

Sermons at All Saints Anglican Church of Luxembourg

Preached by Rev Alison Heal on Sunday 19th July 2026

Bible passage: Matthew 14:24-30, 36-43

We talked about weeds during Time to Talk.

Our summer theme: together we grow

Parable: odd theme: growing together – weeds among the wheat

Jesus' meaning: judgement? Only God can judge others

What are we to make of it: invitation to witch hunts, modern disease of in groups and out groups, so-called Cancel Culture

Heaven forbid! Which it has. Only God can judge.

Invitation of parable to individuals?

Not to judge others, but to prayerfully make good judgements about the seeds growing in our own lives.

Seeds are ideas or actions, from us, from others, from culture grew up in or around us.

RJ Sunday – Geoff, seeds of racism in our childhood culture

Called to recognise these when still growing amongst the good seed God has planted in lives

Other bad seeds in your own life? Only God, and you, can judge.

Exercise: based *a bit* on St. Ignatius of Loyola ideas of consolation and desolation

If you have an idea, a direction, a passion or maybe a challenge in your life, some kind of seed, sit with it and ask God to be at work in you through his Holy Spirit as you think about this issue, this seed, right now.

Does the thought of it lead to feelings of consolation, of feeling closer to God, of gratitude, of courage? This is what St I called 'consolation': the presence of God within that seed of an idea.

Perfectly possible that exercise led to feelings of heaviness, emptiness, a lack of spiritual energy. St I called this 'desolation', and recognised it as a normal part of life, just as normal as consolation. But as you've asked God for discernment about this seed of an idea or a choice in your life, a sense of desolation might be an indication that it's a weed seed, not a good seed.

I can't judge for you what's good or bad seed. Once I did an exercise like this in church and found myself giving up a responsibility for pastoral visiting. Doing pastoral visits is a good thing, but at that time in my life, it wasn't what I was called to be doing. I felt heavy, burdened, incapable of doing it well while working and bringing up children, but I'd thought it was something I should say 'yes' to. Bringing it to God in prayer showed me that sometimes things which seem to be good ideas can still be bad seed in our life.

Not intending to get you to give up church commitments, but trust the Holy Spirit in your life to help you discern what is his good seed in your life right now, and what is just a weed which has accidentally grown up there.

Because this is part how we grow, together, in him.

If you'd like to talk about something which came to you in prayer during this talk, I'll be available.