but the evidence for it seemed slight, no greater than a mustard seed. Most of us would agree that it seems no bigger today. The strange thing about Jesus' talking about the Father's realm as a mustard seed is that he intends that as encouragement.*
- *Why should we be encouraged to know that the fulfillment of God's action is barely visible? We want more than that. We want certainty. One reason for the ambiguity is the fact that God has chosen to make us the builders of God's realm. Its final fulfillment will be in God's hands, but our co-operation and efforts are part of the building. Knowing that and knowing us, makes it clearer why the signs of God's realm are ambiguous. I am ambiguous.*
- *We are children of God; baptised Christians. That should make things pretty straightforward in how to live. But in practise, I do not live up to my Christian vocation. Sometimes I'm indistinguishable from anyone else. I pray. I read Scripture. I reflect, I try to avoid being nasty if I can't be nice. Not much more than a mustard seed's worth of Christian life.*
- *At times, mustard seed is about as much as we can manage. That's discouraging. No wonder Jesus felt it necessary to speak of mustard seed as an encouragement. Jesus says to us today, "Don't sell yourself short. Your mustard seed is what the realm of God is about. Your little faith, your little effort is enough. Give your little bit and stand by amazed as you see what God will do with it. Your mustard seed will flourish.*

Creed / Statement of Faith

Intercessions - 11th Week Ordinary Time [Sun 16th – Sat 22nd June 2024]*invitation to pray:*

leader: *Friends in Christ, the realm of God is like a grain of wheat scattered in the field of the world. Let us pray that it may ripen for the harvest of God:*

1: *May the Church grow and bear fruit. May we be welcoming to all:*

- (pause) - *God of Hospitality, hear us: all: **God of Hospitality, hear us.***

2: *For those who sow the Good News by their words; their writings; and by the testimony of their lives. Keep them confident in the power of Your Word, which night and day, germinates and grows:*

- (pause) - *Word of Life, hear us: all: **Word of Life, hear us.***

3: *For those who work the land in these challenging times. May they have faith in the regenerative power of the Earth and treat it with respect:*

- (pause) - *Source of Recovery, hear us: all: **Source of Recovery, hear us.***

4: *For migrants, prisoners and exiles: may they hear the Word of God and find courage in the face of hardships: - (pause) - Guide to the Perplexed, hear us:*

all: **Guide to the Perplexed, hear us.**

5: *For the sick: we pray for:*

Mangawhai: **Matteo Gray, Petronella Brom, Lorna Bocock, Geraldine Choromanski, Judy Perry, Veronica Grigg, Margaret Rissman, Roselle & Owen McGrane, Richard Henry, Bob Walters, Noreen Anderson, Teresa McCarthy, Tom Ryan,**

Maungaturoto: **Trevor Brljevich, Tony Ruiterman, Bill Lewis, Beverly Simons, Bob & Julia Bland, Adolph Layec, Rose Plunkett, Tony Plunkett, . .**

Wellsford: **Dallas Colville, Alec Colville, Lucille Jenneker, Rita McCurran, Wilma Jansen, Gerard McCurran, Iris Barrow, Lagi Sands, Tim Emberson, . . .**

Bless them for they share in Christ's passion through their suffering:

- (pause) - *Healer of the sick, hear us: all: **Healer of the sick, hear us.***

6: *For those who have died recently: Rita McCurran, Lourdes Crisostomo, Mark Wilmot, Stephen Moir, Christine Harvey, And those whose anniversaries occur about now: Bede Brittenden, Agica, Lipanovich, Number them among your saints: - (pause) - God of the Living and Dead, hear us:*

all: **God of the Living and Dead, hear us.**

Concluding Prayer:

leader: *God of graciousness, give answers to our prayers in Your great kindness. We ask this through Christ our Lord:*

all: **Amen**

(If no priest, the commentator introduces Lord's Prayer.)

Prayer over the Gifts

*presider: (Kia inoi tatou / Let us pray: ...) In these gifts, O Lord,
You provide humankind
with the food that nourishes
and the sacrament that gives us life.
Grant, we pray, that our minds and bodies
may never lack this strength and support.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord:*

*all: **Amen***

Preface *(The mystery of salvation)*

presider: The Lord be with you.

*all: **And also with you.***

presider: Lift up your hearts.

*all: **We lift them up to the Lord.***

presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*all: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

*presider: It is truly right and just,
always and everywhere to give You thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Out of compassion for us sinners
he humbled himself to be born of the Virgin.
By suffering on the cross, he freed us from unending death;
by rising from the dead, he gave us eternal life.
And so, with angels and archangels,
with all the heavenly host,
we proclaim Your glory
and join their unending chorus of praise:*

*all: **Holy holy holy!***

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**Memorial Acclamation**

(the Eucharistic Prayer ends with the great 'AMEN')

Introduction to the Lord's Prayer

either

leader: Let us pray for the coming of God's realm as Jesus taught us.

or

*leader: The Father has forgiven us, let us forgive our neighbour from the heart
as we say:*

*all: **Our Father, . . .***

*presider: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil;
graciously grant peace in our days,*

*that by the help of Your mercy,
we may be always freed from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

*all: **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours,
now and for ever. Amen.***

Sign of Peace

*presider: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles:
'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you'.
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church
and grant us the peace and unity of your Realm,
where you live, now and always:*

*all: **Amen.***

presider: The peace of the Lord be with you:

*all: **And with your spirit.***

leader: Let us offer each other a sign of peace:

Lamb of God

*all: **Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us (x2)
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.***

*presider: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
who by the will of the Father
and the work of the Holy Spirit,
through your death gave life to the world;
free us by this your most holy Body and Blood
from all our sins and from every evil:
keep us always faithful to your commandments
and never let us be parted from you.*

*all: **Amen***

either

*presider: Behold the Lamb of God. Behold him who takes away the sins of
the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.*

or

*presider: This is the bread come down from heaven;
whoever eats this bread will never die.
This is the cup of eternal life;
whoever drinks of it will live forever:*

*all: **Lord, I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof,
but only say the Word and my soul shall be healed.***

Holy Communion

presider: Ko te Tinana o te Karaiti:

(Ko nga Toto o te Karaiti:)

Prayer after Communion

*leader: (Kia inoi tatou / Let us pray: ...) Lord,
as the communion we have received
prefigures the union of all the faithful in You,
so may its power bring unity and peace to Your Church.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord:*

*all: **Amen.***

(an opportunity for announcements/notices etc. . . .)

Dismissal

*leader: We are sent in the name of God,
the God of Peace and Mercy;
We are sent in the name of Jesus,
the Mercy of God incarnate;
We are sent in the name of the Spirit,
the Giver of light and life;
that we may spend and be spent
in the ways of love and goodness,
after the image of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ,
until we gather again.*

*all: **Amen***

The Blessing

*presider: (Kia whakapaingia koutou e te Atua kaha rawa,
e te Matua ✠ e te Tamaiti e te Wairua Tapu. /
May the Blessing of God, Father ✠ Son and Holy Spirit, be with us all)*

*all: **Amene***

leader: The Mass has ended, go in peace, to love and serve the Lord:

*all: **Thanks be to God.***