

A serene sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and a reflection on the water's surface. The sky is a mix of soft orange, yellow, and light blue. In the foreground, an open book with white pages and a dark cover lies flat on a wooden surface. The text on the pages is faint but visible. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

**Getting Ready for Sunday!**

**16 June 2024**

# The Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mark 4:26-34



# Ordinary Time

The season of Easter ended on the Feast of Pentecost.

The disciples, gifted with and by the Holy Spirit, now set out on the mission given to them by Jesus: to share the Good News with all whom they knew and met.

As we move from the season of Easter, we must take on this same mission with the gifts given to us by the Holy Spirit.

We will bear much fruit in our lives if we are true to ourselves as people created by God for a great purpose.

The gift of courage gives us the strength to be faithful to God's call and God's love – provided that we accept the gift!



The colour for ordinary time is Green. It is the colour of growth.

Ordinary time is a time of growth after the experience of Easter.

Today's Gospel is about growth!



Jesus speaks to the disciples in PARABLES (stories with a message about God).

Everyone loves a story!

We learn from stories.

Most of the parables are about animals (sheep, shepherds, goats...) or about plants (wheat, weeds, mustard...) because most of the people were shepherds, farmers or fishermen.

Jesus uses the images of nature to explain God and God's kingdom to us.

We hear two parables this week:

*The Parable of the Growing Seed*

*The Parable of the Mustard Seed*

# Jesus said:

The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how.



Every time we share Good News of God's love we spread the seeds of God's kingdom!

God's love grows when we share it!

The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'



When we share God's love and message with others, it will take time for the message to find a home in the heart of other people and in our homes!

Jesus also said, ‘With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it?’



It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.’

Are you ready to receive the seed of God’s love in your heart today?



## The Use of Parables

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Jesus speaks to us in private when we sit with Him in quiet prayer!



When are you going to sit in quiet prayer today?



## **Bible Search**

**Read Mark 4:26-34 in your family Bible**

# SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

## Mark 4:26-34

If you sow seeds, or watch plants grow, you have ample opportunities to pause in wonder at the whole process of growth. It takes place imperceptibly and comes to fruition in beautiful flowers, majestic trees and abundant harvests.

Jesus uses this as a parable about the growth of the Kingdom of God, the kingdom of right relationships with God and with one another. There too growth is slow, development is imperceptible, and then without realising it you have a mature relationship. Recall the stages of such development in your life and relationships, and give thanks.

In the second parable Jesus invites us to reflect on the importance and significance of relationships in our lives as they grow and mature. This is true both of our relationship with God and with others around us. When have you found a relationship in which you could ‘make nests in its shade’?

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# Consider



*Where is growth happening in your life?*

# Praying to Jesus

Pray for the grace to accept the seeds of God's love in your life.



Ask God to help you to be willing to grow.

