



7th Sunday aft. Pentecost-12 July 2026 St Matthew's-Holland Park

God's word brings life, but it must be received with trust, patience, and a heart open to the Spirit. Across the readings, we see human struggle, divine guidance, and Jesus teaches that the word of the kingdom is generously sown, but its fruit depends on the condition of the heart.

Genesis 25.19-34 - Jacob and Esau

What's happening: Rebekah bears twins after Isaac prays. Even before birth, Jacob and Esau struggle. Esau becomes a hunter; Jacob stays nearer to home. Esau later sells his birthright to Jacob for a meal. The story also warns us about careless choices.

Main point: God's purposes often unfold through messy family life and flawed people. Esau gives away something precious because he is ruled by immediate appetite.

What to wonder: Why does Esau treat his birthright so lightly? Where do we trade long-term blessing for short-term comfort?

Psalms 119.105 - 112 - God's Word as Light

What's happening: The psalmist speaks of God's word as a lamp and light, guiding them through trouble, suffering, and danger.

Main point: God's word does not remove every hardship, but it gives light for the next faithful step. Hold fast to God's commandments and treasure them as the joy of the heart.

What to wonder: Do we seek God's guidance only when life is dark, or do we walk by it daily?

Romans 8.1 - 11 - Life in the Spirit

What's happening: Paul declares there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus. Life is no longer ruled by sin and death, but by the Spirit of God.

Main point: In Christ, we are not defined by failure, fear, or the flesh, but by the life-giving Spirit. The Spirit of God now dwells in us, giving life where there was death and freedom where there was condemnation.

What to wonder: What does it mean, practically, to set our minds on the Spirit rather than simply on ourselves?

Matthew 13.1 - 9, 18 - 23 - The Sower

What's happening: God sows his word generously, but fruitfulness depends on the condition of the heart. Some hearts are hardened, some shallow, some crowded by worry and wealth, and some open, receptive, and fruitful.

Main point: The same word is generously sown, but fruitfulness depends on how it is received and nurtured.

What to wonder: What kind of soil is my heart becoming-hard, shallow, crowded, or open?
**God generously plants his word in our lives; our calling is to receive it deeply,
trust it patiently, and let the Spirit make it fruitful.**

[Matthew 13 NIV - The Parable of the Sower - That same - Bible Gateway](#); [Matthew 13: The Parables of Jesus](#); [Sowers, Seeds, And Soils - A Sermon On Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 - Interrupting the Silence](#); [Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 - Center for Excellence in Preaching](#); [What does Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 really mean? - God's Blessing](#)

Naidoc Sunday 12 July Aunty Sandra

Wine and Cheese Evening 17 July-Kiwi Theme-Tickets \$25 each

Kiwi Service in Maori and English 26 July 3-4pm

MIB Mandolins In Brisbane 'Echoes and Landscapes' 2 August 3pm

Bible Study Lady Chapel Friday 10am The Bible Unpacked

Ladies Study Wednesday Night see Janice E or Heather W

Men's Breakfast 1st Thursday of month

Pray for Street Iveagh Avenue

Meditation 23 July Wednesday night 5pm

Op Shop Every Thursday-1st Saturday of month Times 9-12

Behind the Scenes Thanks: Maintenance Team and Alan E.

Next Sunday Pentecost 8: 9am 19 July; Genesis 28.10-19a

Psalm 139.1-11, 23-4; Romans 8.12-25; *Matthew 13.24-30,36-43*

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Parish website : <https://www.stmatthewshollandpark.com/>

Parish Private Facebook site : <https://www.facebook.com/groups/292308270851142>

Public Site: <https://www.facebook.com/StMatthewsHollandPark> ;

Tipper's Treasure's FB site: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559040358754>

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY:

We acknowledge and pay respect to the Turrbal and Jagera Peoples, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather today. We acknowledge their continued spiritual connection to country and surrounding land, sky and water. We pay our respect to their Elders, past present and emerging and pray that we may continue to learn from and nurture one another in the spirit of Reconciliation.