

The Catholic Parish & Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, West Grinstead

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16th Sunday in Ordinary Time : 23rd July 2017

CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

TODAY (23 rd July)	Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 6.00pm Vigil Mass <i>Pro Populo</i> 10.30am Parish Mass Roy Marcham – R.I.P.
MONDAY (24th)	Mem: St. Sharbel Makhluf, Priest 9.30am Holy Mass <i>The sick</i>
TUESDAY (25th)	Feast: St. James, Apostle NO MASS
WED'DAY (26th)	Ss Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary NO Exposition & Adoration this week 10.00am Holy Mass David Wylie-Spome's intents.
THURS (27th)	Feria of 16th Week in Ordinary Time NO MASS
FRIDAY (28th)	Feria of 16th Week in Ordinary Time 9.30am Holy Mass <i>The Faithful Dep</i>
SATURDAY (29th)	Mem: St. Martha, Virgin NO MASS
NEXT SUNDAY (30 th July)	Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 6.00pm Vigil Mass <i>Victor Adshead – R.I.P.</i> 10.30am Parish Mass <i>Pro Populo</i>

✠ **The Sacrament of Confession** is available before the 6.00pm Vigil Mass every Saturday; at 11.30am on Wednesdays; or by arrangement.

✠ **Monday (24th July)** is the memorial of **St. Sharbel Mahluf**. (His is the framed painting that hangs in the Confessional area.) Lebanese priest, born in 1828. He entered the Monastery of Our Lady in Mayfouqone and quickly reverted to living a his life in solitude as a hermit. At the time of his death in 1898 and immediately following, many healing miracles were wrought following supplication to St. Sharbel. Mass will be celebrated here at **9.30am** in the Bl. Francis Bell Chapel (on the ground floor of the Priest's House.)

✠ Due to a hospital appointment, the **Wednesday Mass (26th) this week will be at 10.00am.** (Normal times for Adoration and Mass next week.)

Please remember the sick and housebound in your prayers at this time; and amongst them:

Fr. Ray Blake, Patrick Brennan, John Challis, Catherine Clayton, Bridget Coghlan, Tito Coletta, Moya Connolly, Jim Corcoran, Kath Davies, Philip Dean, Jo Dexter, Justine, Maggie Dougall, Suzanne Enbeigene, Norma Facer, Jeffrey Facon, Shane Fahy, Mark Forster, Vaughan Frederick, Lillian Fry, Sylvia Graham, Michael Handley, Joshua Hayter, Mike Kelly, Sarah Keith, Patricia Mallet, Paschal Radford, David Rees, Giles Rubens, Joe Ryan, Anne Timmins, Charlotte Walker and Stella Walls.

Genetically Modified Seed

First collect the darnel and tie it into bundles to be burnt; then gather the wheat into my barn. (Matthew 13: 30)



One of the worries that people have over GM food is that there might be side effects which do not show up for a long time. When or if they do, it will be too late.

You could argue that if the sower in Jesus' parable had had genetically modified seed then

the darnel (poisonous weeds) might not have been able to attack it. In other words, why does God allow potential to remain unfulfilled, promise to be broken, goodness to be choked by evil? If God loves us, why doesn't he take care of things so that sin never prevails against goodness?

A clue to the answer comes in Jesus' words, "Let them both grow until the harvest". God seems to avoid the short cuts that we favour. We cannot understand why God does not intervene more to avert disasters and evil. If wickedness seems to prosper at the expense of good, can it be because God doesn't care or is powerless? What God seems to be bothered about most is respecting the sort of people we are. We live in God's kingdom with free will - the ability to decide what we want

to be and do. Free will is a gift from God which gives us a self worth. We are not pieces on a chess board. Rather, we are trusted by God to act responsibly. If God were to keep intervening every time we were about to make a mess of things, then we would have a "nanny-God" and our free will would be taken away by a God who "knows best".

Yet Jesus' words, "Let them both grow until the harvest" give us an idea that there is purpose and justice to the way God acts. Good and bad exist together in this world, but Jesus is saying that at the end of time there is a reckoning. The darnel will be destroyed, burnt. Part and parcel of our free will is that should we choose to reject God and go for our own selfish lifestyle, then God allows us this freedom.

He does not modify us genetically so that we end up doing what he wants while thinking that we are in the driving seat. God lets us choose to reject him and, when it comes time to harvest the fruit of our lives, he respects our decision for ever.

