

## NEWSLETTER

### Gospel Reflection

“Let them grow together until the harvest,” he says. Jesus shows more interest in growth than extermination. He is willing to wait and to be patient. If we are his followers we too will wait and be patient amongst the weeds of our life.

While we patiently wait let’s not get too excited about the end of this parable. Let’s not revel in and celebrate the end of the age and the coming of Jesus as some divine weed whacker. I don’t think Jesus intended this parable to be taken literally, but, rather, with absolute seriousness.

So do we do nothing? Just sit and wait? No, that’s not what Jesus is saying. There is plenty to do and it will be a challenge. The words that are translated as “let them” in Jesus’ statement, “Let them grow...” can also be translated as forgive them. It’s the same words Jesus spoke from the cross in St. Luke’s account of the gospel when he says, “Father, forgive them” (Luke 23:34). Even then, even on the cross, Jesus is unwilling to pull up the weeds.

There is no place in Jesus’ gospel for Christian vigilantism, by word or by action, against another or against ourselves. Instead, Jesus commands love. Love your enemy. Love your neighbor. Love yourself. Love God.

Forgive the weeds? Love the weeds? Remember, I told you the gospel is always a challenge. So, yes, forgive them. Love them. Maybe that’s how the wheat begins to disentangle its roots from the weeds and show itself to be wheat and not weeds. Maybe love and forgiveness are what life in the mixed field of God’s kingdom and this world is like.

### **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.

### **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>23rd JULY 2023 16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (CYCLE A) MASS &amp; SERVICE TIMES</b>		
Saturday 22nd July	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 23rd July	10:00am	Mass (Livestreamed)
Monday 24th July		
Tuesday 25th July		
Wednesday 26th July		
Thursday 27th July		
Friday 28th July		
Saturday 29th July	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 30th July	10:00am	Mass (Livestreamed)
<b>There are no weekday Masses as Father Simon is away</b>		

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 Jane Phillips

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

**Spectacles for Missions:** Please continue to bring in your unwanted spectacles and cases. Before the spectacles are sent out to the Missions they are checked and repaired as required by a group of prisoners providing them with valuable work.

**Happy Anniversary.** Happy anniversary to Father Simon – ordained on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1989.

**Sisters Mission Committee Appeal.** Next weekend Sister Joan Kerley, FMSJ will be speaking at all the Masses to appeal for the Sisters Mission Committee. Please see the handout for more information.

**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 24 – 43

Jesus told another story. “God’s kingdom is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. That night, while his hired men were asleep, his enemy sowed thistles all through the wheat and slipped away before dawn. When the first green shoots appeared and the grain began to form, the thistles showed up, too.



“The farmhands came to the farmer and said, ‘Master, that was clean seed you planted, wasn’t it? Where did these thistles come from?’  
“He answered, ‘Some enemy did this.’

“The farmhands asked, ‘Should we weed out the thistles?’

“He said, ‘No, if you weed the thistles, you’ll pull up the wheat, too. Let them grow together until harvest time. Then I’ll instruct the harvesters to pull up the thistles and tie them in bundles for the fire, then gather the wheat and put it in the barn.’”



All Jesus did that day was tell stories - a long storytelling afternoon. Jesus then dismissed the congregation and went into the house. His disciples came in and said, “Explain to us that story of the thistles in the field.”

So he explained. “The farmer who sows the pure seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the pure seeds are subjects of the kingdom, the thistles are subjects of the Devil, and the enemy who sows them is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the age, the curtain of history. The harvest hands are angels.

“The picture of thistles pulled up and burned is a scene from the final act. The Son of Man will send his angels, weed out the thistles from his kingdom, pitch them in the trash, and be done with them. They are going to complain to high heaven, but nobody is going to listen. At the same time, ripe, holy lives will mature and adorn the kingdom of their Father.

“Are you listening to this? Really listening?”

“Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words”

St Francis of Assisi