



# 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ord. Time Yr A

## Lectio Divina

**Lectio:** Our text follows last Sunday's Gospel directly. Jesus gives three more Parables of the Kingdom. The first Parable of 'the Sower' doesn't identify who the Sower is – we are left to make the connection (through faith) that God is the Sower and that God is sowing seeds (the Word of God) in our world. These seeds are seeds of the Kingdom of God – 'the language of the Kingdom'. If we let them grow in our lives then we will experience the coming of the Kingdom in our lives. The three parables of our text explain about how these 'seeds of the Kingdom' work. People living off the land (farmers) would understand the processes that Jesus refers to in the Parables. It is up to us, i.e. "anyone who has ears", to make the connections for our lives, our faith. The Parable of 'the darnel in the field' points out that there are other seeds being sown as well as seeds of the Kingdom – what do we do with them? Young plants can look very similar to each other! The Parable of 'the mustard seed' points out the life-giving power of the seeds of the Kingdom. Tiny seeds slowly grow into large plants! The Parable of 'the yeast' points out the transforming power of the seeds of the Kingdom. Yeast transforms flour and water into dough, ready for baking! Our text concludes with Jesus explaining the Parable of 'the darnel in the field'.

Read: **Matthew 13: 24 - 43**

**Meditatio:** For me, what is my image of the Kingdom of God? What 'darnel' (weed or 'bad' seed) is in my world? How do I cope with evil in my life? Do I feel overwhelmed by the negativity of the world? Do I trust that goodness will eventually win through? Am I ready to wait until 'the Harvest'? What few words of Scripture have meant a lot for me? Can I see ways the Kingdom of God slowly growing? Can I recognize the 'shelter' that the Kingdom of God provides? Am I growing in the ways of the Kingdom – offering: shelter, care, compassion, service etc.? Have I used yeast and experienced its transforming power? Am I being transformed by the seeds God has planted in my life in the Word of God? How can I enhance the transformation of the world? How can I do some of the kneading? What will the world be like when it is 'leavened all through'? How will I be judged – at the end of the world, at the end of my life? What is my image of Heaven and Hell? Am I a good listener?

**Oratio:** Pray that the Word of God is welcomed as the 'good seed' that it is. Pray that we can recognize 'weeds' i.e. misleading, false and evil understandings or philosophies. Pray for those who promote these 'fake Good News' items. Pray that we will rely on the Word of God despite all the contrary voices seeking our allegiance. Pray that the care/shelter/compassion of the Kingdom will slowly but surely become the ways of our world. Pray for wisdom to promote the Kingdom of God. Pray that we will be some of the 'good seeds' sown in our world.

**Contemplatio** – Dwell in stillness, simply aware of the boundless expanse of mercy that surrounds you.

**After your prayer** – Make, or help someone make, some bread or scones. Reflect on the wonderful working of Yeast (or SR flour).

*✍ Fr Joe*

## Matthew 13: 24 – 43

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."

**[**He put another parable before them, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy: I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels.

Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

Listen, anyone who has ears!']

**[**Short Form: omit text in brackets.]