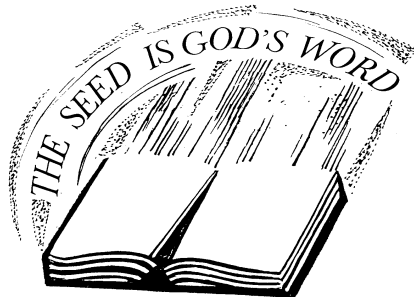


## Gospel Reflection

The parable of the sower and the Lord's patience doesn't *just* apply to that generation of Israelites, but to all of us, and all throughout our lives. I have gone through all four stages of ground in my life. I've left the Word on the path, I've accepted it with great joy only to compartmentalize and forget it, and I have allowed the cares of this world to take precedence over it. At times, I feel I am rich soil, but there are days in which I feel I have regressed into all of these stages at once. The beauty of this parable is that it gives us an easily understood measure to recognize our shortcomings, and a path to healing as well. We just need to open our hearts, drop our expectations and our preconceived notions, and return to prayer and the Word.

When we do that, our hearts become stronger and stronger ground for faith and fidelity. Even David understood that, and humbled himself to the Lord's authority, an opportunity presented to him by the power of a parable. The Lord forgave and eventually blessed David for it, and He stands ready to do the same for us as soon as we open our hearts to His Word.



### **BAPTISM PREPARATION**

If you wish to make preparations for your child to be Baptised you should telephone Fr Simon.

Following this there are Meetings on the first Friday of each month at 7:30pm that you will need to attend, where you will meet Mrs Gerri Doherty and Deacon Tony Ford.

## NEWSLETTER

**St Joseph's RC Church**  
**Woodford Lane**  
**Winsford**  
**CW7 2JS**

Parish Priest- Fr Simon O'Connor

Tel: 01606 543877

Website; [www.stjosephs-winsford.org.uk](http://www.stjosephs-winsford.org.uk)

email: [stjosephwinsford2012@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stjosephwinsford2012@hotmail.co.uk)

General Queries – ring the Parish Number and/or send an email to the Parish

Diocese of Shrewsbury Registered Charity No 234025



"United in conviction and united  
in love, with a common purpose  
and a common mind"  
Philippians 2:2

<b>16th JULY 2023</b>		
<b>15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (CYCLE A)</b>		
<b>MASS &amp; SERVICE TIMES</b>		
Saturday 15th July	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 16th July	10:00am	Mass (Livestreamed)
Monday 17th July	10:00am	Mass
Tuesday 18th July	10:00am	Mass
Wednesday 19th July	10:00am	Mass
Thursday 20th July	2:00pm	Requiem Mass
Friday 21st July		No Mass
Saturday 22nd July	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 23rd July	10:00am	Mass (Livestreamed)

If Fr Simon is unobtainable please leave a message and send an email to [stjosephwinsford2012@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stjosephwinsford2012@hotmail.co.uk)

**200 CLUB DRAW**

Winner: £40 Prize  
This week – Mrs Kathryn Williams

**WHY NOT JOIN THE 200 CLUB  
AND HELP THE PARISH?**

**SPECTACLES FOR MISSIONS**

Please continue to bring in your unwanted spectacles and cases.

**Prisoner Outreach.** Do you – like me – find carrying round small coins a waste of time? The Prisoner Outreach Organisation is a Christian network of volunteers who have been voluntarily working in HM Prisons and supplies copies of the BIBLE ALIVE booklets to prisoners. Drop your loose change into the bottle on the table in the porch and help to support this good cause.

**Coffee morning.** The next coffee morning will be in September.

**PARISH CENTRE BOOKING ENQUIRIES**

If you are interested in hiring the Parish Centre for a function, please contact Phil Martin on 07720 807162

**Prayer for our Parish:**

Father, pour out your Spirit upon the people of this parish  
and grant us a new vision of your glory,  
a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your word  
and a new consecration to your service,  
that your love may grow among us and your kingdom come,  
through Christ our Lord.

.....  
St Joseph pray for us

**Gospel**          Matthew 13 1 – 23



Jesus addressed his congregation, telling stories.

“What do you make of this? A farmer planted seed. As he scattered the seed, some of it fell on the road, and birds ate it. Some fell in the gravel; it sprouted quickly but didn’t put down roots, so when the sun came up it withered just as quickly. Some fell in the weeds; as it came up, it was strangled by the weeds. Some fell on good earth, and produced a harvest beyond his wildest dreams.

“Are you listening to this? Really listening?” “Study this story of the farmer planting seed. When anyone hears news of the kingdom and doesn’t take it in, it just remains on the surface, and so the Evil One comes along and plucks it right out of that person’s heart. This is the seed the farmer scatters on the road.

“The seed cast in the gravel—this is the person who hears and instantly responds with enthusiasm. But there is no soil of character, and so when the emotions wear off and some difficulty arrives, there is nothing to show for it.

“The seed cast in the weeds is the person who hears the kingdom news. But weeds of worry and illusions about getting more and wanting everything under the sun strangle what was heard, and nothing comes of it.

“The seed cast on good earth is the person who hears and takes in the News, and then produces a harvest beyond his wildest dreams.”



“Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words”  
St Francis of Assisi