**WELCOME TO** 

# ST BRENDAN'S CATHOLIC PARISH



St Brendan's Parish is a Child Safe community. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all and a zero tolerance to child abuse.

# Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

16 July 2023

#### First Reading Is 55:10-11

The rain makes the earth fruitful.

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

#### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 64:10-14. R. Lk 8:8

(R.) The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

- You care for the earth, give it water, you fill it with riches.
   Your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain. (R.)
- And thus you provide for the earth; you drench its furrows, you level it, soften it with showers, you bless its growth. (R.)
- You crown the year with your goodness.
   Abundance flows in your steps, in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. (R.)
- The hills are girded with Joy, the meadows covered with flocks, the valleys are decked with wheat. They shout for Joy, yes, they sing. (R.)

### Second Reading Rom 8:18-23

All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

# **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!
The seed is the word of God,
Christ is the sower;
all who come to him will live for ever.
Alleluia!

# Gospel Mt 13:1-23 (or shorter form Mt 13:1-9)

A sower went out to sow.

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He sald, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soll and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

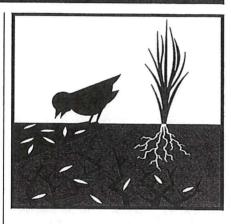
Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isalah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive. For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with Joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

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# Offertory

It is important that if you are on the Offertory roster, that you please go to collect the gifts of bread and wine at the beginning of the Offertory hymn.

Then, please wait at the table next to the organ until the priest comes down to the middle of the sanctuary.

At this point, please come up to Father with the gifts of bread and wine.



# ST BRENDAN'S PARISH NEWS

121 Knight Street, Shepparton

Phone: 5821 2633 | Email: shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Website: sheppartoncatholic.org.au Facebook: sheppartoncatholic

Parish Priest: Fr Joe Taylor

Priest in Residence: Fr Joseph Kunnackattu Associate Priest: Fr Jackson Saunders

Deacon: Francois Baguma
Office Manager: Diane Teitzel

Child Safe Officer: Jason Giuliani Ph: 5821 2633

Office Hours: Mon to Fri 9am - 2pm



Christ in community ... the heart of our faith

Recently Deceased: Rita Wallden, Cynthia

Whittaker

Anniversary: Christina Altimore

Readers & Commentators July 22 & 23, 2023

6pm Sr Bing 8am F. Smullen C. Villani V. Rando

11am L. Richardson

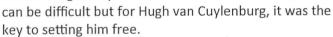
P. Richardson

Please pray for the World Youth Day Sandhurst Diocese pilgrims, who will be commissioned at the Cathedral in Bendigo this Sunday.



# Introduced by Australian Story presenter Leigh Sales:

Confronting family secrets



Hugh is known as the founder of the Resilience Project and is co-host of the hit podcast, the Imperfects.

For years he's helped students and sports people learn simple strategies to prepare them for life's ups and downs, winning fans with his self-deprecating storytelling.

Underpinning Hugh's work was his own family's experience with mental illness. His sister Georgia battled an eating disorder from her early teens. Then Hugh hit his own mental health hurdle and he realised he had to untangle his complex relationship with Georgia and make amends.

Warning: This program contains references to child sexual abuse. Available on ABC iView:

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-06-19/the-getting-of-wisdom-hugh-van-cuylenburg/102497426



Join us in the MPJC for a cuppa after our Thursday morning midweek Mass.

The Rosary is recited after the 9.15 Mass, so after the Rosary everyone is invited to come and share a cuppa and conversation in the Parish Centre.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

We turn our hearts and minds to the people of the Yorta Yorta nation, who have occupied this country for thousands of years. We pay respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging, and commit to walking alongside Aboriginal Australians in truth and justice.

Thank you to all who contributed to the \$890 collection from Tap N Go during June.



All are welcome to join the GARABANDAL PRAYER GROUP. Monday July 17 from 1.30pm in the Mary Mackillop room of the MPJC. Enter through the office.



This weekend at our 11.00am Mass Louis Schenker will be received into the Catholic faith



and will celebrate the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion. Louis completed his formation earlier this year. Please keep him in your prayers.

# PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL and INTRODUCTORY COMMENTARY

We are very grateful that Sr Rosemary has been preparing our Prayers of the Faithful for the past 12 years. She has decided that she will finish providing these, with her last being the Feast of Christ the King (end of November). We are looking for a volunteer to replace her in this role. There is good support for this ministry. If you are interested, please contact either Fr Jackson or Fr Joe.

Our Young Adults



Group meets on Thursdays from 6-7pm in the MPJC. The young adults will go for dinner at 'The Aussie Hotel' after our meeting on Thursday, July 20.

Please note: the CCR day scheduled for August 12 has been cancelled and will be rescheduled.



### Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 8am & 11am PRAYING() CHIL

Tue

Tuesday to Friday 9.15am

Weekday Mass Times

<u>Reconciliation</u> Saturday 9.45am to 10.30am (in the Church)

Syro Malabar Rite: Wednesday 6.00pm, Saturday 8.30am, Sunday 5.30pm

**Rosary** — The Rosary is prayed in the Marian Chapel after weekday Masses and after the 8am Mass on Sunday.

Holy Hour with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Thursdays 7pm to 8pm and Fridays 5pm to 6pm

The next combined Christian Churches prayer service in Shepparton will take place at St Brendan's Catholic Church on Wednesday, August 16, from 7.30pm.

We encourage you to support this occasion as we host our brothers and sisters from our local Churches.

# Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council

<u>Meeting:</u> The Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council will conduct their second meeting on 14 & 15 July 2023 in Shepparton. Please pray for the Council.

We turn to Mary, our Mother of Good Counsel and patroness of our Diocese, as we seek to become a more missionary and pastoral Church: people of faith, hope and love for our world.



May we be led by the same wisdom and courage sent by the Holy Spirit

to guide her along unfamiliar paths and through challenging decisions.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us!

# Diamond Jubilee Celebration

# Monsignor Peter Jeffrey 60th Anniversary Celebration

St Mary's Parish warmly invites you to celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving for the 60th Anniversary of the Ordination to the Priesthood of Monsignor Peter John Jeffrey on Thursday July 27, 2023 at 5:00 pm at St Brendan's Catholic Church, Shepparton.

At the conclusion of the Mass we also invite you to join us for dinner at the GV Hotel. The Dinner is reserved seating and booking is required. Please use the Eventbrite link to book. RSVPs for the dinner close on Tuesday, July 18. https://monsignor.eventbrite.com

Our piety store has some lovely gifts for any occasion. A recent delivery has limited stock which includes;

- Olive Wood Holding Cross
- Wood & Silicone Teether
- Tea Towels



# Greater Shepparton Winter Night Shelter

We have had a very cold and wet start to the winter, especially evident down at the lake of an evening.

Orate Suggestion

Our first night of providing meals was during winter NIGHT SHELTER a downpour, we stood in two to three inches of water, with more rain falling as we served our guests.

We only had two guests that night. However, we have averaged 6 to 7 people every other Wednesday.

Our amazing team of volunteers serve each week's delicious hot soup and wholesome, beautiful main course. They also catch up with regular guests and make new guests feel very welcome.

Most of our guests were impacted by the recent river rise and we have been able to provide clean, dry clothes, shoes and in some cases sleeping bags, tents and swags donated by our very generous parishioners. Please keep our guests and volunteers in your prayers as we approach the half way mark of the meals at the lake program.

Our **Men's Group** will meet at 7.30am on Saturday, July 22, in the MPJC for breakfast and a topic for reflection. We will be listening to Peter McManus from Dookie, share his experience of riding the Camino in Portugal with his daughter Nikki, in honour of Peter's wife Sue. Peter explained his pilgrimage experience in these words:

"I like to think that having done this pilgrimage has been a helpful part of my grieving process and as such has been a

healing experience. People do the Camino for many different reasons and I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to be able to do it in Sue's honour"





Fr Brian Carey (Parish Priest of St Mary's Parish, Rutherglen, and St Mary's Parish, Chiltern) underwent surgery for cancer in the week following Easter.

Since then he has been on sick leave while he recovered from surgery and commenced ongoing treatment. It is now clear that his treatment will continue for an extended period and that it will have a significant impact on his capacity for full time ministry.

In light of this situation, Fr Brian has offered his resignation which I have accepted, with effect from 29 July 2023. On that date, he will formally enter retirement.

I am very grateful for Fr Brian's faithful and generous service, and for his ministry in the various parishes of the diocese to which he has been appointed.

Please continue to pray for Fr Brian as he faces the challenges of his illness and treatment.

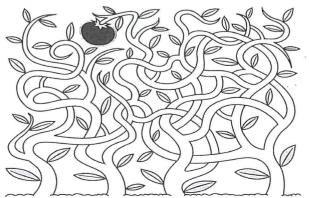
I expect to appoint a new parish priest for Rutherglen and Chiltern parishes later in the year. Until that time, Msgr Cris Manongas has agreed to act as Parish Administrator, in addition to his duties as Pastoral Leader of Our Lady's Parish, Wangaratta South, and Holy Cross Parish, Moyhu. From Fr Brian's retirement up to 17 September, Fr Boniface Kamulegeya, a visiting priest from Rwanda, will be resident in Rutherglen and will provide pastoral and sacramental care for the parishes. I will distribute further background about Fr Boniface closer to his arrival in the Diocese next week.

For the next two weekends, Fr Dennis Crameri will celebrate Masses in Rutherglen and Chiltern parishes, which he has already done on some weekends during Fr Brian's illness, as have Fr Mick Morley and Fr Des Welladsen.

I am grateful to all those priests who are assisting with providing leadership and care for St Mary's Parish, Rutherglen, and St Mary's Parish, Chiltern over these months.

Yours sincerely,

+Shane Mackinlay



Which of these four plants is the one bearing fruit?

A note from Catholic Education Sandhurst:

We have recently sent a very large parcel of stamps, mostly from the Benalla parish, to our stamp recyclers in Brighton. They were very excited and grateful about this lot as many of

the stamps were actually pre decimal currency! So many thanks to the Benalla stamp collectors. Last year the stamp recyclers raised \$47,810.00 from the sale of recycled stamps and since 1977 have raised over \$1,106,319.00!!! They use the money to make grants mainly to the Pacific nations and PNG for educational and welfare purposes, such as providing toiletries for the women in prison in PNG, the Tonga Tsunami Appeal and the Vanuatu Secondary School.

So please keep saving your used stamps and spread the word. We are happy to send them on from the library for such a worthy cause.

Take care, Jan.

If you would like to save your used stamps - when ripping them off the envelope you can include the post mark – this also adds value to the used stamp. The people we are helping/giving basic needs to are very grateful.

Taking Action to Respond to the call of Laudato Si —If your superannuation fund invests in fossil fuels, ask it to stop supporting coal and oil projects. (Prepared by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace)



The Shepparton Art Museum Foundation (SAM Foundation) is very fortunate to host one of Australia's most celebrated and recognised string quartets – *Flinders Quartet*.

Sam Shepparton Art Museum

This presentation sees the ensemble joined by erhu virtuoso Deng Ma for a performance of Yuin composer Brenda Gifford's *Dissipate*– a composition commissioned by Flinders Quartet and Bach's *Goldberg Variations* arranged for erhu and string quartet by Julian Yu.

This special concert program is the culmination of extensive creative development and represents a true collaboration between talented musicians from different cultural backgrounds in a celebration of diversity, creativity, and the unifying power of music.

Date: Saturday 5 August 2023 Time: 5:00pm to 7:30pm

Venue: Shepparton Art Museum, 530 Wyndham Street Cost: \$65.00 (ticket price includes a glass of bubbles and light refreshments). Tickets can be purchased via Eventbrite <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/flinders-quartet-2023-tickets-43314222906">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/flinders-quartet-2023-tickets-43314222906</a> 7?aff=oddtdtcreator or contact Kylie McCarrey on 0403 878 331.

# Wordsearch

Try to find these words:



MOKUOHGER JWACCUAALF ARMXP KGUQXLA A E TGRUMCFGXPXI birds TXRCRQUOZCEX boat NCHV crowd J D У T Q POOWKS farmer M W R Q XER KH S Galilee E V P E NMW 0 D D Y X Lake K NXR W R R C Z C T P H Q road Q D ZE E C F 5 E I R Е shore H C A W JJ N X Y V F X UW S y soil X 5 A A S GBS CC C D stories AQWSJHYUHUEJ DRD sun BWXFHIXNSRWUPRSWL teach OOBJCBUXSIVL





# 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time 16 July 2023 - Year A

"A sower went out to sow.

# Something to Think About

Close your eyes and imagine you are walking through a garden or park. What sorts of plants do you see? Think about how long these plants would have taken to grow from a tiny seed.

# The Story

When Jesus told stories, he used images that the people would understand. Today he uses the planting of seeds. The seeds represent Jesus' message, and the soil represents how different people listen and respond to Jesus' message.

Jesus wanted the people to know how important it is to understand Jesus' words and follow him.

# The Scriptures

# A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

13:1-9

Jesus went out beside Lake Galilee, where he sat down to teach. Such large crowds gathered around him that he had to sit in a boat, while the people stood on the shore. Then he taught them many things by using stories.

He said: "A farmer went out to scatter seed in a field.

While the farmer was scattering the seed, some of it fell along the road and was eaten by birds. Other seeds fell on thin, rocky ground and quickly started growing because the soil was not very deep. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched and dried up, because they did not have enough roots.

Some other seeds fell where thorn bushes grew up and choked the plants.

But a few seeds did fall on good ground where the plants produced a hundred or sixty or thirty times as much as was scattered.

If you have ears, pay attention!"

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

# Video

Watch the video:

The Parable of the Farmer and the Seeds



# **Group Discussion**

Some seed fell on the road and was eaten by the birds. These are people whose hearts are closed to hearing anything about God. They just do not understand Jesus' message.

Some seed fell on rocky ground where the soil was not deep so the seed soon died, scorched by the sun and without sufficient water to nurture its growth. Maybe some people 'hear' the message for a while but then decide that being a disciple is just too hard. They give up.

Some seeds fell among bushes and were choked by thorns and weeds. There are people for whom other things in life distract them from the message. Maybe they are more interested in worldly things and possessions. These can draw us away from following Jesus. Talk with the children about how they feel about coming to Mass each Sunday. Maybe there are other things they would prefer to do. Reassure the children that Jesus loves them and wants them to learn more about him.

Then there was the seed that fell on good soil and grew and grew and grew. This refers to the people who hear the word of God and follow it. They tell others about God's love and live as Jesus taught. Invite the children to think about how they follow God's word – by being honest and caring, by praying, by learning about Jesus, by thinking of others and helping them.

# **Praying For Others**

Leader: Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

Reader 1: We pray that our leaders will pay attention to the needs of others. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray for those who hear God's word but refuse to follow it. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray for strength to follow Jesus, even when it seems difficult. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray for farmers who grow food for us to eat. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray for those who care for trees, plants and all of creation. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

# **Prayer**



Dear Jesus,

Help me to grow in faith and love, like a seed planted in good soil.

Bless all those who try hard to follow you.

Amen.

# **Group Activity**

## The Parable of the Sower and the Seed Craft

You will need: a template for each child, scissors, glue, coloured pencils or markers

There are two ways to complete this activity:

- 1) Cut out the coloured pictures and glue them above the correct text.
- 2) Add colour to the black and white pictures. Cut and paste the matching scripture quote in the shape provided.





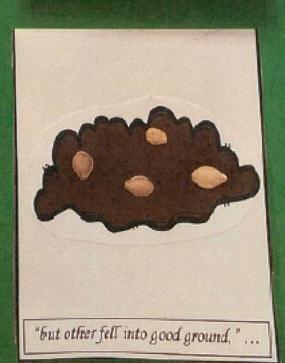
# Parable of the Sower



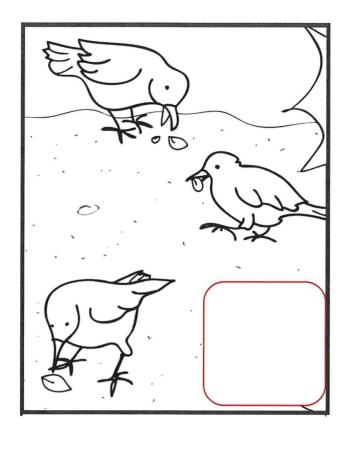


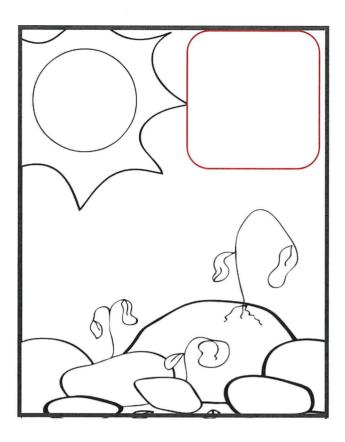
"some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they spring up, because they had no deepness of earth:" ...



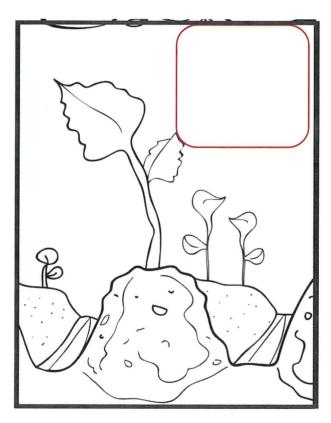


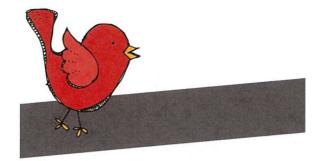
	"Some seeds fell on thin rocky ground and quickly started growing
"Some seeds fell along the road."	because the soil was not very deep."
"Some other seeds fell where thorn bushes grew up."	"A few seeds did fall on good ground."

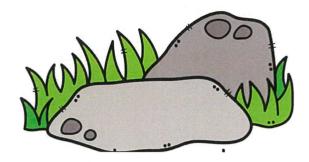


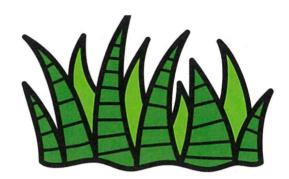














Some fell along the road and was eaten by birds. When the sun came up the plants were scorched and dried up because they did have enough roots

The plants
produced a hundred
or sixty or thirty
times as much
as was scattered.

Thorn bushes grew up and choked the plants.

Match the story with the pictures. Write the number in the circles.

ORDINARY TIME 15 - YEAR A



# Along the track

# Finding the Well

Out the back of the old house where I spent my early childhood, there was a well. It supplied all our water. I remember it always being very cold, very 'fresh' and invigorating. I have no idea why! We always kept an eye on it. It was a precious resource. Two tanks kept it pretty full for most of the year but, by the end of summer, it was getting very close to empty so, when it started to run dry, we had to be careful, we had to change our ways.

When the new house was built on the paddock next door and the old house was moved away, the well was still in action, still needed. That 'new' house has been sold a couple of times and extensively renovated and the well seems to have disappeared. The latest owners have searched for it and they have contacted me a number of times to find out where it was located. But it has gone.

Wells are important. How many times have you been asked to contribute to the building of a well in villages across the globe? If you haven't, find out where you can! Wells are not just a source of precious water but they become places to gather, places where conversations take place, places where a community can prosper and grow. They are literally life-giving and life changing.

Wells find an important place in the scriptures, not surprisingly in the hot dry climate of Israel - wells are sources of life, not just because of the water but they were social gathering places for the locals and travellers stopped to water themselves and their stock. The young women of the village had the daily chore of drawing water from wells to supply the family household, usually in the evenings (Genesis 24:11). Abraham's servant stopped at a well and met Rebekah there, Jacob met Rachel at a well where she came to water her father Laban's flock of sheep. Moses, too, met his future wife, Zipporah, at a well when she came with her sisters to water their father's flock. There are two famous stories that describe Jesus meeting two women at the well, the Samaritan woman and later the Syrophoenician Woman (John 4). Both encounters are life changing. Rather than being treated as outcasts or people that would normally be ignored, Jesus talks with them and they are both feisty women. They won't take no for an answer and it is obvious that Jesus is impressed. And so are they.

Theologian John Shea once suggested that Jesus was crucified because "he made God as accessible as the village well."

Where has the well gone at our old home and why did the new owner go in search of it? A metaphor for life perhaps – we all go in search of them. Sometimes we find one for a while, sometimes they dry up – they were not what was needed. Where are our wells now, the places where we find the waters of life, like in ancient times where we find the blessings God has for us? Where are the places where our roots find nourishment, what it is that gives us life and life's purpose? What is it that gives us independence in a world where we so often find we're dependent on so many things?

Finding the well is not so much about finding a place but rather it is about exploring life's possibilities, with openness of mind and heart to God's love. Finding the well may not always mean finding immediate happiness. Times of unhappiness, discontent and even anxiety can be the vulnerable periods when we are called to change, to reconsider, to take a leap of faith.

Finding the well can be about recalling peak experiences in our past and identifying the grace filled moments of our life, or it may ask us to think about our dreams of a future we would prefer, one which may offer us an opportunity for growth, a new direction perhaps. Finding the well is made easier when we do not focus on self but more on others, when we are prepared to be open and welcoming, when we listen for understanding, when we seek to build bridges, when we seek healing and connection. Finding the well is easier when we are accompanied by others.

Wells remind us that you and I have a soul, a spiritual fire within. Paradoxically, we need the waters from the well to keep that fire alive!

Regards Jim Quillinan

Email: jquillinan@dcsi.net.au