



Society of African Missions

“The Mission”

23 Bliss Avenue
Tenafly, NJ 07670
Phone: 201-567-0450
Visit our website
www.smafathers.org



Mass Schedule

Sundays

10:00 am; 12 noon

Weekdays & Holy Days

9:30 am & 11:45 am

Confessions Saturdays:

After 11:45am Mass.

Or by appointment.

Contact Fr. James McConnell

201-567-0450 Ext. 242

Bereavement & Visit to the Sick

Contact Fr. James McConnell

201-567-0450 Ext. 242

Perpetual Mass Association

Office open Monday-Friday
from 9:30am to 3:00pm

S.M.A. Vocation Office

Fr Dermot Roache, SMA

Director

201-567-0450 Ext. 253

S.M.A. Museum

Open Monday-Sunday from
9:00am –5:00pm

Contact Fr. James McConnell

201-567-0450 Ext. 242

Sunday Collection: \$740

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support
your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
Provincial Superior

Fr James McConnell,
House Superior

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of JUNE 16, 2024 – JUNE 22, 2024

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv. & Dec. Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. June 16	10:00	Memory of Joseph Choi and Mariana Cho+	Juliana and Joseph Family
	12:00	Virgil & Laura Costa+	Victoria Costa
Mon. June 17	9:30	Sung Whan Choi (Living)	Juliana and Joseph Family
	11:45	William Cole Hackman (Living)	Hackman Family
Tue. June 18	9:30	Gilberto Guinto+	Perpetual Prayer Group
	11:45	Eulani Labay (Liv.)	Family
Wed. June 19	9:30	Carmela & Theresa Ambulo (Liv.)	Rosanne Ambulo
	11:45	Ciara Walsh (Birthday)	Breda Walsh
Thurs. June 20	9:30	Alejandro Ramirez De Arellano+	Friend
	11:45	Charles Pinto+	Rudolf Lewis
Fri. June 21	9:30	Catherine M. Hamill+	Friend
	11:45	Mark Barnes+	Mr. & Mrs. Lewis
Sat. June 22	9:30	Gilberto Guinto+	Perpetual Prayer Group
	11:45	Margaret Doonan+	Susan Doonan

Today’s Readings: *First Reading Ezekiel 17:22-24 – In his image of a tree Ezekiel paints us a picture of the Lord who cares for his people and brings them to shelter and safety.*

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 – Paul writes of his longing to be with the Lord and his intention of pleasing him always.

Gospel Mark 4:26-34 – Jesus tells us two parables to show us that for the Kingdom of God great things come from small beginnings.



APPEAL.- For a very long time now we have been in need of an updated speaker system in the chapel. We are aware that it has been an inconvenience for many. It is long overdue. We need your help in this endeavor. We greatly appreciate your financial support. God bless you. Envelopes are available at the entrance of the Chapel.
Fr. Dermot S. Roache, SMA

Jesus said, “This is what the Kingdom of God is like.”

Illustration

If you ask any English man or woman “of a certain age”, or indeed perhaps people from elsewhere, what name they would associate with the word “mustard”, it’s likely that they’d reply, “Colman’s”. The English firm of Colman’s has been famous since the nineteenth century and their bright yellow adverts for “Colman’s Mustard” were everywhere and reflected the colour of their spice. In the early days the mustard was sold as a powder which was then mixed with water into a paste. When they were at table the diners would scoop some mustard onto their plates and dip into it as they wanted. Since it was so strong, they didn’t need much, which gave rise to a story that Colman’s made their profit, not from what was eaten, but by what was left on the plate. Whatever that story, it’s certainly not likely that any of us today would associate a tree with the stuff we have at dinner or put on our hot dogs.

Gospel story

Jesus, like the prophets before him, used images that were familiar to the people of his time. They grew crops, looked after sheep, tended olive trees and grape vines and so on.

In today’s Gospel the two parables are about seeds. From something small, something wonderful can grow. Obviously, Jesus knew about mustard. it was used throughout the Roman Empire and, in fact, the word “mustard” itself comes from Latin. Of course, in Palestine it would have been a darker spice than our yellow. It’s not too far-fetched to imagine Jesus being served it at a meal, say at the house of Zacchaeus the tax collector, or when he was invited to dinner by the Pharisees. Whatever the reality, it was clear that he knew his listeners would understand the imagery of the mustard seed growing into a tree.

There’s a point to note here; Jesus is not being literal in this parable. The mustard seed is not the smallest, nor the mustard tree or shrub the largest, although it can grow to 20 feet tall, or about 6 metres if you prefer metric. He’s using a poetic device to show the contrast between the tiny seed of God’s kingdom sown on earth which will grow to something immense in the fulness of time.

At the end of the parable Jesus echoes the imagery we heard in the first reading, from the prophet Ezekiel, when he says that the birds of the air will live and find shelter in the shade of the tree. In one of his talks our late Pope Benedict XVI had a lovely image of people who were looking for God being like birds perching on the tree of the Church where its members had already built their nests.

Application

*It might be presumptuous, but we could extend something to the parable of the mustard tree by way of a warning. If you’ve read or even heard about a book by C.S. Lewis called *The Screwtape Letters* you’ll know it was about a series of imaginary letters from Screwtape, a Senior Devil, to Wormwood, a Junior Devil, advising him on how to tempt people away from the “Enemy”, which is the name he gives to God. In one letter Screwtape tells Wormwood that by encouraging factions within the Church he can turn them into people who have the characteristics of what he describes as “the self-righteousness of a secret society or a clique.”*

If we go back in our parable to the birds in the tree, we know from nature that there can be trouble. The jolly little robin redbreast will fight any other robin that comes on his territory. The large plump wood pigeon will chase his lesser companions away from a scrap of food. And so on. The factions that St Paul found in the Christians in Corinth who shouted, “I am for Cephas”, “I am for Apollos”, nearly drove him to distraction and he exclaimed in exasperation, “Is Christ divided?”

We can also be tempted into factions where our airs and pomposities make us feel superior to our brothers and sisters. If we can’t show charity to one another, what chance have we of offering welcome to the other birds who come to our tree seeking shelter?

In today’s Mass let’s ask our loving Lord to give us his healing Holy Spirit to bind us together so that we can love one another as he loves us.

Living the Word

May God bless all the fathers living and deceased.