

Exercise B

Reflect on this passage in the context of your experience in the parish and in the Church.

Thoughts page



Teaching and sustaining the faith

	Parish Activities	Your Involvement/support
Parents and Sponsors of children for Baptism		
Candidates for Confirmation		
Young Disciples (post confirmation)		
Committed disciples		
Adult Catechumenate		
People who have been away from the faith for a while		
People of faith who are searching for something deeper		

MARK OF MISSION 2

To teach, baptise and nurture new believers

TEACH

Christian discipleship is about lifelong learning, so we all need formal and informal resources for growing in faith, so that the Church is a learning environment for all ages.

SCRIPTURAL REFLECTIONS

THE GROWTH OF THE KINGDOM

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear. “The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables? “He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. This is why I speak to them in parables: “Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. *Matthew 13: 1- 4*

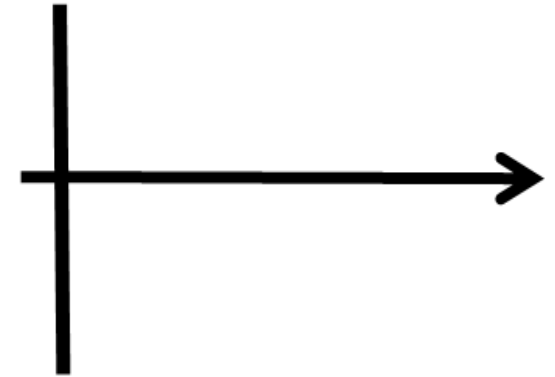
Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat

sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’ ‘An enemy did this,’ he replied. The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’ ‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’”
Mt. 13:24-30



Exercise A

Reflect on this gospel passage in the context of your own life and your experience of growing in discipleship. This Mark of Mission focuses on how the Church sustains new believers. We cannot do this unless we keep the seed of faith alive in our own lives.



Use this graph to draw your spiritual life. A peak on the graph shows a time when you felt close to God. A trough represents a time when you felt distant from it. Label the main events. What was the context that made you?

“a path”,

“rocky ground”,

“thorny soil”

or “good soil”.

What were “the birds”,

“the withering heat”,

“the thorns” in your life?

Looking back on them, what have you learnt about God and his ways?