



HOMILY by Father Robbie Low

16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time-Year A-July 19<sup>th</sup> 2020

***Readings: Wisdom 12: 13. 16-19, Psalm 85, Romans 8: 26-27,  
Matthew 13: 24-43***

Two powerful images inform Jesus teaching today. The first is (back with last week's sermon) an agricultural reference. Jesus portrays the enemy sowing 'darnel' in a field of wheat. This may mean little to us but it would have resonated with His listeners. Darnel is popularly known as 'Wheat's evil twin'. It is poisonous and it gives the eater a distorted vision, dizzying disorientation and that nauseous feeling of being drunk without even the intervening pleasure of a good time. It is a perfect metaphor for SIN.

The gardeners among us would be quick to say, 'Well why not weed the evil ones out?' After all one sign of convolvulus or wild strawberry or the dreaded montbretia on the rockery and the wrath of the home horticulturalist descends. Unfortunately darnel is a sneaky beast. It is almost indistinguishable from wheat in its early stages. Only clearly manifesting itself as darnel when it produces the 'ear' – the fruiting. So, not only is it very tricky to identify the rogue and poisonous plant early, to try to weed it out in the later stages would cause havoc in the real crop. Best to leave it then? Come the harvest of judgement the angels will put the wheat in the barn and the darnel in the fire. The fruit will be the final evidence. Darnel is poisonous and destructive. Wheat can be turned into

Christ – the Bread of Heaven. We need to be wheat. The other image Jesus gives is of us being like yeast. This ties in perfectly.

Who would have guessed that there were so many closet home bakers in this country until the plague struck? You couldn't get a sack of flour for your Rolex watch and an ounce of yeast was the price of a ticket for Glastonbury. Those of us who do make their own bread are always fascinated by the mystery of the Rising. These tiny few grains of yeast, seemingly inert dust, inserted and worked into the dough have an astonishing effect. Unseen yet powerful, they transform the flat unleavened lump into a glorious, light and irresistible sustenance for our daily journeying.

Society, without the yeast of the Faith, is a tasteless, dull, unsatisfying lump.

Wheat and yeast, thus we are to feed the world as the Bread of Heaven, the Body of Christ.