

Reflections on 16th Sunday of Year 26A.

Mass: Wisdom 12:13,16-18; Psalm 85; Romans 8:26-27; Matthew 13:24-43.

The first parable in today's Gospel sets the scene. There is something going on that we don't understand, we can only surmise, but we know that there is a plot. We do like to know everything, or to be able to work it out. I love 'New Tricks' the detective series because it has odd characters, long past it, except the lady detective, and all struggling to work out the plot, the long-lost criminals. In the first parable you can't tell the good from the bad, the wheat from the darnel and you don't know who the villain is, that comes at the end of the story. It is like 'New Tricks' you know that all will be revealed at the end. The farmer has a trick up his sleeve though, he trusts that the wheat will be strong enough to resist the enemy and that he will have the last laugh because the weed will be useful after harvesting! The other two parables unpack it even further. Something small will grow big, and keep the birds off, as in the mustard seed. The leaven will transform the wheat into amazing quantities of bread, to feed hundreds. The evil one thinks that he can thwart the good farmer but, ends up simply revealing the amazing wisdom and generosity of God. The parables are meant to give hope to a small community facing persecution. They aren't meant to incite rebellion, protest, or violence but patient trust in the God who gives everything in abundance and knew what the villain was up to all the time!