

ICCH
International Catholic Community of Heidelberg

St. Michael's Church, Kirschgartenstr. 35, 69126 Heidelberg Südstadt
06221/13020 – office Fr. Christof Heimpel

Today's readings: [Ez 17:22-24](#) | [2 Cor 5:6-10](#) | [Mk 4:26-34](#)

[Welcome Father Peter](#)

June 14 – 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed that becomes the largest of plants...”

In today's Gospel's parables of the growth of seeds, Jesus explains the nature of the growth of the kingdom of God in human beings and human societies. Growth doesn't take place because of our understandings or manipulations. We are called to do what we can do – plant and nurture. God will do what only God can do – produce the growth. It is God's **initiative** that brings forth growth.

Jesus explains that the kingdom of God grows mysteriously but steadily in human souls. The Kingdom of God is the growth of God's rule in human hearts that occurs when man does the will of God and surrenders his life to God. The seed of faith lies dormant within each of us. When we permit him to nurture it with



tender loving care, it grows miraculously into gigantic proportions. The growth is slow and microscopic in the beginning. But this seed grows by using the power of the Holy Spirit, given to us through the word of God, the Mass, the sacraments and prayers. As we learn God's will from His words and try to put these words into practice, we participate in the growth of God's kingdom on earth which will be completed in our heavenly life. God's rule in the human heart transforms individuals and communities into God's people doing His will in His kingdom.

We need not get discouraged! Since the acceptance of God's rule by human beings is a very slow process, there is the danger of discouragement and hopelessness. The conviction that growth of the kingdom of God is the work of the Holy Spirit, with our humble cooperation, should make us optimistic in continuing our work of bearing witness to Him. We can all plant tiny seeds in the form of words of love, acts of encouragement, deeds of charity, mercy and forgiveness. Parents and teachers can plant a lot of seeds in the minds of their children and students. The Holy Spirit will touch the hearts of the recipients of these seeds sown by us and will effect growth of the kingdom in their souls and lives.

*[shortened from: Fr. Antony Kadavil, <http://cbci.in/Sunday-Reflections.aspx>
picture: <https://mannamustardseeds.wordpress.com/>*

NEWS

CONFESSIONS – Father Peter will be available to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation with those wishing to receive it this Sunday after mass.

PARISH FEAST – Our “mother parish” Philipp Neri is celebrating the traditional “Fest um die Kirche” this weekend around St. Bonifatius, Weststadt. Starting with a BBQ on Saturday evening, the feast will continue on Sunday after mass (10:30) all through the afternoon with different stands, food, cake and games for the kids.

If you would like to be added to our email list please send your contact information to:
infoheidelberg@internationalcatholiccommunity.com