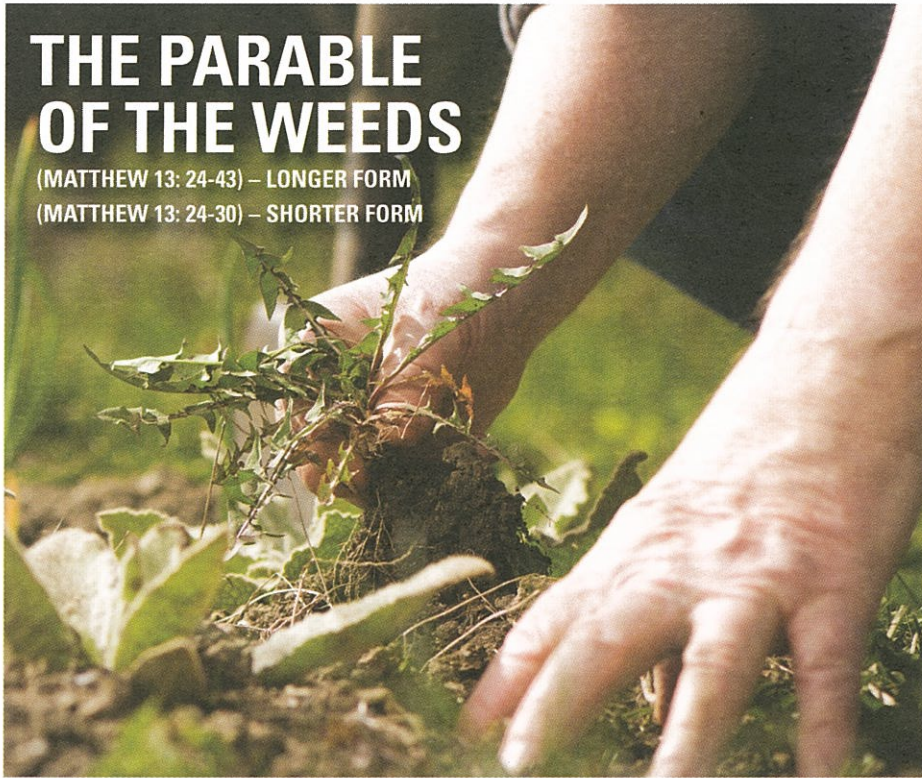


## THE PARABLE OF THE WEEDS

(MATTHEW 13: 24-43) – LONGER FORM  
(MATTHEW 13: 24-30) – SHORTER FORM



Today we are presented with three parables explaining how the Kingdom of God interacts with the world.

The parable of the weeds demonstrates the good and evil that co-exist in the world. The mustard seed reminds us that our actions of mercy and love can have small beginnings but will grow into something much greater. The yeast expresses that the church is indeed very much part of a society that will contradict and challenge its teachings and activities. These parables also show that the Kingdom of God is very much alive and active in the world. Jesus never said that being part of a Church was going to be easy.

The Kingdom of God is brought about when we as individuals interact with the world in a spirit of respect, compassion, freedom and truth. Our terms of reference is Jesus Christ. We confront evil in our world and are challenged by it. We sow seeds of love and kindness that will bear much fruit in our lives and the lives of others. And finally, we are inextricably linked to a world that can form us and educate us. But this world also needs to hear our message of Christ's love and compassion for all. ■

### LEARN

'Jesus' invitation to enter his kingdom comes in the form of parables, a characteristic feature of his teaching. Through his parables he invites people to the feast of the kingdom, but he also asks for a radical choice: to gain the kingdom, one must give everything. Words are not enough, deeds are required. The parables are like mirrors for man: will he be hard soil or good earth for the word?' (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 546)

### SAY

'Memories of our lives, of our works and our deeds will continue in others.'  
(Rosa Parks)

### DO

Think of something you can do for your parish this week. A visit to someone who's sick or living on their own is always a good start or maybe a phone call to your Parish Priest to see if any volunteers are needed for a future project.

### REFLECT



Apple iPhones and computers have become the landmark and standard tools for the average internet user. There are other brand names of course but Apple seems to have led the industry with their expertise and brilliant innovative technologies. When Steven Jobs and Steve Wozniak invented the Apple Computer, they quickly realised that they hadn't the organisational capabilities to get the company off the ground. They had brilliant ideas but needed greater management expertise. They approached the President of Pepsi, John Sculley, asking him to leave his position and come join them. Sculley declined the invitation but Jobs and Wozniak were persistent. They went back to him again and again. Eventually Steven Jobs said to him, 'Do you want to spend the rest of your life selling sugared water, or do you want a chance to change the world?' Indeed, Jobs and Sculley went on to change the world.

This is the very task being presented by Jesus through three parables today. How are we going to change the world? When you think about it, it's quite a daunting task. We spend a lot of our days working to earn money, to support our family, to buy nice things, to pay the bills. But what do we actually do for the Church? Are we changing the world in the way we confront evil and injustice? Are we planting seeds of compassion and love through our actions and conversations? What is our response when society challenges a belief or teaching that we hold dear? When bringing about the Kingdom of God on earth, we change the world. Like the mustard seed, it happens one small step at a time. ■