

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA YASS PARISH



JULY 2021

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As part of God's people we are called by God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to share the love and grace of Jesus Christ, within our community through regular worship, faithful witness and humble service.

REFLECTION:

People of Faith Need to Keep Growing – Sunday June 13 2021, Pentecost 3.

My brothers and I can tell you that our parents were great gardeners – Mum with flowers and Dad with vegetables. They sowed, planted and nurtured growth, making great use of the resources available to them such as manure, blood and bone, water and weeding. The results rewarded their interest and labour.

It is easy to transfer that example across to portion of our Gospel lesson for worship and beyond today.

St Mark Chapter 4 verses 30 to 32 record Jesus telling his listeners about what God's Kingdom is like in a Parable we know as the Parable of the Mustard Seed.

We should take notice of what the sower of this tiny seed does. He sows the seed; he waits; he harvests.

That has much to do with you and me. Jesus sows the seed of faith and his call to follow him in each of us. He watches over that seed of faith and love and responds to our presence in his Church as a sign of our willingness to be identified with him. Just like the sower of the mustard seed watches over it and identifies with it through patience and harvest.

We are reminded again, through this Parable, that the value of the tiny seed can be easily overlooked, but its being sown is crucial for without it nothing happens.

As followers of Jesus, you and I can often think our efforts and influence are small compared to others.

However, one of the points Jesus would have us recognise is that the mustard seed grows to a big tree and becomes crucial to those who need it. What examples might we draw from the Church's story that will remind us of this fact? Well, no matter what we think of them today – the Church started the Trade Union movement; out of a concern for children's well-being

the Church started Sunday Schools, despite their modern-day demise; and from early times the Church started hospitals. And the stories continued....

Throughout all of this, there is one important factor about the mustard seed – it needs to be re-sown annually. Hence, you and I need to keep growing as disciples.

As I said in the introduction many resources are brought into play in the growth of what has been planted – manure, water, weeding. We have a number of resources upon which we as Christians can draw. We can pray – individually or collectively, we can open our Bible and read, ask and search the meaning of its words telling us what God is doing and can do, we have each other’s fellowship in caring words, thoughts and actions, we can sing hymns and faith songs to ourselves or collectively, we can support initiatives in charity, we can suggest initiatives and so it goes under our Lord’s guidance and leadership. In one sense that is what Jesus’ Parables were designed to accomplish.

Inherent in this call to follow and be a sower of seeds like the mustard is that the sower or planter does so, with a sense of anticipation. If it were not so, I wouldn’t be here preaching, nor would you be here at worship if we were not hoping that growth for our Lord’s sake and Kingdom would happen.

So, no matter what, we keep at our discipleship trusting in God that he is at work. We live with the lovely mystery that through all of the sowing and planting we grow in faith and service that we will contribute to the harvest through God’s grace.

As St Paul reminded the people of Jesus in Galatia there is an outcome of planting, watering and God’s involvement. He described it as the fruit of the Spirit. What fruit it is – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, fidelity, gentleness and self-control.

I believe we are guided by Jesus to see that as well as the learnings we can take from the Parable of the Mustard Seed there is another important message from it for us to take and keep in our faith, mind and heart today and tomorrow. It is this – this is a Parable of reassurance and encouragement telling us that what we do it is worth the effort and patient waiting for the seed and its growth to take effect.

To draw this reassurance and encouragement together I want to share with you the words of one of the best writers of the commentaries on St Mark’s Gospel.

Lamar Williamson, Jr. formerly a Professor of Biblical Studies commenting on this Parable writes, and I share . . .

“Our efforts sometimes seem to be in vain, but in the end we shall marvel, as a sower at harvest. Growth and change occur while we sleep, we know not how.”

That is why we, as people of faith, need to keep growing! (*Rev. Dr. Douglas Parker*)

Church Council News:

Church Council will meet on 30th June and news will be in the next newsletter. A big thank you to the Elders, the Teams and everyone who works behind the scenes to keep our worship services happening. We are enjoying the variety of preachers as we continue to be “the people of God in this place.” (*Ruth Thompson – Secretary – Yass Parish Church Council*)

JULY LECTIONARY READINGS:

DATE	DAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
4	Pentecost 6 (14)	2 Sm 5: 1-5, 9-10	Ps 48	2 Cor 12: 2-10	Mk 6: 1-13
11	Pentecost 7 (15)	2 Sm 6: 1-5, 12b-19	Ps 24	Eph 1: 3-14	Mk 6: 14-29
18	Pentecost 8 (16)	2 Sm 7: 1-14a	Ps 89: 20-37	Eph 2: 11-22	Mk 6: 30-34, 53-56
25	Pentecost 9 (17)	2 Sm 11:1-15	Ps 14	Eph 3: 14-21	Jn 6: 1-21

July Roster: Yass Congregation

DATE	WORSHIP LEADER	BIBLE READERS	PRAYER OF INTERCESSION	MORNING TEA	FLOWERS
4	Team 1	Team 1	Team 1	Ruth Thompson	R. Thompson
11	Team 2	Team 2	Team 2	Sandra & Gordon	A. Ranyard
18	Rev Dr John Braakman	Tim Holmes	Della Armour	Della & Ray Armour	S. Henshaw
25	Bible Society	Isobel Wykes	Sandra Henshaw	Chris & Ann	B. Rayner

Stewards: Ruth and Kerry Thompson

Counters: Gordon Henshaw and Lee Parker

Duty Elders: Owen and Suzie Graham

UCAF:

UCAF met on 21st June to plan some events for the rest of the year.

On Sunday 24th October UCAF will lead worship with the annual Frontier Services, service.

There will be a Retiring Offering for the work of Frontier Services.

This will be a Parish Service. Following the service, the Annual Parish meeting will take place in the hall.

After the meeting we will have a barbeque lunch for \$5. Further donations to Frontier Services will be accepted during lunch.

We will meet again on 11th October to finalize the details.

We will again hold a Reverse Advent Calendar appeal to support the Food Barn at Gungahlin Uniting Church. It is “reverse” because with an advent calendar you receive the gift but this time you give a gift.

The final Friendship Dinner for the year will be held in early December- date to be advised.

(Ruth Thompson for the members of UCAF)

RYE PARK CONGREGATION



There is no news from Rye Park this month. We hope they are keeping warm and dry in front of their roaring open fires.

Advance Notice Trivia night 14 August:

As I mentioned when Jessica Field visited our church, the SRC (a combined board consisting of representatives from all the churches in town) is hosting a fun trivia night on 14 August 7-9pm. As you probably know Jessica is teaching religious education at Yass High School and her whole salary is funded by individuals, church groups and fund raisers.

This should be a fun night for all so get 8 friends together and form a team. You don't have to have a head full of random facts to have fun. There will be a number of categories and local knowledge will come in handy.

There will also be the traditional head and tails plus some other very interesting activities between rounds. So save up some gold coins for these.

There will be more information out shortly about the cost and how to book on our Facebook site, on our website and in the August Newsletter. There will also be announcements in church and posters around town. Bookings will close early August.

So get your team of eight ready to go... if you don't have eight people you can book any way and be assigned to a random table.

Hope to see you there. Contact me for more information later.
Sue Demoor

The Mouse Plague:

From Frontier Services: NSW is overrun with mice. Our hearts are broken. Regional NSW, Coonamble and its surrounds are trying to rebuild from the worst drought in Australian recorded history. The first good season and now they are overrun with Mice. We can only imagine how hard this must be, their harvest ruined due to the mice. Stock food destroyed. Houses being damaged because the mice are eating the foundations! This community and surrounds were already struggling financially and emotionally. They are reaching out to us for help’.

If you have collected your small change during June for Frontier Services and would like to have it forwarded to them on your behalf, please bring it to church with you on Sunday, 4 July.
(Lee Parker)

Prayer Points for July:

For containment of the Corona Virus outbreaks as they occur;

For our farmers who face one crisis after another often without financial, emotional or practical help;

For friends and family living with ongoing medical issues;

For students and teachers as they begin their Term 2 holidays and prepare for Term 3;

For our country, our community, our families and friends;

For broken relationships, families at risk, the homeless, the unwanted;

For a world where violence, intolerance and disregard for others is becoming a way of life.

Parish Calendar: JULY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 10 am Yass HC Rye Park 5pm HC	5	6 Elder's 2pm	7 Morning Tea GWL 9.45 AM	8	9	10
11 10am Yass Rye Park House Church 5pm	12	13	14	15	16 Playgroup 9.30 am – 11.30 am	17
18 10am Yass Rye Park 5pm	19	20 TEG Service 11am GWL Service 2 pm <i><u>August</u></i> <i><u>Newsletter</u></i> <i><u>Items due</u></i>	21	22	23 Playgroup 9.30 am – 11.30 am	24
25 10am Yass Rye Park 5pm	26	27	28	29	30 Playgroup 9.30 am – 11.30 am	31

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Laughter – The best medicine:

Why did the bullet end up losing his job? He got fired.

Did you hear about the painter who was hospitalized? The doctors say it was due to too many strokes.

Why are crabs so bad at sharing? Because they're all shellfish.

I started a new job as a tailor last week. So far it's been sew-sew.

Working in a mirror factory is something I can totally see myself doing.

What do you call a belt with a watch on it? A 'waist' of time.

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This page has been compiled by the Parish Treasurer (Lesley Cox) to provide an indication of our financial position since the beginning of this year. The complete suite of financial reports will be tabled at the Parish AGM in October.

Profit & Loss Statement						
January 2021 through May 2021						
	January	February	March	April	May	Total
Income						
Church Operating Income						
Yass - Offering	\$3,023.33	\$4,258.33	\$5,908.33	\$2,783.33	\$4,173.33	\$20,126.65
Rye Park - Offering	\$705.00	\$400.00	\$880.00	\$500.00	\$685.00	\$3,160.00
Rent 2A	\$2,280.00	\$1,824.00	\$1,110.00	\$2,181.00	\$1,824.00	\$9,219.00
Total Church Operating Income	\$6,008.33	\$6,482.33	\$7,878.33	\$5,444.33	\$6,682.33	\$32,496.95
Appraisals						
Fund Income						
Misc Income						
Interest Rcv'd - Bank Accts	\$0.74	\$1.08	\$1.45	\$0.26	\$0.73	\$4.26
Total Income	\$6,009.07	\$6,483.41	\$7,879.78	\$5,444.59	\$6,683.06	\$32,499.91
Cost of Sales						
Gross Profit	\$6,009.07	\$6,483.41	\$7,879.78	\$5,444.59	\$6,683.06	\$32,499.91
Expenses						
Bank Charges	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$36.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$36.25
Copyright and photocopy licence	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$243.64	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$243.64
Church Service Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$98.89	\$0.00	\$98.89
Photocopier Contract	\$105.00	\$105.00	\$105.00	\$105.00	\$105.00	\$525.00
Postage & Printing	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$14.31	\$0.00	\$14.26	\$28.57
Presbytery	\$238.00	\$238.00	\$238.00	\$238.00	\$22,788.20	\$1,190.00
R&M Grounds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$22,788.20	\$0.00	\$22,788.20	\$0.00
Synod - Seeds of Growth	\$119.00	\$119.00	\$119.00	\$119.00	\$119.00	\$595.00
Supply Ministry	\$1,948.05	\$1,948.05	\$1,948.05	\$1,948.05	\$0.00	\$7,792.20
Telephone (Ministers Mobile)	\$0.00	\$53.64	\$53.64	\$53.64	\$107.46	\$268.38
Telephone (Internet)	\$0.00	\$104.53	\$80.90	\$80.90	\$182.58	\$468.91
Beneficiary Fund Monol	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Support Fund Monol	\$834.87	\$1,641.20	\$1,641.20	\$1,641.20	\$0.00	\$5,798.47
MIE - 30% Monol	\$3,405.33	\$4,569.13	\$27,438.60	\$4,455.09	\$22,021.90	\$17,846.25
Total Expenses	\$2,603.74	\$1,914.28	\$19,558.82	\$989.50	\$28,704.96	\$14,653.96
Operating Profit	\$2,603.74	\$1,914.28	\$1,914.28	\$989.50	\$28,704.96	\$14,653.96
Other Expenses						
Westpac	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Other Expenses	\$2,603.74	\$1,914.28	\$1,914.28	\$989.50	\$28,704.96	\$14,653.96
Net Profit / (Loss)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Reflection: Thanks for Their Gifts

I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. [Phil. 4:10-18](#)

Reflection: A Philippian believer: “Paul is in a much worse situation than we are - and yet he rejoices! He is in prison, again. I’m very thankful that I’m not in prison. But Paul says he is content, no matter what his situation. How can he say this? How can we have this contentment too?”

“What a huge step it feels like for us to get to this place of contentment...and I’m not even in prison! It seems to me Paul’s contentment is independent of his circumstances. He’s in prison, yet he is not worried for himself because whether he lives or dies, he is certain of his eternal life with Jesus.

“Paul says we Philippian believers are the only ones who gave him support after he shared the good news with us. I am so amazed Paul thanks us for looking after him when he needed help. Some people don’t think he is gracious, but this shows he is. He says he is *amply supplied*, and that our gifts are a *fragrant offering*! We were so happy to give to him and support his travels because of the amazing gift he gave us in the gospel! It is only because we have received grace from God that we have done this.”

A few thoughts for us....

1. If we are not content, what steps can we take to move towards contentment in God?
2. Thank God for all who have given us ‘gifts’ – those who helped us to know Jesus and to grow in trust. Thank God for the gift others have given us, to understand us, our concerns, our anxieties, listening to us, praying for us, and caring for us practically and emotionally.
3. If we don’t have people like this in our lives, what is a step we can take towards having some? How can we be this person to others?

Prayer: Father, I thank you for caring for me in every way. Thank you for providing for me. Please help me to be content, in every situation. Please help me to be good a steward /manager of all you have given me. Please help me to be generous and gracious, as you are so amazingly generous and gracious to me. Amen. (*author Deb Sugars, courtesy of The Bible Society*).