



HOMILY by Father Robbie Low

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time-Year A-July 12th 2020

Readings: Isaiah 55: 10-11, Psalm 64, Romans 8: 18-23,

Matthew 13: 1-23

‘The Lord says, The Word that goes forth from my mouth does not return empty without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.’ Farmers are not gardeners. Gardeners are not farmers. The farmer will be surrounded by vast acres of burgeoning crop while dwelling in a house that boasts a scruffy bit of lawn and a functional windbreak of dreary conifer hedge. The Gardener will live in a mini paradise with a treasured vegetable patch fuelled by a bursting greenhouse. The farmer will till huge areas, fertilise on an industrial scale, sow profligately, protect massively and harvest hugely and mechanically. The Gardener will carefully sow each seed into its own pot or space, in prepared soil, proper drainage, keep well-watered, watch each sprout, tend and repot when required, assess the time for pricking out and planting out, defend, support, nourish all the way. As the Church of God we have to be both farmer and gardener. Farmers, we spread the Word, in Evangelism. We scatter the seed, God’s Word, wherever there is soil. We know that some soil is shallow and will not let the plant survive the heat of the day. That some may be apparently impenetrable, hard hearted, unreceptive. That some will be fertile but overwhelmed by the

weeds of sin. Some will produce huge crop. WE don't know which – so we scatter the WORD - JESUS wherever we see that mixture of blood and dust – MAN. As Gardeners we are particular. We nourish each little plant in our care. We defend it from the pests of destructive powers lurking unseen. We learn when to pot up, plant out, stake support. When to prune – ouch. When and where to move if not thriving. How to get the best flower and crop and glorious effect of the Garden of Paradise to which we refer and from which we come. Evangelism and parish pastoral care – farmers and gardeners – different tasks, same end, same Church, same glorious fruiting and flowering and harvest.