

St. Peter's Hamilton
Sixteenth Sunday Of the Year
19th July 2026

Our Parish Mission

All are welcome in this place
Behold Love's amazing grace
All are welcome
Bring your hopes, bring your dreams
Mercy flows and love redeems

5.41am

Just to let you know I am going on holiday on Tuesday. I will
be back on Saturday 8th August for the 10am Mass.

The Holy Ghost Fathers are looking after the parish from
Tuesday 21st to 27th and Fr. Brown will take over from 28th
to 7th August.

The next Bulletin will be Thursday 13th August.

This Sunday's Readings

First Reading

Wisdom 12:13,16-19

God has shown himself to be a God of justice and mercy.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 86:5-6,9-10,15-16

A prayer to God for mercy.

Second Reading

Romans 8:26-27

The Spirit intercedes for us with God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:24-43 (shorter form: Matthew 13:24-30)

Jesus offers parables about the Kingdom of Heaven and explains them to his disciples.

Background on the Gospel Reading

In today's Gospel, Jesus offers three parables to describe the Kingdom of Heaven. He also explains why he speaks to the crowds in parables and interprets the parable of the sower for the disciples. This reading is a continuation of Jesus' discourse that we began reading last Sunday.

All three parables use commonplace experiences to describe aspects of the Kingdom of Heaven. The first parable is longer and more detailed than the next two, and it alerts us to the two-fold reality of the Kingdom of Heaven. The beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven can be found in this world. The fruition of the Kingdom of Heaven, however, will not be realized until the final judgment. In the meantime, as Jesus' explanation to the disciples cautions, any effort to judge the progress of the Kingdom of Heaven is premature. Only God, in the final judgment, will distinguish the fruit of the Kingdom of Heaven and offer its reward.

The second and third parables call to our attention the abundance that will result from the small beginnings of the

Kingdom of Heaven. Just as a mustard seed—the smallest of all seeds—will become a large bush, so too God will bring his Kingdom to full bloom. As a small amount of yeast will leaven the entire batch of bread, so too God will bring about the expansion of his Kingdom. In each case the image is of the superabundance that God brings out of even the smallest of signs of the Kingdom.

Contained within these parables are words of caution as well as words of consolation. In the parable of the sower we are warned against judging others. To judge and uproot the “weeds” prematurely will harm the wheat; final judgment rests with God. In the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast, we are consoled by the message that God can work wonders and produce abundance from even the smallest beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven.

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading

1 Kings 3:5,7-12

Solomon pleases God when he asks for a wise and understanding heart to better govern the people.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 119:57,72,76-77,127-130

The law of the Lord is more precious than silver and gold.

Second Reading

Romans 8:28-30

God chose us to be conformed to the image of his Son.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:44-52 (shorter form: Matthew 13:44-46)

Jesus teaches about the Kingdom of Heaven.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel concludes three weeks of readings from the 13th Chapter of Matthew's Gospel. Throughout these three weeks we have heard Jesus teaching crowds about the kingdom of heaven, and we have heard Jesus interpret some of his teachings for the disciples. In this week's Gospel, Jesus offers three more short parables.

The first two parables describe the great value of the kingdom of heaven. In the first parable, Jesus says that the kingdom of heaven is like a buried treasure that is worth possessing even if it means giving up everything else. In the second parable, Jesus proposes that the kingdom of heaven is like a pearl of great worth for which one will sell everything else to possess. These parables teach us that we are to place everything we value in the service of the pursuit of the Kingdom of God.

The third parable that Jesus proposes in today's Gospel is different from the first two, but it is reminiscent of the parable of the sower heard in last week's Gospel. The kingdom of heaven is compared to fishing with a wide net. After the fish have been collected, the good fish are kept and the bad fish are thrown away; so too, in the final judgment, will the wicked and the righteous be separated.

Today's Gospel concludes with a curious statement about the scribe who understands the kingdom of heaven. Here a metaphor is offered: this scribe is like the head of a household who "brings from his storeroom both the new

and the old.” The scribes referred to here are experts of Mosaic law. It is possible that Jesus is here instructing the early Christian community on how to proceed in the interpretation of Jewish law with respect to Jesus’ “new” teaching. Jesus’ teaching about the kingdom of heaven does not replace the Jewish tradition; it interprets it in a different light.

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading

Isaiah 55:1-3

The Lord will renew his covenant with the descendents of David.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 145:8-9,15-18

The Lord provides for his people.

Second Reading

Romans 8:35,37-39

Nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 14:13-21

Jesus feeds the crowd with five loaves and two fish.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we jump ahead in our reading of Matthew's Gospel to Chapter 14. Last week we heard Jesus conclude his discourse with the crowds about the Kingdom of Heaven. In Matthew's narrative, Jesus then leaves the crowds and returns to Nazareth, where he is rejected. Matthew then recounts the story of John the Baptist's arrest and

execution at the hands of Herod. Today's Gospel reading begins at this point.

Upon hearing the news of the death of John the Baptist, Jesus seeks to withdraw, but the crowds follow him. Jesus reaches out to them in compassion and heals the sick. At the end of a long day, the disciples encourage Jesus to send the crowds away so that they might find provisions for themselves. Jesus again responds with compassion for the crowd. Jesus tells his disciples to provide food for the crowd. The disciples reply with a report of the meagerness of their own provisions—five loaves and two fish. The result is the very familiar miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fish. Matthew's Gospel tells us that 5,000 men were fed, and this number does not even include the women and children.

Jesus' blessing brought abundance from the meager provisions of the disciples. In this action, Jesus offers us a sign of the Kingdom of Heaven that he has been teaching about in the parables. A feast results from the smallest of portions—remember the mustard seed and the yeast. In this miracle we witness an example for Christian life and ministry. Even the smallest of offerings can produce abundant results when placed in the service of the Kingdom of Heaven.

We find the story of Jesus' multiplication of the loaves and the fish in each of the four Gospels. In the Gospels of Mark and Matthew, Jesus performs this same miracle on two separate occasions. The story of this miracle is an

anticipation of the Eucharist in which we are fed by the abundant grace of God. The importance of the Eucharist has been a defining element of Christian life from the very beginning.

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading

1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a

The Lord appears to Elijah in a whisper.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 85:9-14

The Lord is the source of salvation.

Second Reading

Romans 9:1-5

Paul speaks of the blessings that have come to the Israelites.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus walks on water, and the disciples acknowledge him as the Son of God.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel directly follows last week's account of Jesus feeding a crowd of more than 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fish. For the sake of the crowds, Jesus had postponed his time of solitude. Now, at last, Jesus finds some time for quiet and prayer. He sends his disciples ahead of him by boat, dismisses the crowds, and then withdraws to the mountain to pray.

The disciples do not fare well. They struggle to weather the

wind and waves, making little progress in their journey. We are reminded of a previous story in [Chapter 8](#) of Matthew's Gospel, when Jesus calms the seas. This time, however, Jesus does not calm the seas, and the disciples do not express fear until they see Jesus walking toward them on the water. In this story it is not the storm that is feared but the sight of Jesus before them, whom they mistake for a ghost.

Clues like these suggest that this story is about the disciples' growing understanding of the identity of Jesus. In continuity with [last week's Gospel](#) about the feeding of the multitude, today's Gospel is also about what the disciples' faith in Jesus will enable them to do. In last week's Gospel, when the disciples see the crowds, they ask Jesus to send the crowds away. Jesus turns the situation around, telling the disciples to feed the crowd with the provisions that they have. Both of these Gospels tell us much about ministry.

Jesus calls to the disciples and calms their fears. He is not a ghost. The impulsive Peter seeks proof that the person is indeed Jesus. He asks Jesus to call him out onto the water, and Jesus grants this request. Peter's fear and doubt overtake him, however, once he is walking on the water. Jesus reaches out to Peter and saves him. When Jesus and Peter enter the boat, Matthew reports that the wind ceases, and the disciples confess that Jesus is the Son of God.

Faith in Jesus will enable the disciples to do the work that

Jesus has done. Peter walks on water. The five loaves and two fish feed a multitude of people. The disciples can and will participate in the work of the kingdom of heaven. When Peter fears and doubts the person of Jesus, however, he falters. Peter's example teaches us that true Christian ministry emerges from the faith that Jesus is the Messiah, God's only Son.

Funeral Arrangements

Ruth Leabody

Tomorrow 17th July Funeral Mass 2pm

Next Weeks Mass Programme

Monday: No Mass

Tuesday : 10am Mass

Wednesday: 10am Mass

Thursday: 10am Mass

Friday: 10am Mass

Saturday: 10am Mass

This Week's Rota

Readers

4pm Vigil: Betty Cornes

9.30am: T. Kennedy

11am: P. McKeown

Eucharistic Ministers

4pm Vigil: S. Boyle, M. Kilpatrick & E. Gold
9.30am: K. O'Neill, M. Devanney & C. Bonnar
11am: S. Russell, M. McGuire & T. McKenzie

Weekend of 25th/26th July

Readers

4pm Vigil: M. Rodgers
9.30am: P. Davies
11am: P. Barton

Eucharistic Ministers

4pm Vigil: B. Cornes, Anne Conway & A. Gebbie
9.30am: K. O'Neill, T. Kennedy & C. Bonnar
11am: M. McGuire D. Lee & S. Russell

Weekend of 1st & 2nd August

Readers

4pm Vigil: J. Logan
9.30am: T. Kennedy
11am: D. Lee

Eucharistic Ministers

4pm Vigil: S. Boyle, M. Kilpatrick & M. Halbert
9.30am: K. O'Neill, R. Gemmill & C. Bonnar
11am: H. Govers, M. McGuire & T. McKenzie

Weekend of 8th & 9th August

Readers

4pm Vigil: J. Logan

9.30am: P. Davies

11am: L. McIntosh

Eucharistic Ministers

4pm Vigil: S. Boyle, A. Conway & A. Gebbie

9.30am: K. O'Neill, T. Kennedy & C. Bonnar

11am: H. Govers, M. McGuire & D. Lee

Weekday 10am Mass Readers Rota

Tuesday: P. Davies

Wednesday: B. Cornes

Thursday: P. McKeown

Friday: J. McCluskey

Saturday: A. Devlin

Please pray for the following:

Sick:

Margaret Callaghan Doreen Cleary, Neil Boyle,
John Rielly Molly Strang, James Clark,
Fr. Michael McLaughlin, Patricia Henderson,
Joanna Maier (Connecticut USA), Therese Gilgunn Tressy
Callaghan, Suzanne McMurray,
Mary Coyle, Lesley Watson (Spain) Maureen McHugh,

Margaret Burke, Marie White, Kathleen Daly,
John McGuire, Jill Brown, Karen Pritchatt,
Louise Newton, Faith Lyndsey, Jill Brown,
Marie McGuire, James Morton, Paul Kearney,
Thomas Daly, Andrew McCluskey,
Premature Baby Vincent McDowell,
Bill Allan, Gudren Berk (Germany),
Jaqueline McReynolds, Mary Morrison, Helen Howarth
(Easterhouse), Margaret Loan, Avril McCluskey,
Carol Corr, Thomas Kennedy, David Borland, Margaret Park,
and all our sick.

Recently Dead:

Ruth Leabody, Mary Coyle, Bobby Frew, Jim Kennedy
(Strathaven), John McKenzie,

Month Minds & Anniversaries:

Ann & Hugh Rodgers, Pat Dougan, John Smith, William
Smith, Peter McGarry, Raymond Findlater,

Please if you could make sure all month minds and
anniversaries are handed in no later than Wednesday Night.
If they come in after that they will be read out at Mass on
Sunday. If the recently dead come in after the Wednesday
deadline they too will be read out at Mass on the Sunday.

Powerpoint Remote Control:

I am also looking for Volunteers to move the

power-points on during the Sunday Masses,
Vigil 4pm, 9.30am & 11am.

It is very easy to operate, if we get enough volunteers for each Mass we would put a wee rota together. It would take a wee bit of pressure off me.

Gift Aid

If you wish to sign up for Gift Aid. It is a great way to help the parish financially, costing you absolutely nothing. If you wish to sign up contact myself or Doreen Lee and we will give you the form and hand it back as you can and we can get it organised. As I said it costs you nothing, but helps the parish so much.

Baptism/Wedding Meetings: THURSDAY 6pm & 7pm. JUST
TURN UP

The Bulletin is available by email

I can't thank you enough for your generosity to the Parish. I really appreciate it. Please keep it up, Once again Thank
You.

Fr. Frank

