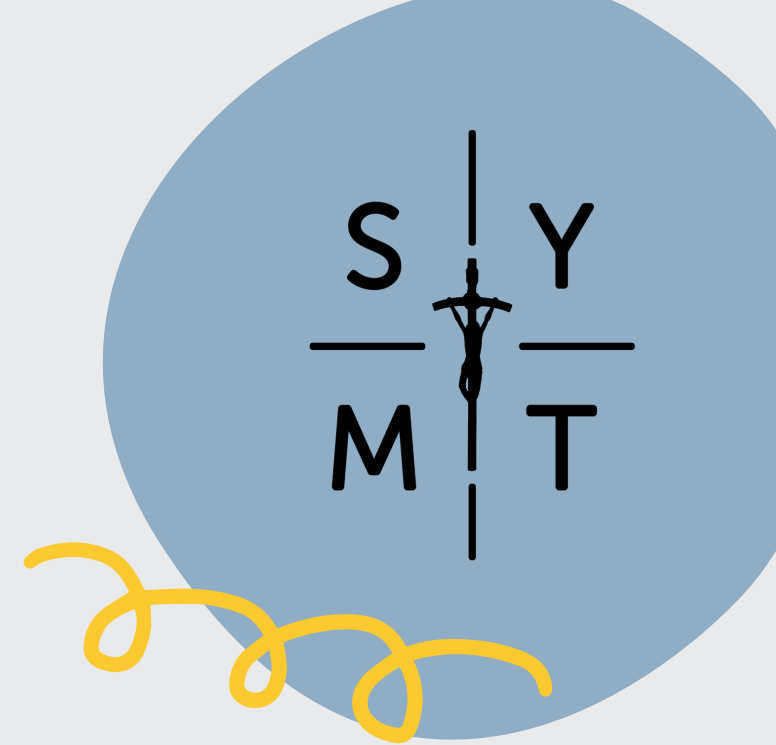




# Shine



**13TH JUNE 2021**  
**11TH SUNDAY IN**  
**ORDINARY TIME**

SCRIPTURE  
 MARK 4:26-34

Jesus said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

He also said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

## Reflection

Jesus talks to the disciples using parables and experiences that they would be able to relate to. I imagine, not many of us can relate to planting mustard seeds and watching them grow, however we can understand the concept. A small seed produces such a great tree.

How does this relate to us today then? What can we do to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to Earth? Each of us has been given great potential by God, with the gifts and talents He has given to us. We must let ourselves be nurtured through prayer and the Eucharist to help these grow and most of all use them!

Don't let your gifts and talents go to waste. How will you use your God-given gifts and talents this week to bring about the Kingdom of Heaven?

# ACTIVITY

## Gifts and Talents

Make a list of your gifts and talents – if you're stuck, ask a family member or a friend to help, they will know your gifts and talents!

Pick one or two and think about how you can use these during the week to help others. This might be a practical way, to cheer them up or as a way to share some time together.



## Prayer

Thank you Lord for all that you give to us each day, especially our gifts and talents that we can use to spread your message of love and peace.

Help us to see opportunities to grow in our faith and above all to share this with others. Amen.



## CHALLENGE

Buy some seeds to plant. As you nurture them and watch them grow, think about how you can nurture your own faith life.

This could be by adding more prayer into your day, reading the bible more or trying to attend an extra Mass during the week.

As your plant grows and blossoms, watch your faith grow and blossom too.