
We, the people of Boonah Catholic parish,
acknowledge the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this nation.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which our parish is located
and where we conduct our mission and ministry.

We pay our respects to ancestors and elders, past and present.

As a local community of faith within the Church of Brisbane,
we are committed to honouring Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples'
unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas
and their rich contribution to society.



Parable of the Sower
PIETER BRUEGEL THE ELDER, 1557,
oil on wood panel
73.7 cm × 102.9 cm
Timken Museum of Art, San Diego

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parable_of_the_Sower_\(Bruegel\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parable_of_the_Sower_(Bruegel))

Warm greetings to the members of the Boonah Catholic community and beyond on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ.

1. REFLECTIONS ON THE SUNDAY WORD.



The **first** reflection for this Sunday is from the *Catholic WomenPreach* website and the preacher is Gina Scaringella OP.

Gina is a Sister of Saint Dominic of Caldwell, New Jersey, who professed first vows in August 2019. She currently provides editorial and research support for the study of the restoration of women to the diaconate. As a Dominican, she embraces the sacred call to preach God's love with hope that others will receive and embody this love. She preaches through both spoken and written word in parish and retreat settings as well as for her Caldwell congregation.

She has served in campus ministry, retreat ministry, RCIA, hospice, ESL study, and communications. An enthusiast for proper, effective use of language, she was a medical copyeditor for 16 years before entering religious life. In 2020, she copyedited *Presence: A Journal of Catholic Poetry*. She spent 10 years teaching foreign languages in Catholic high schools and colleges. The seed for this work was planted during an Ignatian retreat sponsored by her alma mater, Georgetown University, when she discerned a nudge toward this path. She holds a bachelor's degree in Italian from Georgetown and a master's degree, also in Italian, from Rutgers University.

A New Jersey native, she has spent many graced moments near the ocean, a place that never fails to awaken her to the goodness of God.

Her homily concludes:

In today's Gospel, the mustard seed that Jesus speaks of also gives a message about God's patience and promise. This seed is tiny, but, like the cedar branch, it too can grow into something so big that, according to Jesus, birds of the sky can find shade in it.

So, people of God, keep building! All of our efforts mean something. Ultimately, God is the one who will grow life, ever so patiently, from tiny seeds and little branches. So, plant the seed. Welcome the green leaves. Pray "Thy kingdom come," and know that your prayer will be answered. Life insists because God insists.

Here is the link to her homily:

<https://www.catholicwomenpreach.org/preaching/06132021>

The [second reflection](#) is from Br. Julian McDonald CFC, an Australian.

Frederick Buechner is a Presbyterian minister, who is now well into his 90s. He's also a poet, novelist, essayist and theologian with more than thirty books to his name. He once remarked: *Is it possible, I wonder, to say that it's only when you hear the Gospel as a wild and marvellous joke that you really hear it at all? Heard as anything else, the Gospel is the Church's thing, the pastor's thing, the lecturer's thing. Heard as a joke. - high and unbidden and ringing with laughter - it can only be God's thing* (Buechner, Frederick, *Telling the Truth: The Gospel as Comedy, Tragedy and Fairy Tale*, Harper Collins 1977).



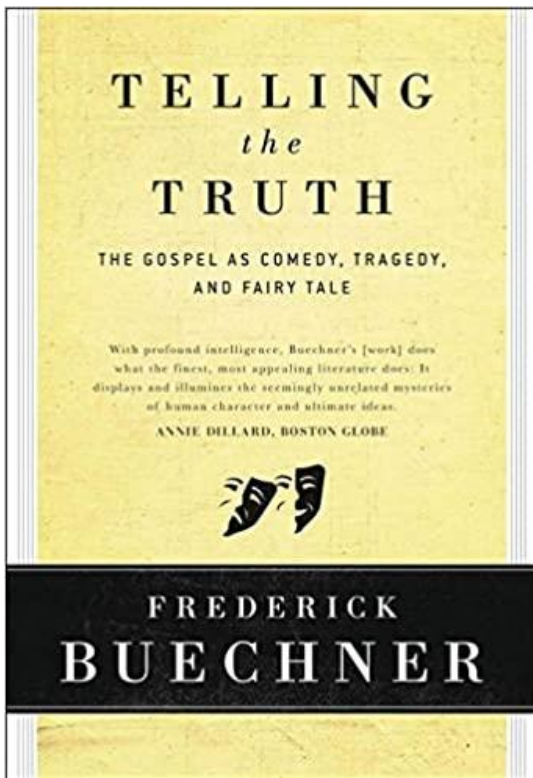
While Jesus was not a stand-up comedian, the parables he told are closer to jokes in their style than they are to serious sermonising. Jokes and cartoons often take a familiar characteristic of a person or thing and stretch or distort that characteristic so much that we laugh at it. Parables are a bit like jokes and cartoons in that they shake up our easily-made assumptions and sabotage comfortable views and ideas that we otherwise often fail to question. Parables are something more than moral tales dressed up as narrative prose. Moreover, their impact can easily be blunted when we try to explain them. If we fail to swallow them whole, we can end up subverting them, just as we can rob a joke or a cartoon of its humour when we set about explaining it. There is something abnormal or incongruous about a woman's turning her house upside down as she searches for a ten-cent coin, or an elderly father's running down the road to welcome home a wayward son who has wasted half the family fortune. I suggest that Jesus meant his parables to be taken whole and given room to stretch, challenge and disturb us. Their modern equivalent would surely be closer to comic strips like *Insanity Streak* and *Non Sequitur* than to a *Sudoku* puzzle.

Parables, by virtue of their very ordinary and yet unexpected images and through the linkages they make with our day-to-day experiences mess up our assumptions and jolt us into asking: "What exactly is Jesus getting at?" After all, he had become accustomed to having large crowds come to listen to him. What's more, many of them would have been familiar with the proclamations of the prophet Ezekiel, who, at a time when the people of Israel were living in exile in Babylon, had given Israel a message of comfort and encouragement by predicting the nation's future greatness: "I will take from the crest of the cedar...a tender shoot, and plant it on a high and lofty mountain...It shall put forth branches and bear fruit, and become a majestic cedar. Birds of every kind shall dwell beneath it, every winged thing in the shade of its boughs" (Ezekiel 17, 22-23). It's not by coincidence that this is from today's first reading. So, when Jesus addressed the crowd gathered around him, we can only guess at their anticipation when he started with: With what can we compare the reign of God, or what image will help to present it?" (Mark 4, 30) But surely their jaws would have dropped when he followed up immediately with: "It is like mustard seed which, when planted in the soil, is the smallest of all the earth's seeds, yet once it is sown, springs up to become the largest of shrubs, with branches big enough for the birds of the sky to build nests in its shade" (Mark 4, 31-32). Surely, there must have been mutterings of "You've got to be joking!" and heads shaking in bewilderment: "Mustard, the greatest of all shrubs???" After all, mustard bushes grew across the length and breadth of Palestine, and were regarded as a noxious weed. No farmer in his right mind would have sown mustard seed in his fields.

But surely that's the point. The growth of God's kingdom is so unexpected and far-reaching that only God or someone close to God could dream it up. It will spread like wild-fire or, to mix the metaphors, like out-of-control mustard bushes. The joke is so outrageous that in Frederick Buechner's words "it can only be God's thing."

And this is only one part of God's joke for the world. It began with an unmarried mother from an obscure town of Nazareth giving birth to royalty in the equally obscure town of Bethlehem. And that royal child grew to be a leader, whose catch-cry was "service", and who, for all his efforts, was executed as a criminal. And the biggest joke of all, that many of us still cannot comprehend, was the resurrection - God's vindication of all that Jesus had said and done.

But let's not forget the other parable which opens today's gospel-reading: "This is how it is with the reign of God. A man scatters seed on the ground. He goes to bed and gets up day after day. Through it all, the seed sprouts and grows without his knowing how it happens. The soil produces of itself first the blade, then the ear, finally the ripe wheat in the ear" (Mark 4, 26-27).



This is a parable for all of us would-be messiahs, who set about with vigour our responsibilities of being disciples of Jesus. While our best efforts are not to be discounted, none of us can force anyone to grow in faith, none of us can claim credit for furthering the reign of God. To work for peace, harmony, reconciliation and compassion among and between the people of our world is a laudable undertaking, but achieving those things is ultimately out of our control. That's the work of God, so let's not delude ourselves into thinking that God is at our beck and call, that we can control God, even with the best of intentions.

What's the message from all this, then? I suggest it's a little like engaging with a literary text. Many of us have had the experience of dissecting the text of *King Lear* or *Hamlet* in our efforts to come to grips with the messages that Shakespeare intended to convey. But there is no better way of understanding *King Lear* or *Hamlet* than to engage with them as they are presented in a theatre. In the same way, parables will impact on us only when we let them wash over us, only when we open ourselves to experience them.

I leave it to you to decide whether the crowds or the disciples got the better deal and whether Mark himself fully understood Jesus' use of parables. Perhaps he just thought that the disciples were just slow learners: "By means of many such parables Jesus taught them (the crowds) the message in a way they could understand. To them (the crowds) he spoke only by way of parable, while he kept explaining things privately to his disciples" (Mark 4, 33-34).

2. FRANCIS, THE COMIC STRIP by Pat Marrin – 8th June 2021.



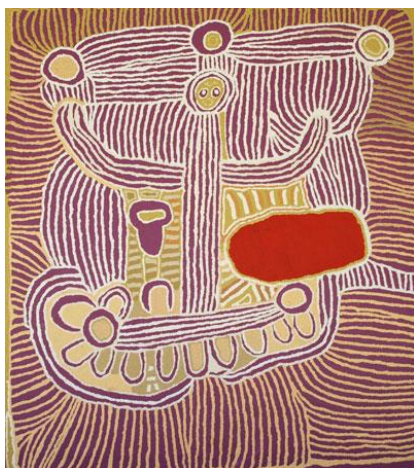
3. *Boonah Parish happenings . . .*

from commands to invitations,
from laws to ideals,
from threats to persuasion,
from coercion to conscience,
from monologue to conversation,
from ruling to serving,
from withdrawn to integrated,
from vertical and top-down to horizontal,
from exclusion to inclusion,
from hostility to friendship,
from static to changing,
from passive acceptance to active engagement,
from prescriptive to principled,
from defined to open-ended,
from behaviour-modification to conversion of heart,
from the dictates of law to the dictates of conscience,
from external conformity to the joyful pursuit of holiness.

When these elements are taken in the aggregate, they indicate a model of spirituality. This, they say, is what good Catholics should look like and this is how they should behave. That means the elements indicate what the Church should look like and how it should behave. This is a significant model-shift. This is a teaching of the Second Vatican Council.

- Fr. John O'Malley SJ, 2006

Our **SUNDAY EUCHARIST** schedule is:



Saturday
5.00pm **Boonah church**

Sunday
7.30am **Peak Crossing church**
9.30am **Boonah church**

NB: Next Sunday 20th June, 7.30am Sunday Mass is celebrated at Harrisville church – 3rd Sunday of the month

Desert Eucharist by Linda Syddick Napaltjarri (b. 1937)

Our **WEEKDAY EUCHARIST** schedule for this week, the 10th week Ordinary Time, is:

Monday	14 th June	8.00am, Boonah church
Tuesday	15 th June	9.15am, Boonah church <i>with students from parish school</i>
Wednesday	16 th June	10.30am, <i>Funeral Mass – Thyrlene Devin deceased,</i> Boonah church followed by 12.00pm <i>Rite of Committal,</i> Boonah cemetery. 6.00pm, Peak Crossing church <i>followed by dinner at</i> <i>The Peak Pub</i>
Thursday	17 th June	8.00am, Boonah church



We pray with and for those who are sick in our parish and beyond: all across the globe infected with COVID-19; former pastor of Boonah parish Fr. Ellis Clifford, Chris Healy, Paul White, Arthur Devin, Liliana Toohill, Libby Shields, Marko Babic, Dermot Peters, Max Gardiner, Bernice Lippiatt, Pat Toohill, Trish Merlehan, Bernadette Pinchin, Simon Greatrex, Neil O'Connor, Cate Mitten, Bernice Brault (nee Gilloway), Paula Ebrington, Fletcher Casey, Jill Archer, Matthew Bowden and sick

members of parish families and those beyond our parish boundaries.

We celebrate the Funeral Mass for **Thyrlene Devin** in Boonah on Wednesday at 10.30am. Thyrlene and Arthur have lived in parish since 1963 and have been very active in the life of the parish and community. *All are welcome to celebrate!* May she rest in peace.

We also extend our sympathy to Maureen Hancock and her family on the death of her brother-in-law **Michael Cranley** (Perth). We remember his wife Kath and their family at this time. May he rest in peace.

- **EVERY SUNDAY** when we gather for the Sunday eucharist, there are baskets (of some or another) at the entrances of our two churches.

We are invited to bring a gift of non-perishable food or goods for people seeking help from our local St. Vincent de Paul.

There is a great response each Sunday from the assembly at Harrisville. *Thanks!*

There is also an emerging and positive response from the two assemblies who gather at Boonah. *Thanks!*

I know the local conference very much appreciates our support.

I was hungry and you fed me
Matthew 25



- **THANK YOU** to all who support the weekly Sunday collection. Your gifts enable the parish to meet its expenses and to function like an everyday household. If you would like to give weekly or monthly in a planned way, please see me.

The new envelopes for the new giving year will be available from next Sunday 13th June.

A few people have seen me about giving electronically. *Thank you!* Please ask me for paperwork if you would like to give this way.

- **THANK YOU** to those amongst us who, week by week, *send out* the FlockNote invites, *prepare* the churches for the celebration of Mass, *coordinate* the arrival and departure of the assembly especially on Sundays, *exercise* liturgical ministry in necessary ways (readers, sacristans, servers, organists, PowerPoint preparer and operators), and *clean* the churches after the celebration of the liturgy as we are required to do in this time of COVID-19.



- In Term II parish school students in the middle and upper grades have been participating in the celebration of Tuesday Mass starting at 9.15am. This is a good time for the students and staff. The next date is this Tuesday 15th June, 9.15am.

- After conversation with the people who gather on Sunday at our Harrisville church, we agreed to begin gathering once again for Sunday Mass at Peak Crossing Church from the start of June. **This week's Sunday Mass is the second Sunday of the month, 13th June, 7.30am, and is at Peak Crossing church. Next Sunday's Mass, 20th June, 7.30am, at Harrisville church.**

▪ On the first Sunday of June at the 9.30am Mass in Boonah, (6th June), we welcomed young people of our parish into various ministries for our monthly youth-ministered Mass. Thanks to the preparation undertaken by Clare Brandon and Mel Hoskins. Thanks to the younger parishioners who fulfilled the ministry of reading and announcing the petitions in the General Intercessions.

▪ On Thursday last week, Kylie Starling, Safeguarding Advisor - Office for Safeguarding Services from the Archdiocese visited our parish to conduct a safeguarding review. It took hours and was an audit.

It was very helpful for the life of the parish and we will be revising a few of our actions regarding safeguarding. The Archdiocese has new material available which will be put up on the noticeboards over the next week. Some of the legal requirements have changed and the Archdiocese has revised some of its requirements.

I was reminded once again that safeguarding is OUR responsibility. Our parish must be safe for children and for adults who are at-risk. I was very glad that most of our people in ministry have the required documentation. As we renew Care and Concern, there are some additional requirements to follow-up so that we are compliant with church requirements.

▪ Last Wednesday the ordained clergy within the South Country Deanery met here in Boonah. It was good to welcome the pastors ministering in the region: Ipswich Catholic Community, Gatton-Laidley areas now Our Lady of the Valley parish, Esk, Boonah, Booval, Goodna and Springfield.

As mentioned last week, the parish of Our Lady of the Valley has enjoyed the presence and ministrations of deacon Francis Fernandes who has been appointed there since ordination to the diaconate on 13th November 2020. Francis will be ordained a presbyter on Tuesday 29th June at the Cathedral of St. Stephen. Invitations were sent out this week.

Some of might like to pray for Francis:

God of all creation, we ask your blessing on our brother, Francis, whom you have called to the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

Lord Jesus, we ask that you support him with your presence and fill him with grace to serve you faithfully.

Gracious Spirit, unite us in service with those whom you have called. Open our hearts to encourage our brother to pursue your calling. Open his heart to hear your call to this most Holy Sacrament. Amen.



4. Church must learn to listen to families, pope says

Junno Arocho Esteves Jun 9, 2021, *CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE*

ROME — To truly reach out to families, the Catholic Church first must learn to listen to their concerns rather than doling out theoretical solutions to life's harsh realities, Pope Francis said. In a video message sent June 9 to participants of an online conference dedicated to his apostolic exhortation "Amoris Laetitia," the pope said the church must "set aside any 'merely theoretical message without connection to people's real problems,' as well as the idea that evangelization is reserved for a pastoral elite."

"In the midst of the difficulties caused by the pandemic, which lacerate the life of the family and 'its intimate communion of life and love,' the family today is more than ever a sign of the times, and the church is invited above all to listen actively to families, and at the same time to involve them as subjects of pastoral care," he said.

The June 9-12 forum, titled "Where are we with Amoris Laetitia?" is one of several events for "Amoris Laetitia Family Year," commemorating the pope's 2016 apostolic exhortation on family life. Representatives of family ministry offices of bishops' conferences, associations and international ecclesial movements were invited to the three-day virtual event, the dicastery said. According to the dicastery's website, the forum "will deal with marriage preparation, the training of accompanying persons, the education of children, conjugal spirituality, family missionary work and pastoral paths to accompany, discern and integrate fragilities."

In his video message, the pope said the virtual event "represents an essential moment of dialogue" in which the church and the laity "can come together to listen to the concrete needs of families and to help each other in undertaking the processes necessary to renew the proclamation of the church."

To bring God's love to families, he explained, the church needs the help of families themselves and their concrete experience of life and communion. "We need spouses alongside the pastors, to walk with other families, to help those who are weaker, to announce that, even in difficulties, Christ is present in the sacrament of marriage to give tenderness, patience and hope to all, in every situation of life."

Young Catholics, he added, also must "see with their own eyes the love of Christ alive and present in the love of spouses" who give witness through their lives that love is possible. "Just as the spouses Aquila and Priscilla were valuable collaborators of St. Paul in his mission, so too today many married couples, and even entire families with children, can become valid witnesses to accompany other families, create community, and sow seeds of communion among the peoples receiving the first evangelization, contributing in a decisive way to the proclamation of the kerygma". Much like the priesthood, marriage serves to "build up the people of God," Pope Francis said, adding that families are the "domestic church, the place in which the sacramental presence of Christ acts between spouses and between parents and children."

By concentrating on the formation of laypeople, especially married couples and families, the church can help them understand “the importance of their ecclesial commitment” to be a sign of Christ’s presence in the lives of others.

“We pastors must let ourselves be enlightened by the Spirit, so that this salvific proclamation may be realized by married couples who are often there, ready, but not called upon,” the pope said. “If, on the other hand, we call to them, we call them to work with us, if we give them space, they can make their contribution to the construction of the ecclesial fabric.”

5. FRANCIS, THE COMIC STRIP by Pat Marrin – 10th June 2021.



6. This weekend has seen a Clydesdale Show at the Boonah Showgrounds. Last weekend was the Campdraft and the week before was the Boonah Show. Enjoy some fantastic pics . . .







In closing, I encourage us all to book in for the COVID-19 vaccination process as soon as possible. This is urgent and important. *Have a good week!*

John pastor, Boonah Catholic community.