

**REFLECTION ON JULY 30<sup>TH</sup> GOSPEL:** In this Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus offers three more short parables. The first two parables describe the great value of the kingdom of heaven: like a buried treasure that is worth possessing even if it means giving up everything else; and like a pearl of great worth for which one will sell everything else to possess. These parables teach us that we are to place everything we value in the service of the pursuit of the Kingdom of God. The third parable that Jesus proposes in today’s Gospel is different from the first two, but it is reminiscent of the parable of the sower heard in last week’s Gospel. The kingdom of heaven is compared to fishing with a wide net. After the fish have been collected, the good fish are kept and the bad fish are thrown away; so too, in the final judgment, will the wicked and the righteous be separated. Some would wish to do the separating here and now. But Jesus reminds us that we must leave the ultimate separation of good and bad to God at the end of the ages. Our task as faithful stewards is to preserve all that is good both new and old, and cast the net as wide and as far as possible. On Judgement Day we may be surprised at what is kept and what is discarded.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST 2 – 6, 2023**

**Wednesday 9:00 a.m.** Braeside Father Steve Ballard *by Parishioners*  
**Thursday 9:00 a.m.** Arnprior Joyce Whitelock *by Pat Fox*  
**First Friday 9:00 a.m.** St. Jean-Marie Vianney, priest  
Arnprior For Donors to the Memorial Fund & Those Named  
In Memoriam The Starflower Prayer Initiative  
**Saturday 4:30 p.m.** Arnprior Missa Pro Populo  
**Sunday 9:00 a.m.** Arnprior Sister Nancy Wilson & Kathy Wagner  
*by Carol Marcellus*  
**10:30 a.m.** Arnprior Gordon & Alma McNulty *by The Family*

**Liturgical appointments for the Month of August**

	4:30 P.M.	9:00 A.M.	10:30 A.M.
Reader	Gerry	Betty	Regina Rolph
Ministers of Communion	Clare/Linda	Luc/Sharon	Kathie McMahon
Greeter/Usher	Linda/Denis Clare +1	Golda/Savio +2	Grant Frood
Music			

**POPE’S PRAYER FOR AUGUST:** For World Youth Day. We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

**REFLECTION ON JULY 9<sup>TH</sup> GOSPEL:** Today’s reading from Matthew’s Gospel comes after a discourse in which Jesus reproaches people who have witnessed his mighty deeds yet still lack belief. In this context, today’s Gospel explains the reason for this unbelief and reveals what is necessary for faith. Today’s Gospel also continues to enhance our understanding of discipleship as last week’s Gospel did. Jesus first prays in thanksgiving to God who has made himself known to Jesus’ disciples. He praises God who has made himself known to the “little ones” and not to the wise and learned. As in other recent readings from Matthew’s Gospel, a contrast is made here between the unbelieving Pharisees, who are wise and learned, and the faithful disciples, tax collectors, and sinners with whom Jesus keeps company. The second part of this reading calls to our attention the unity between the Father and the Son. God has made himself known through Jesus, and in knowing Jesus, we come to know the Father. In Jesus’ life and in his person, God reveals himself to us. In the concluding sentences of today’s Gospel, Jesus’ teaching is again contrasted to the teaching of the Pharisees. This common theme of Matthew’s Gospel probably reflects tension that existed between Jesus and the Pharisees and between the Pharisees and the community of Christians for whom Matthew wrote. Pharisaic Judaism became the predominant form of Judaism after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem about 70 A.D. Here that tension is expressed as alternative paths of holiness. The careful observance of the Mosaic law taught by the Pharisees could be experienced by some as difficult and burdensome. In contrast, Jesus’ way of holiness is presented as uncomplicated and even restful.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK JULY 12 - 16, 2023**

**Wednesday 9:00 a.m** Braeside Russell Havelin *by Helen & Family*  
**Thursday 9:00 a.m.** Arnprior Bridget Dorzek *by Lucien Cloutier*  
Teresa Burke *by John & Christine Tammadge*  
**Friday 9:00 a.m.** Arnprior Ernest & Joe Dupuis *by Margaret & Family*  
**Saturday 4:30 p.m.** Arnprior Orville Wilson *by Shirley Valiquette*  
**Sunday 9:00 a.m.** Arnprior Missa Pro Populo  
**10:30 a.m.** Braeside Mom, Dad & Maureen *by The Walsh Family*

**WALK THE OPEONGO LINE, July 27-30, 2023:** Join pilgrims from ages 7-77 in this life changing, 4-day journey from Our Lady of Fatima, Renfrew to St. Ann’s Shrine, Cormac. It’s an experience that merits many blessings and many wonderful memories. For more information and to register, visit: [Pilgrimage to St. Ann's Shrine – 2023 Pilgrimage \(walktheopeongoline.org\)](https://www.pilgrimage-to-st-ann.ca/)

**REFLECTION ON JULY 16<sup>TH</sup> GOSPEL:** Today’s Gospel marks the beginning of the third long discourse given by Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew. Over the next few weeks, the Gospel readings will consist of the entire 13<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Matthew’s Gospel, a lengthy teaching discourse. Throughout this discourse, Jesus will offer several parables to illustrate for his listeners what he means by the kingdom of heaven. He begins with the parable of the sower, which appears rather straightforward—of course seeds grow best in good soil. Seeds that miss the soil, are sown on rocky ground, or are sown among other plants will not grow. The surprise in the parable is the enormous yield of the seed that is sown on good soil. Jesus then explains his use of parables. Jesus seems to suggest that he uses parables to teach because the meanings of parables are not self-evident. The hearer must engage in some degree of reflection in order to comprehend the message of a parable. In this way, the medium—the parable—models the point of the parable of the sower. Those who are willing to engage themselves in the effort to understand will be rewarded by the discovery of the message and will bear fruit. To bring home the point, Jesus interprets the parable of the sower to his disciples. The different types of soil in which the seeds are sown are metaphors for the disposition with which each individual hears the teaching about the kingdom of heaven. Some will be easily swayed away from the kingdom of heaven. Some will receive it for a time but will lose it when faced with difficulties. Some will hear the word but will then permit other cares to choke it out. Yet some will receive it well, and the seed will produce abundant fruit.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK JULY 19 - 23, 2023**

- Wednesday 9:00 a.m** Braeside Deceased Friends *by Monique Perry*
- Thursday 9:00 a.m.** Arnprior Marc Clouthier *by Bob & Carol Clouthier*
- Friday 9:00 a.m.** Arnprior Leanne Marie Stapelton *by Rolaleen*
- Saturday 4:30 p.m.** St. Mary Magdalene, Disciple of the Lord  
Arnprior Jean Poniatowski *by Krystyne Szafran*
- Sunday 9:00 a.m.** Arnprior *Missa Pro Populo*  
**10:30 a.m.** Braeside John Mellor *by The Estate*

**ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE, SUNDAY AUGUST 13<sup>th</sup>:** For the 66<sup>th</sup> time, and the first since the pandemic, **Our Lady of Knock Shrine at St. Malachy’s Church in Mayo, Quebec**, will be holding a pilgrimage to honour Our Lady’s apparition at Knock, County Mayo, Ireland on August 21, 1879. The Eucharist will be celebrated in English by Monsignor Paul-André Durocher, Archbishop of Gatineau, assisted by Father Greg Murray of Saint Malachy’s Parish. Info: <http://stmalachyolv.com> Contact: Mrs. Ellen Butler 819-986-3860; Mrs. Virginia Sellers 819-281-6490. [mayopilgrimage@gmail.com](mailto:mayopilgrimage@gmail.com)

**REFLECTION ON JULY 23<sup>RD</sup> GOSPEL:** In today’s Gospel, Jesus offers three parables to describe the Kingdom of Heaven. He also explains why he speaks to the crowds in parables and interprets the parable of the sower for the disciples. This reading is a continuation of Jesus’ discourse that we began reading last Sunday. All three parables use commonplace experiences to describe aspects of the Kingdom of Heaven. The first parable is longer and more detailed than the next two, and it alerts us to the two-fold reality of the Kingdom of Heaven. The beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven can be found in this world. The fruition of the Kingdom of Heaven, however, will not be realized until the final judgment. In the meantime, as Jesus’ explanation to the disciples cautions, any effort to judge the progress of the Kingdom of Heaven is premature. Only God, in the final judgment, will distinguish the fruit of the Kingdom of Heaven and offer its reward. The second and third parables call to our attention the abundance that will result from the small beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven. Just as a mustard seed—the smallest of all seeds—will become a large bush, so too God will bring his Kingdom to full bloom. As a small amount of yeast will leaven the entire batch of bread, so too God will bring about the expansion of his Kingdom. In each case the image is of the superabundance that God brings out of even the smallest of signs of the Kingdom. Contained within these parables are words of caution as well as words of consolation. In the parable of the sower we are warned against judging others. To judge and uproot the “weeds” prematurely will harm the wheat; final judgment rests with God. In the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast, we are consoled by the message that God can work wonders and produce abundance from even the smallest beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK JULY 26 - 30, 2023**

- Wednesday 9:00 a.m** Saints Ann & Joachim, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Braeside S/K Michael Tremblay *by Gerry & Jane Whalen*
- Thursday 9:00 a.m.** Arnprior Steve Blais *by Dave & Kathy Miller*
- Friday 9:00 a.m.** Arnprior Yvon Ouellet *by Chery & Rich Peters*
- Saturday 4:30 p.m.** Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus, disciples of the Lord  
Arnprior Anne Borthwick *by Tom & Lyla Trudeau*
- Sunday 9:00 a.m.** Arnprior *Missa Pro Populo*  
**10:30 a.m.** Braeside Thanksgiving to St. Joseph  
*by Bernice & Pat Fitzmaurice*

**MARIAN PILGRIMAGE:** Father Ouellette will be accompanying this Pilgrimage to Lourdes (France), Compostela (Spain), and Fatima and Lisbon (Portugal) October 25<sup>th</sup> to November 6<sup>th</sup> 2023. For more info: <https://spiritours.com/en/product/france-spain-portugal-acn/>