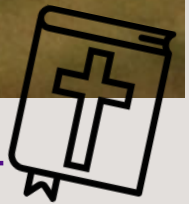


SIGNIFICANCE



WORD OF THE WEEK

THE PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED: MARK 4: 26-34



Jesus said to the crowds: 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time: he starts to reap because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.'



PRAYER FOR THE WEEK



Dear God,

Though we may sometimes feel very small and insignificant and the world is so big, help us to make a difference to all whom we meet today, because we never know how significant that encounter may be.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

During His life, Jesus constantly speaks about the Kingdom of God. We believe that God's Kingdom is a place of justice and peace and that we are called to help build up that Kingdom here on earth. People often asked Jesus what the Kingdom of God was like. One of the best answers Jesus gave to those people was to "Go and tell John (the Baptist) what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have the good news preached to them." This is the work Christ gives to us, his disciples. This work will never be finished. But we are co-workers with Jesus. We are his body on earth and have a significant role to play in building God's kingdom.



Have you ever felt insignificant because you are young?
Can you think of a time when you have felt like this?
Do you believe what you offer the world is important and vital?

This week's Word of the Week, is a great one for you young people and for all of us. You might at times feel insignificant in certain settings or situations, and maybe you feel insignificant in the Church. Sometimes we hear that children are to be seen and not heard and that attitude means that you are just ignored. You might feel small, like the mustard seed but you need to know and see how you fit into God's family and how significant you are to the Church and the world around you. You need to know that you play a vital and very significant part in helping build the kingdom of God. And you already do so much, and set such an amazing example for others. Never forget that you are so important and the world and the Church needs you and all your wonderfulness.

Here are some of the seemingly unimportant insignificant people who have changed the world!
Can you think of anyone else who is/was seemingly unimportant but has made a difference to the world through their actions?

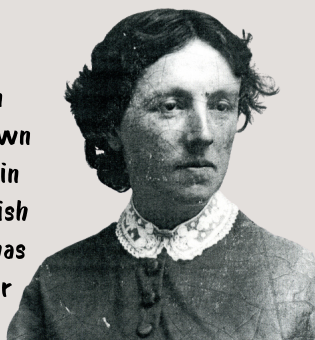


St Joan of Arc
Born nearly 700 years ago in Domremy in France. She had to look after her father's animals because she was a girl. But she led the way in driving the English enemy out of her native country of France.



Lech Walesa
Born in Poland just after the Second World War, and worked in a shipyard. He founded the trade union Solidarity, won the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1983, and became President of Poland.

Mary Jones
Born in 1784 in a small village in Wales. She wanted a Bible in her own language of Welsh. This resulted in the formation in 1804 of the British and Foreign Bible Society, which has now translated the Bible into over a thousand languages.



Edward Jenner
Born in 1749 in a village in Gloucestershire. He was an apprentice to a country surgeon. He discovered the vaccine for smallpox.

