

**July 19<sup>th</sup> 2020 – July 26<sup>th</sup> 2020**

**Reflection for the Week**

Matthew 13: 24-43

Mustard seeds....

*The Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants.*

Jesus describes the process by which the Kingdom of God is built up - a gradual process, by degrees. The Kingdom does not evidently come thudding or blasting into the world. God operates discretely, on the edges of things, not drawing to attention to His activity.

Many people want God's Kingly rule to come quickly and directly, putting the world to rights. God's methods are unfathomable. Why is God taking so much time to act?

St. Augustine made an analogy between the Church and Noah's Ark. The Church is like a small boat, rocking on the seas of history. Empires (kingdoms with a small 'k') come and go, leaders triumph and fail, human history and its cultures ebb and flow on a precarious tide. And yet, God's kingdom maintains its stealthy advance.

We should always bear in mind that the way God entered the world illustrates His ways of working for all time. God entered history in a neglected, subjugated provincial suburb of the Roman Empire, quietly escaping detection until the time was right.

**To reflect**

Where can I see evidence of God's Kingdom breaking into the world?

Plant some seeds and watch them grow in pots, or observe plants in your garden (if you have one).

Notice how, for a very long time nothing seems to happen. Notice how when the growth of the plant is evident, it seems to happen stealthily, flourishing unobserved. This is, as Jesus told us, a perfect way to think about the reign of God breaking into the world.