

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.

**Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B**

**16 June 2024**

### First Reading Ez 17:22-24

*I have made the small tree great.*

The Lord says this:

'From the top of the cedar,  
from the highest branch I will take a  
shoot  
and plant it myself on a very high  
mountain.

I will plant it on the high mountain of  
Israel.

It will sprout branches and bear fruit,  
and become a noble cedar.

Every kind of bird will live beneath it,  
every winged creature rest in the shade  
of its branches.

And every tree of the field will learn that  
I, the Lord, am the one

who stunts tall trees and makes the low  
ones grow,

who withers green trees and makes the  
withered green.

I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do it.'

### Second Reading 2 Cor 5:6-10

*Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it, we are  
intent on pleasing the Lord.*

We are always full of confidence when we  
remember that to live in the body means  
to be exiled from the Lord, going as we  
do by faith and not by sight - we are full of  
confidence, I say, and actually want to be  
exiled from the body and make our home  
with the Lord. Whether we are living in the  
body or exiled from it, we are intent on  
pleasing him. For all the truth about us will  
be brought out in the law court of Christ,  
and each of us will get what he deserves for  
the things he did in the body, good or bad.

### 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 Mk 4:26-34

*The mustard seed, the smallest of all the seeds, grows into  
the biggest shrub of all.*

Jesus said to the crowds, 'This is what the  
kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed  
on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps,  
when he is awake, the seed is sprouting  
and growing; how, he does not know. Of  
its own accord the land produces first the  
shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the  
ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no  
time; he starts to reap because the harvest  
has come.'

He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom  
of God is like? What parable can we find for  
it? It is like a mustard seed which at the  
time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest  
of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown  
it grows into the biggest shrub of them all  
and puts out big branches so that the birds  
of the air can shelter in its shade.'

Using many parables like these, he spoke  
the word to them, so far as they were  
capable of understanding it. He would not  
speak to them except in parables, but he  
explained everything to his disciples when  
they were alone.

*We welcome the Alpha  
participants this weekend  
at our 11am*

*Mass who  
have now  
completed  
the 2024  
program.*



### Reflection by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel is a wonderful  
example of the teaching style of Jesus.  
It even tells us that 'he would not  
speak to them except in parables'.  
Jesus used the parable form almost  
exclusively to share his message. He  
used imagery that was familiar to his  
audience; parables about the everyday  
life of a rural community: seeds,  
planting, growing, harvesting. The  
secret of Jesus' parables, when we  
understand the cultural context, is that  
there was always a 'twist in the tale' -  
what is called a 'discombobulating  
shift' - that turns the expected  
outcome of the story on its head.

This is nowhere more evident than in  
the image of the mustard seed. On the  
surface the parable is about the  
kingdom of God starting from very  
small, humble beginnings and growing  
into something great. However,  
immediately prior to this kingdom  
parable, Jesus has reminded us that  
the community makes a living out of  
growing grain crops like wheat for  
bread, etc. His parable about the  
mustard seed describes a tiny seed  
that grows into a great shrub 'so that  
the birds of the air can shelter in its  
shade'. A farming community that was  
growing grain crops would be greatly  
alarmed at the thought of actually  
attracting birds to their fields or even  
nearby. Jesus' message about the  
kingdom of God is that it is actually  
disruptive and invasive. The kingdom  
brings unrest and disquiet to the  
predictable. The kingdom of God is  
unsettling. This is a much more  
challenging parable than it appears  
from a literal reading.

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 91:2-3. 13-16. R. see v.2**

*(R.) Lord It is good to give thanks to you.*

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord  
to make music to your name, O Most  
High,  
to proclaim your love in the morning  
and your truth in the watches of the  
night. (R.)
2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree  
and grow like a Lebanon cedar. (R.)
3. Planted in the house of the Lord  
they will flourish in the courts of our God,  
still bearing fruit when they are old,  
still full of sap, still green,  
to proclaim that the Lord is just.  
In him, my rock, there is no wrong. (R.)



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# ST BRENDAN'S PARISH NEWS

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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

## Weekend Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 8am & 11am



Syro Malabar Rite: Wednesday 6.00pm,

Saturday 8.30am, Sunday 5.30pm

## Weekday Mass Times

Tuesday to Friday 9.15am

## Reconciliation

Saturday 9.45am to 10.30am (in the Church)

**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

## 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.

## **Our GARABANDAL Prayer Group**

will meet again on Monday, June 17:

1.30—4pm in the Mary MacKillop Room of the Parish Centre. Please feel free to join us.



**Recently Deceased:** Brenda Da Forna, Gabriella Scarcella.

**Anniversaries:** Mary Catherine Boschetti (Lane).

## **SOMETHING TO THINK AND PRAY ABOUT**

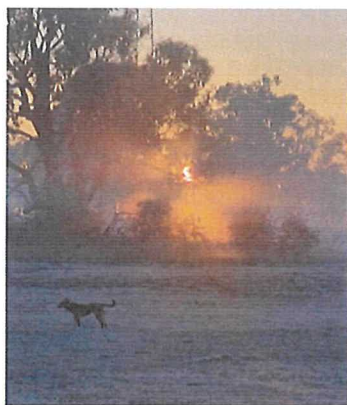
**THIS WEEK:** Trust in God

Ignatius followed the Spirit, without passing him by; thus, he was gently led to the unknown; and slowly the path opened up for him, along which he wisely went ignorantly, his heart simply focused on Christ.

One of the most striking fruits of that way is trust.

People who believe in an active, loving God have nothing to fear. They desire simply to consciously hand over their life and entrust it to God, not least out of the belief that this great God knows much better than limited humankind what is the best way to walk.

Excerpted from Living with Ignatius: On the Compass of Joy by Nikolaas Sintobin SJ (pp.28-29)



## Readers & Commentators June 22 & 23, 2024

6pm	C. Segrave	R. Mellijor
8am	B. Sullivan	L. Billings
11am	R. Aitken	E. Christy

## Keep the Lord's Prayer in Parliament

Leadership begins with us, the elected representatives, and it is our duty to uphold traditions that honour the faith of our constituents. The Lord's Prayer, together with the Acknowledgement of Country, provides a vital connection to two important facets of our heritage. Please support us, you can find the petition here: <https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/petitions/retain-the-lords-prayer-in-legislative-council-proceedings/> or by scanning the QR code until 17 June. **Wendy Lovell MP**



After sixteen outstanding years of leadership at St Mary's Primary School Mooroopna, Mr Anthony Butts has accepted the position of Principal at St. Anne's College, Kialla, commencing in Term 4 of this school year. Anthony's dedication to St. Mary's Mooroopna is to be commended.

Under his leadership, the school has flourished and is widely regarded as an outstanding environment for young people to grow and succeed.

We appreciate that this announcement will bring mixed feeling for the St Mary's community – pride in Anthony's achievements, but also sadness in losing such a valued and respected principal. The process for finding a replacement for Anthony will commence shortly.

I know you will join me in wishing Anthony every success and much happiness as he prepares for his new role at St. Anne's College, Kialla. **Kate Fogarty, Executive Director of Catholic Education Sandhurst Limited**

# PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

## SUNDAY LITURGY



11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

16 June 2024 - Year B

***“The mustard seed, the smallest of all the seeds, grows into the biggest shrub of all.”***

### Something to Think About

Can you think of some little things that grow into very big things?

### The Story

In today's story, Jesus is explaining what the kingdom of God is like. Jesus says the kingdom of God is like a small, small seed growing into a very large tree. From little things, big things grow. A small thing like a smile can bring joy and friendship to someone who is sad. When these small, kind actions spread throughout the world, God's kingdom grows!

### The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

4:26-34

Jesus said: "What is God's kingdom like?  
What story can I use to explain it?  
It is like what happens when a mustard seed is planted in the ground.  
It is the smallest seed in all the world.  
But once it is planted,  
it grows larger than any garden plant.  
It even puts out branches that are big enough for birds to nest in its shade."

Jesus used many other stories when he spoke to the people,  
and he taught them as much as they could understand.  
He did not tell them anything without using stories.  
But when he was alone with his disciples,  
he explained everything to them.

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

### Video

Click to watch the video: [The Parable of the Mustard Seed](#)



## Group Discussion

In the story today, we heard about the way a tree grows from a tiny seed. People start as small babies and grow into adults. Invite children to name some ways they have grown as well as some ways in which they would like to 'grow'.

## 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 we will be compassionate and caring to those we meet. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 2:* We pray for all who try hard to understand new things. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 3:* We pray for those who have no one to care for them. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 4:* We pray for people who do kind things that make others smile. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 5:* We pray for a generous heart to spread the love of Jesus in the world. 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 God,  
Give us loving hearts so that our  
small acts of kindness can make  
a big difference in the world.  
Amen.

## Group Activity

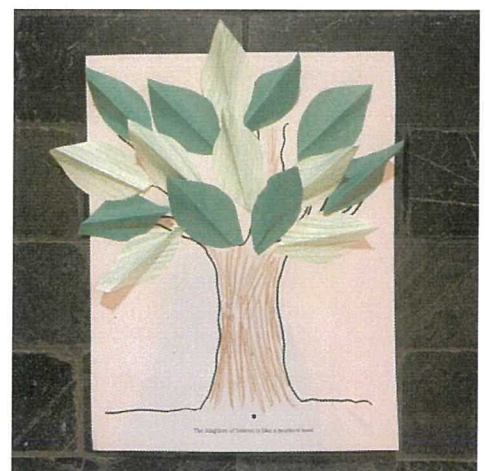
### PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED

*You will need: tree template for each child, leaves cut from green paper, leaves cut from white paper, green crayons, glue.*

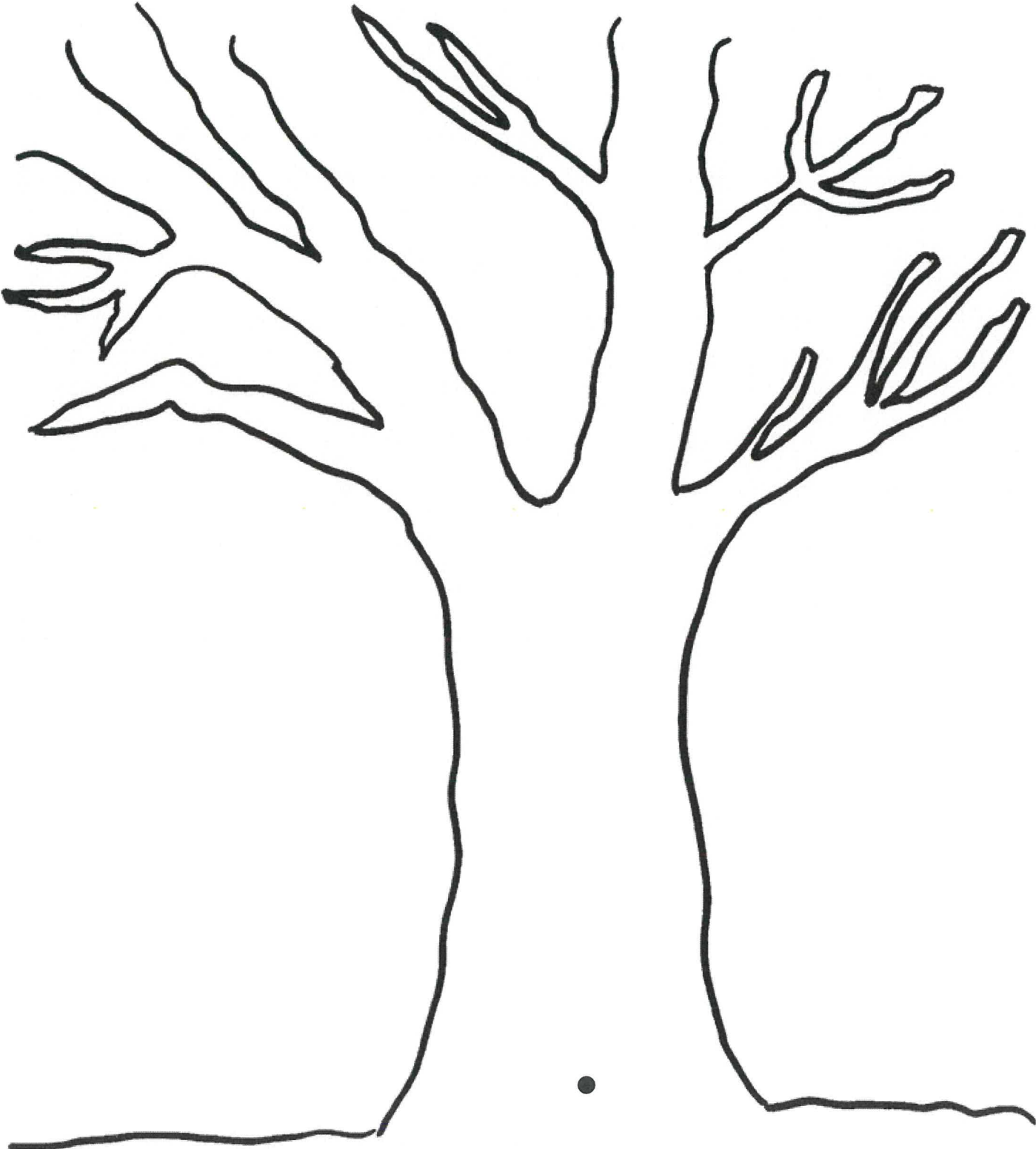
Invite children to colour the printable and the leaves on white paper.

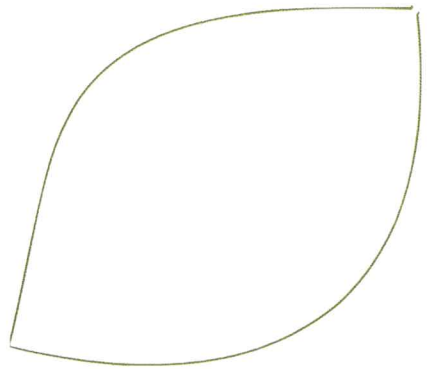
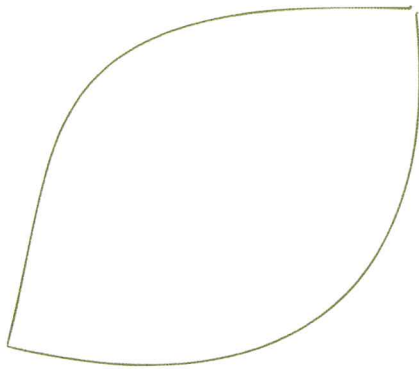
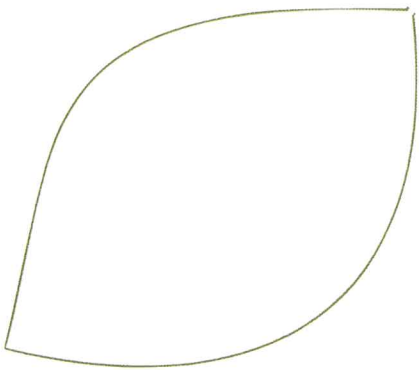
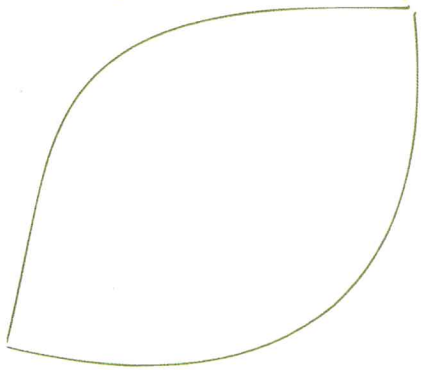
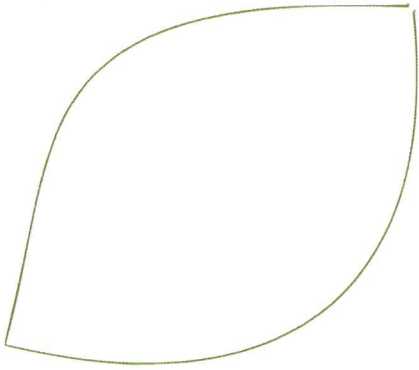
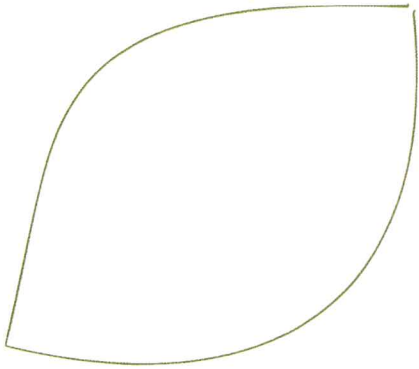
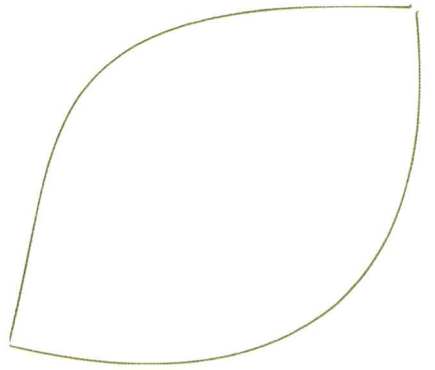
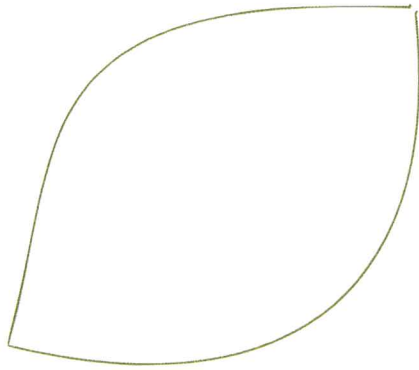
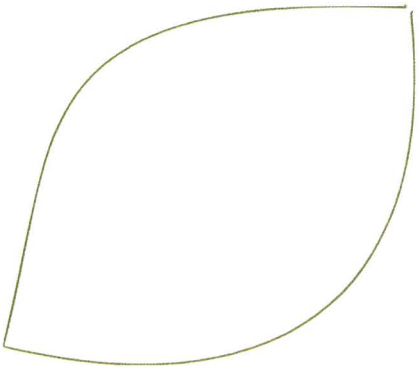
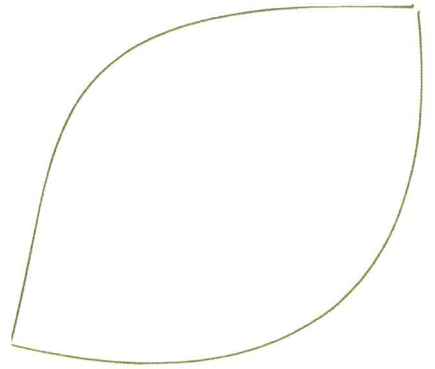
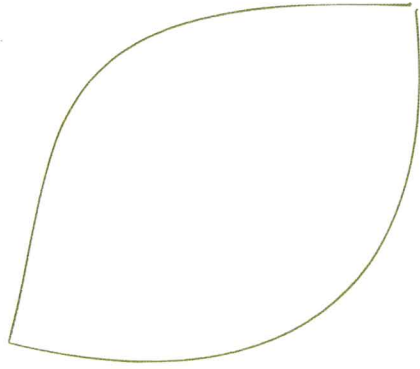
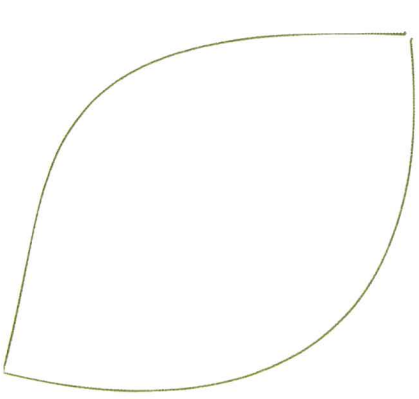
Fold the leaves in half, vertically. Glue around the edges of the leaf and glue onto the tree for a 3D effect.

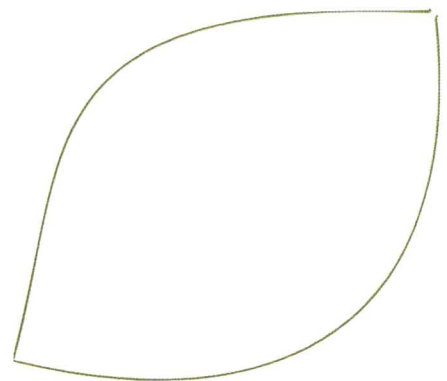
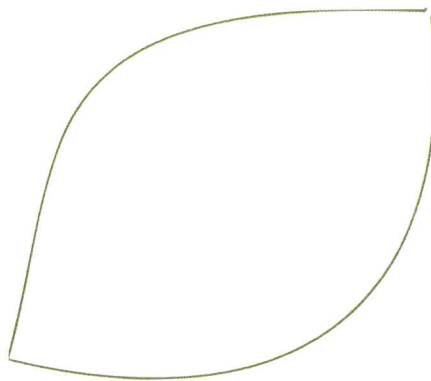
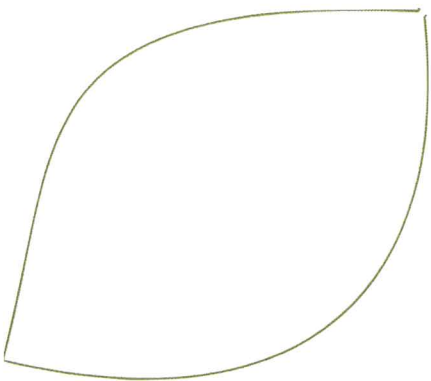
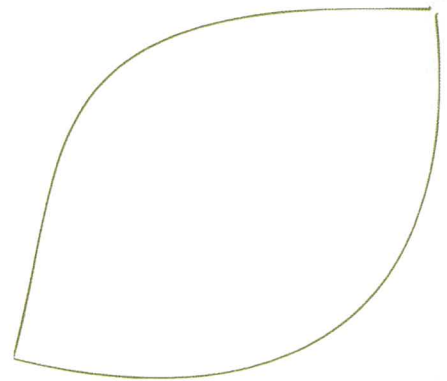
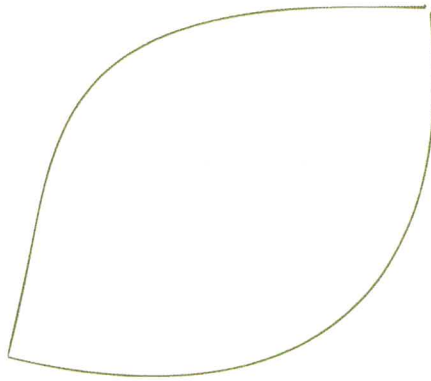
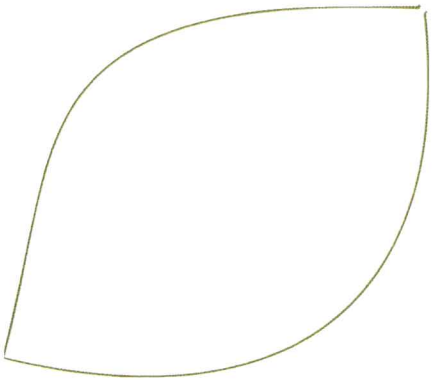
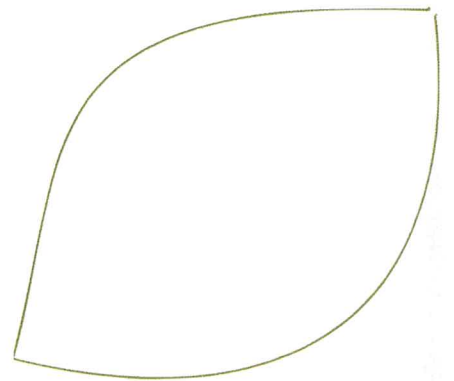
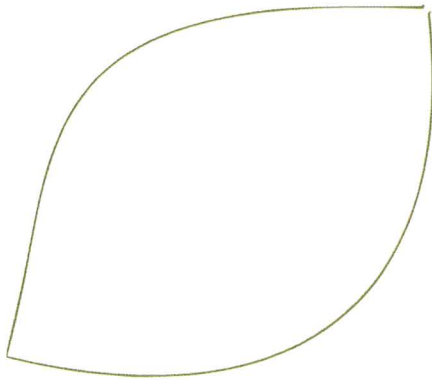
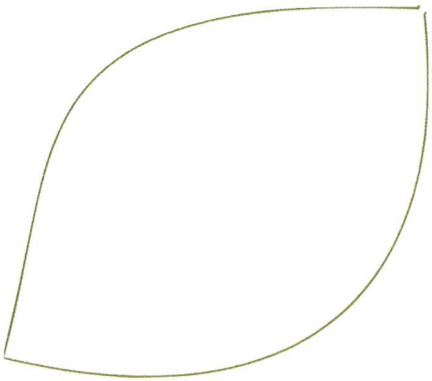
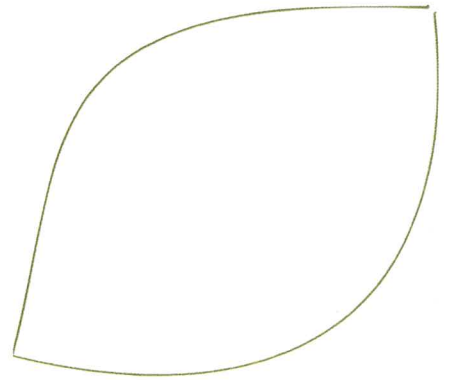
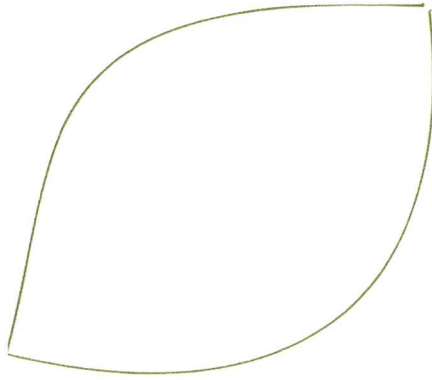
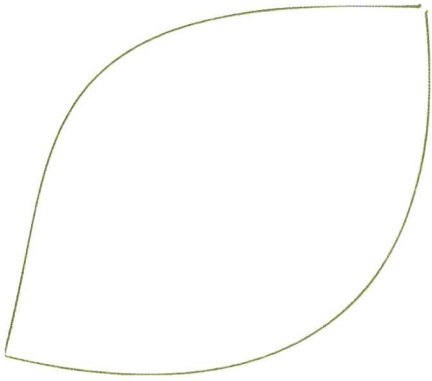
You may even bring in some mustard seeds, and each child could glue one seed to the tiny dot on the printable.



**The Kingdom of Heaven is like a Mustard Seed**







# ROOM FOR EVERYONE

DRAW LOTS OF BIRDS SINGING AND BUILDING THEIR NESTS IN THE BRANCHES OF THE BIG TREE

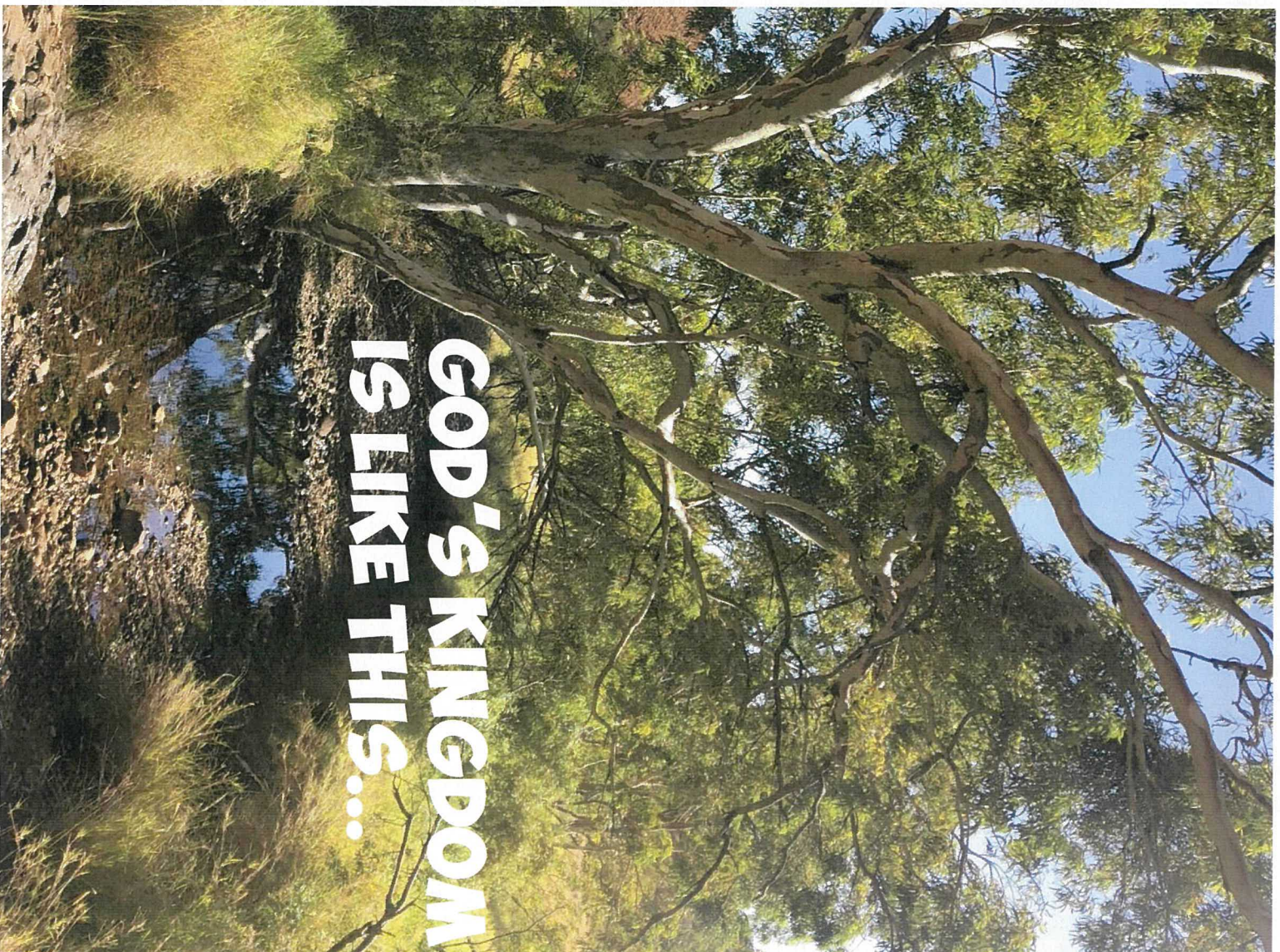
## ALL ARE WELCOME

WRITE THE STORY OF A TIME YOU LET SOMEONE JOIN IN YOUR PLAYGROUND GAMES

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**GOD'S KINGDOM  
IS LIKE THIS...**





# Along the track

## Good News...For a Change

Some time ago I watched a TV program\* on how some dairy farmers and people in the fishing industry were facing the challenge of a lifetime to save family farms and protect a way of life. They faced downturns in their industries, the collapse of co-ops, plunging prices for their products and rising prices for what they needed and, as if that weren't enough, along came the droughts, fires and flooding rains. Despite the fact that many had given up and left, these farmers were surviving and even prospering in hard times.

These good news stories were not only about economic survival – they were stories of courage and determination despite the setbacks and gloomy outlooks, they were stories about long held traditions and methods (sometimes for three, four, five generations) and their pride in them but perhaps more importantly, how they had adapted them and applied them into something suitable for today. As more than one of them said with some passion, if we had just kept on doing the same, like many others we would have had to sell up and leave.

Another common factor was that all of them relied on a supportive community, from regular social gatherings to farmers' markets and creating small co-ops. Without that support, encouragement and contact, what they have managed to achieve together would not have been possible. In one way or another, these communities supported each other and reached out to others in their district – they were not just about personal survival or enrichment.

In some ways it is a reminder of what is happening in our church where we live modern lives but try to live an old-time religion. We struggle to live out the message of Christ in today's world. In Pope Francis' words, we should have the "courage to bring life and not make our Christian life a museum of memories." He warned against the temptation to reduce faith to something that belongs in the past, as if it "were a beautiful illuminated book to be kept in a museum. Once it is locked up in the archives of history, faith loses its power to transform, its living beauty, its positive openness to all," he said.

These farmers took what they had learned over years and years and applied that to today. What was worth keeping, what were the 'enablers,' the ways worth preserving? But they were open to new ways, new methods. Pope Francis again: "Yet we might also wonder: what is the Lord asking us to build today and even more importantly, upon what is he calling us to

build in our lives?" Memory is recalling "what the Lord has done in and for us," that "God has chosen us, loved us, called us and forgiven us. Great things have happened in our personal love story with him, and these must be treasured in our minds and hearts." So giving ourselves time to reflect on that is the first building block in what we are trying to build today. How do we enable others to experience that? Faith "is born and reborn from a life-giving encounter with Jesus, from experiencing how his mercy illumines every situation in our lives."

I was once invited to one of the evangelical churches – over a few visits I was impressed with how we were asked in silence to recall the miracle of God's action through Jesus Christ in our lives over the last seven days. After the silent reflection, each one in small groups gave testimony to this action, from the small and seemingly inconsequential occurrence to the sometimes dramatic and 'life-changing miracle'. It was a skillful combination of quiet prayer, contemplation and reflection, testifying to my own faith not just in a community recitation of the Creed. I wonder how that might enrich our celebration of the Eucharist?

Christianity is a communal endeavour. These farmers knew that their survival needed community – without a shared commitment, the support of others, without gathering together, without sharing of ideas and resources, they were lost. In turn, that also led to an outreach to their local communities. A community that looks inwards, that is about its own survival eventually dies. We find description of an early Christian community in Acts 4: *All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.... And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them.*

We are not always one in mind, but we can be one in heart. The possessions these farmers and fishers shared were experience, skills and know how and they shared them willingly. Being one in heart leads to common action, by reaching out because of our shared belief in the goodness of others and our shared belief that God's grace is alive and well and at work within all of us. Such a faith retains its power to transform, its living beauty, its positive openness to all.

\*Fightback Farmers ABC  
iview

Regards  
Jim Quillinan

Email: [jquillinan@dcsi.net.au](mailto:jquillinan@dcsi.net.au)