

Inner Newcastle Parish: Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West; St Joseph's Church, The Junction; St Mary, Star of the Sea Church, Newcastle; Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tighes Hill; St Laurence O'Toole Church, Broadmeadow. **Mayfield Parish**: Christ the King, Mayfield West. **Stockton Parish**: St Peter-in-Chains, Stockton.

Sunday 13th June 2021 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Our Clergy

Fr Andrew Doohan Fr Peter Thoai Fr Matthew Muller Fr John Vo Deacon Lawrence Caelli

Regional Office—St Benedict's Centre

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Our Staff

Margaret Cox (Reception & Administration) Maryanne Hewitt (Reception & Administration) Anne Warren (Business Manager Finance) Jade Simonsen (Business Manager Property) Dr Anne Millard (Music, Liturgy, Sacraments, Bulletin)

Other Contacts

Lingard Hospital Team: Contact the Parish Office Mercy Pastoral Team: Sr Patricia Whitten rsm (02) 4979 1116 St Joseph's Pastoral Team: Contact the Parish Office

Parish Bulletin: Prayer requests and items for the Bulletin should be received at the Parish Office by 5pm on Wednesdays.



The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of **mustard seed** which a man took and sowed in his field; it is the **smallest** of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a **tree**, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.

Our Parishes incorporate suburbs located on the traditional country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples. We acknowledge their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing relationship with the land, pay respect to their Elders past and present, and commit ourselves to work together for reconciliation and justice.

	SH DIARY(for the week ahead) f Ordinary Time, Year B
Monday—14 8:15am	Ith June Mass @ The Cathedral
	5th June Mass @ The Cathedral Mass @ Stockton
9:00am	–16th June Mass @ The Cathedral Mass @ Mayfield West Tighes Hill
	7th June Mass @ The Cathedral Mass @ Stockton
Friday—18th 9:00am	n June Mass @ Mayfield (if there is no Mass at St Columban school)
11am	Mass @ The Junction Exposition @ The Cathedral (until 12pm) Reconciliation @ The Cathedral (until 12pm)
12:05pm	Mass @ The Cathedral
5:00pm	9th June Mass @ The Cathedral followed by Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help (followed by Reconciliation) Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West Mass @ The Cathedral
Sunday—201	-
12th Sunday 7:30am 8am 9am 9:00am 9:30am Live strea www.mn. 11:00am 11:30am 5pm	in Ordinary Time Mass @ St Mary's Mass @ Tighes Hill Mass @ The Junction Mass @ Stockton Mass @ The Cathedral med via the Diocesan website: catholic.org.au/ places/livestream/ Italian Mass @ The Junction Polish Mass @ The Cathedral Mass @ The Cathedral Vietnamese Mass @ Mayfield West

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Sunday 20th June 2021 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B Job 38:1, 8-11, 2 Cor 5:14-17, Mk 4:35-41

**Apologies for the inconvenience caused by the posting of incorrect readings last week.

Temporary Changes to Weekday Mass Times

With the departure of Fr Peter Street to Forster Tuncurry, there is a need to make some <u>temporary</u> changes to the weekday Mass arrangements for the Inner Newcastle Parish (Stockton and Mayfield remain unaffected).

For the foreseeable future, the following arrangements are in place:

Monday	The Cathedral	8.15am
Tuesday	The Cathedral	8.15am
Wednesday	The Cathedral	8.15am
	Tighes Hill	9.15am
Thursday	The Cathedral	8.15am
Friday	The Junction	10.15am
	The Cathedral	Midday
Saturday	The Cathedral	9.15am

SUNDAY MASSES remain unchanged for the time being.

Once some clarity around the clergy staffing for the City Pastoral Region is available, a more permanent arrangement will be put in place. We apologise for any inconvenience and trust that parishioners will understand the need for this <u>temporary</u> measure.

Fr Andrew Moderator

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION:

Living Waters, 34 Kenrick St., The Junction:

Wednesday, 7.30 am Friday, 11.00 am Monday, 6.30 pm

CONTACT: <u>annecuskelly@hotmail.com</u> or 0407 436 808



RECENTLY DECEASED: Gordon Rowland, John Cavenagh, Bob Burke, Mona Stephens, Peter McCabe

ANNIVERSARIES: Leo McGovern, James Martin, Frank & Frances Hinchey, Patricia Hinchey, Bill & Phyllis Martin

SICK: Mercy Umali, Greg Radecki, Grahame Chegwidden

Names may be placed here by contacting the Parish Office. Please refer to the Policy Document on the Parish website—visit www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/downloads.

ST COLUMBAN'S CHURCH, MAYFIELD

The City of Newcastle Council has rejected the DA to have the Church Building of St Columban's removed/ knocked down. The Diocese is in the process of appealing the decision to the Land and Environment Court.

LINGARD HOSPITAL TEAM

Things are getting back to some normality with Hospital visiting. We are very grateful to the management of Lingard for their continuing support. Visits have started again with the only restriction in dispensing Holy Communion at this stage. If you know of anyone from our parish who is about to be or has recently been discharged from hospital and can't attend Mass, please contact the Parish office to arrange a visit from the St Joseph's Pastoral Team.

ST LAURENCE O'TOOLE, BROADMEADOW

The projected costs of the repairs and maintenance that have been identified so far are well in excess of the amount whereby a formal 'business case' has to be prepared by the Parish. This is then submitted to the Bishop for approval to expend the money. We are being exceptionally careful to ensure that everything is included in the one submission rather than face multiple submissions for things that have been overlooked. I realise this is taking some time, but I believe it is in the best long term interest of the Parish and the building itself to ensure that we do things properly and at the same time to minimise cost and disturbance and maximise the benefits once the repairs and maintenance are completed.

Realistically, given the complexity of the repairs that have been suggested so far, I cannot see Broadmeadow church being reopened until much later in the year. I also realise that such news will not be welcome, but I don't believe we have much in the way of choice except to get it right the first time for everyone's safety. And if asbestos becomes a bigger issue that we hope, the future of the church may be well out of our hands.

An additional complexity which may or may not have an impact on the future usage of the Broadmeadow church is the clergy staffing issue which you are already aware of. There will be come clarity around that, and the future of the regional 'in solidum' model in coming weeks, but I think it only fair to suggest that if Fr Peter is not replaced there may need to be some hard decisions made about the usage of all the churches of the parish. What that might look like is unknown, but it remains a real possibility at this particular point in time. *Fr Andrew*

You are invited to connect and pray with each other across the Diocese from your own home. God speaks to us through the words of the Gospel and then through artist's images of the Gospel message. Join us each Wednesday 5.00-5.45pm.

Zoom link:

https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/96144217758 Password: pray For more information contact: rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

VIEW, CHEW, CHAT, AND LECTIO

View, Chew, and Chat continues to meet via Zoom. During the Easter Season, we began the practice of *Lectio Divina* to prayerfully reflect on the Gospel of the coming Sunday. Beginning in June, we embark on our Ordinary Time schedule:

Week 1: No meeting Week 2: Lectio Divina Week 3: Bible Study (see information below) Week 4: Lectio Divina

So the program for June is as follows: June 16: Bible Study June 23: Lectio Divina June 30: No meeting

To participate, please email the parish office.

The Bible Study series is from Ascension Press: **Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible** by Jeff Cavins and Sarah Christmyer. It is described as an engaging journey through the Bible

This eight-part study (30-minute sessions) provides the easiest way to understand the Bible. Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible makes the complex simple. It helps you uncover the story woven throughout Scripture so that you can get the "big picture" of the Bible and understand what it is all about. The Bible is a story about the Father's unfailing love for you - a love that you are now called to share with others.

BOOK CLUB

Sunday, 4th July @ 6pm: Bookclub meets to discuss A Room Made of Leaves by Kate Grenville. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

PLEASE NOTE

The Office is closed for the public holiday on Monday June 13

PRAYING THE GOSPELS

UNPACKING THE SYNOD PAPERS AT TIGHES HILL CHURCH

9.00-10.00am, following Sunday Mass, parishioners are invited to hear one of the pre-Synod videos and join a short discussion of one of the Synod papers. (Postponements may occur due to Baptisms after Mass)

13 June 2021 *Leadership and Structure* Professor Richard Lennan | Synodality

Richard Lennan is a Professor of Systematic Theology at Boston College's School of Theology and Ministry. He has also been a Priest of the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle since 1983. In this video, Richard discusses Synodality and reflects on the Light from the Southern Cross Report.

20 June 2021 Formation and Education Dr Maeve Heaney | From the Foundation Papers – The Role of the Baptised (Ordained and Non-Ordained)

Dr. Maeve Louise Heaney is the Director of the Xavier Centre for Theological Formation at Australian Catholic University, and is a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy. Born in Dublin, Ireland, she is a consecrated missionary of a Catholic Institute for consecrated life, the Verbum Dei Community.

27 June 2021 *Prayer and Worship* Rev Matthew Muller | Canon Law and Synodality

Rev Matthew Muller is the Chancellor and Canonical Advisor in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. In this video, Rev Muller discusses the canonical aspects of our upcoming Synod.

04 July 2021 *Identity and Community* Sr Patricia Egan | Our Diocesan Synodal Journey

Patricia Egan is a Sr of St Joseph of Lochinvar and a member of the Council for Mission and the Synod Working Party. As Sr Patricia coordinated our Diocese's last Synod in 1992/93, in this video she gives some background history to our 2019-21 Synod.

The booklet containing the Papers endorsed by the Synod is available on the Synod website: <u>https://</u>www.domnsynod.com.au/

JESUS TOLD A JOKE. DID YOU MISS IT?

Dr. Karen Wilk

Have you ever tried to retell a funny story or joke, only to have it fall flat as a pancake the second time around? When you add two thousand years between the telling, this is especially likely to happen. The parables of Jesus come from a distant time, an unfamiliar place, a completely different culture than the ones in which we are church planting. How are we to grasp what first century, predominately Jewish listeners likely did when Jesus told a parable saying, "The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his garden; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." (Matthew 13:31-32 Mark 4:30-32, Luke 13:18-19)

A mustard seed becoming a tree? Did Jesus fail botany or are we missing something: the joke?

Could Jesus be Joking?

Could Jesus be saying this: The mustard seed is very small. When the sower plants it, they expect little more than a shrub. But God can and will use it to do great things?

Jesus of course alludes to Ezekiel 17 (the first reading) comparing the Kingdom of God to the cutting from a cedar tree that God plants. The cutting grows into a huge tree that all the birds come and make nests in. Jesus uses the same words but with a subtle or not so subtle twist... He starts with a mustard seed! A thousand of which are needed to fill a thimble! Where the kingdom of God is concerned, we can expect more than we can expect!

There's more to this parable than Kingdom miracle growth. In Jesus' day, mustard shrubs were weeds. Perhaps it should be translated "the kingdom of God is like dandelion seed, which, when someone took it and sowed it in their lawn...." Dandelions in the lawn! Need I say more?

A Jewish Mishnah forbids sowing mustard seeds in your garden because, according to it, "they are useless, annoying weeds." Nonetheless, common people would grow mustard elsewhere because it was a cheap spice and had for medicinal uses. This analogy would have put off Jesus' listeners, especially the righteous and well-to-do (you know, the ones with the annoyingly perfect front yards)! "How can an unclean thing, a forbidden weed, be like the kingdom of God?" Jesus had to have been smiling when he told this parable.

His chuckle begs the question: could it be that the kingdom of God has more to do with weeds in the

back alley than manicured gardens? Could it be that God passes by the powers and principalities, the authorities and kingdoms of this world and uses the rejected instead? Could the kingdom of God be sown in all of the messes and earthiness of our lives? Could it be sown in all of my uncleanness, and grow into something good and beautiful and larger than life? Could the kingdom of God come to hearts and to homes? Could it come into neighbourhoods and nations that haven't got it all figured out, aren't 'manicured', who seem to be more like dandelions than roses?

A Home for the Birds

There's more. This tree, this Kingdom, Jesus says, is a home for the birds of the air. "Birds of the air" in the Old Testament is most often a reference to Gentiles or non-Jews. These outsiders were often portrayed in a negative way. But not by Jesus.

This parable describes the kingdom tree as a home and shelter for all the birds of the air, all the outsiders! All are welcomed, belong, are invited to flourish! There are no 'non-native' species in God's kingdom. Who's Good News?

Could Jesus be making a comparison here that tells us something more? The great and powerful of this world will be cut down. The smallest of seeds, the humble, the outcast, the sinner, the dandelions that we ignore or dismiss or devalue, will become great and produce the abundant fruit of the kingdom?

Let's take that thought one step deeper. The language Jesus uses is the language that the Roman Empire of His day employed when referring to Caesar. According to Roman law, Julius Caesar was a god. His son was referred to as the son of god. The Roman empire was his kingdom.

According to this logic, the gospel was the good news of Caesar establishing peace and security for the world through his conquering rule. A similar proclamation is made throughout the world today, that peace and security are at the point of a gun? Consequently, to proclaim Jesus as "Lord" and "Son of God" was to contradict the Roman Emperor. In other accounts, we hear Jesus proclaiming "Shalom" in striking and direct challenge to Caesar's "Pax." To say that Jesus' teachings were the "gospel" and that they, not Caesar's imperial army, would bring peace, was a radical departure from the conventional wisdom and authority of that day and a challenge to it! Might we be called to challenge the paradigms of our day too? What if we said no, we're not going to leave it up to governments and social agencies. Let's be citizens. Let's be community. Let's take responsibility for and care about those around us, our neighbours. Let's recognize that God is amongst the ordinary everyday people that hang out on our streets. The Lord of the heavens and earth resides in our back alley. His Kingdom is not established by weapons, power, wealth, manipulation, command and control. His kingdom is established by feeding the hungry, providing shelter for those on the margins and by loving our neighbours—whether they look and smell like us or not. The kingdom of God is like a weed in the garden.

Sowing

The text presents us with a choice. Parables are never just given for information, they demand a response. They are not designed just to sharpen our thinking, but to shape our lives. So I wonder: do we put our trust in imperial trees, or in Jesus' weed seed? Do we imagine the Kingdom in our religiously appointed pews and programs, rules, rituals and righteousness or in the every day, weedy stuff of our lives rooted in Christ?

Two thousand years ago an unlikely handful of weed seeds, filled with the Holy Spirit, spread through the mighty Roman Empire like dandelions! How might it grow, spread, flourish today?

Jesus said that The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed. Seeds left in the cupboard do nothing.

How are we sowing? Someone took and sowed in her field, her neighbourhood. The old axiom applies, bloom where you're planted, as you are, where you are.

May we take the Kingdom weed-seed we've been given, however small and insignificant we imagine it to be, and sow it in our lives and in the lives of those around us.

In so doing, may we trust and believe in, and dream of the day when, by the power of the Spirit, it grows up to become the greatest of all shrubs, putting forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its branches.

https://thev3movement.org/2015/03/02/jesus-told-a-joke-v3-church-planting/



ORDINARY—NOT ORDINARY A reflection by Anne Millard

Here we are in Ordinary Time—rather an unfortunate name, isn't it? We can't be blamed for thinking there's nothing special about it. It's ordinary. But that's not the liturgical meaning at all. While the dictionary definition of ordinary is "with no special or distinctive features; normal", liturgical Ordinary comes from the Latin term *ordinalis*, meaning 'numbered' or 'ruled'.

Between the spectacular feasts of Easter and Christmas are the 33 or 34 weeks of Ordinary Time that contain Jesus' earthly ministry and some of the major events of the Gospels we know and love: miracles, parables, the calling of the twelve, the sermon on the mount, the bread of life discourse. We kick things off this week with the Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time. We've already celebrated the first part of Ordinary Time, which began after the feast of the Epiphany and ended when Lent began on Ash Wednesday. Now we're in the second part of Ordinary Time, which began the Monday after Pentecost and will conclude on the First Sunday of Advent, with the beginning of a new church year.

Ordinary Time in the church is recognizable mostly by what we don't have. There are no special decorations. The music is pared back. The liturgical colour is green. It's all sounding rather ordinary, isn't it? So, what do we do with this ordinary business? Well, nothing could be better to shake up our thinking than this Sunday's Gospel, where Jesus compares the Kingdom of God to a weed. Welcome news, I'd say, especially if you've seen my garden. Maybe the message is that the majority of our lives are spent in the ordinary. A heck of a lot of curried sausages fill the weeks between the dinners with turkey and trimmings.

Eight years ago, when I came home to take over full time care of my brother, Col, life was a bit bumpy. Leaving behind my life in America, I faced the prospect of starting all over again building friendships and reestablishing a life here while caring for a person with intellectual disability. Col struggled to find his way without our parents, who had cared for him every day of his life. He was suddenly in the care of his pretty slapdash sister who had never taken care of a dependent, ever. I relied heavily on the Examen, the foundation of the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius Loyola (AD 1491-1556).

Here's a nutshell version from *A Simple, Life-Changing Prayer* by Jim Manney © Loyola Press:

www.ignatianspirituality.com

The Examen is a method of reviewing your day in the presence of God. It's actually an attitude more than a method, a time set aside for thankful reflection on

where God is in your everyday life. It has five steps, which most people take more or less in order, and it usually takes 15 to 20 minutes per day. (I do it right before I go to sleep—sometimes it takes 1 or 2 minutes).

1. Ask God for light. I want to look at my day with God's eyes, not merely my own.

2. Give thanks. The day I have just lived is a gift from God.

3. Be grateful for it. Review the day. I carefully look back on the day just completed, being guided by the Holy Spirit.

4. Face your shortcomings. I face up to what is wrong—in my life and in me.

5. Look toward the day to come. I ask where I need God in the day to come.

I used a very simple version of the Examen with Col. Each evening I'd ask him what was good about that day and what was going to be good the next day. We still do it. Ordinary Time is a great opportunity for growth in developing new habits. And today, "weed" Sunday, is rather a good reminder that habits grow like weeds. So, why not grab a good new habit and let it take over like a weed in your prayer life? I find comfort and strength in the Examen; maybe you will , too!

VOLUNTEERS

Reminder to all the wonderful volunteers who have received induction handbooks to return them to the office so you can be cleared by HR to volunteer in our parish.

Hey, GARDENERS!

Call out to all of the Gardeners. St Josephs at the Junction and St Mary's on the Hill both need some serious garden love!!!! If you are interested in working with our parish Lawn maintenance man and Parish Handy Man in rejuvenating the gardens please email jade.simonsen@mn.catholic.org.au and we will organize a working group.

THE CHUCKLE

At Bible study, the leader asked an elderly gentleman, Walt, to open the meeting with prayer. Walt did so in a soft voice. Another man, straining to hear, shouted, "I can't hear you!" Walt replied, "I wasn't talking to you."

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING PLANNED GIVING TAX RECEIPTS

Parishioners who require a tax receipt for Planned Giving for the 2020/2021 financial year must notify the Parish Office by 30 June 2021.

Please notify by one of the following methods:

Email to <u>newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au</u> - Use the wording, "Please provide me with a Planned Giving tax receipt" and include your name and envelope number. **Phone:** Call the Parish Office on 4979 1101.

Tax receipt data will be processed on 30 June 2021 and requests must be made by that date.

No subsequent amendments are possible. Any requests received after 30 June 2021 will result in parishioners not receiving a tax receipt. In turn, they will not be able to claim a tax deduction. If you do not require a tax receipt for tax purposes, it is preferable not to request one, as this will enhance the tax deductibility for those who do use the tax receipt. If you do not submit a tax return (and therefore do not require a tax receipt), we can provide you with written confirmation of your contribution total. You can request this by emailing or by phoning the parish office.

Please note that due to limitations imposed by Section 83C of the NSW Education Act, letters relating to a School Building Levy (DFSBL) reduction can no longer be offered by the Parish.

YOUNG ADULTS OF THE COMMUNITY ARE INVITED TO:

Young Adult Social Group: Dinner and Craft Night When: Saturday, June 19, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Where: Penola Room, Our Lady of Victories, Shortland. This month we are creating awareness of the Seafarers and their involvement within our community as we gather for dinner, a talk by one of our members Max, craft activities and challenges! Dinner will be provided. Please RSVP to Rose on 0408796252 with any dietary requirements.

Young Adult Formation Group:

When: 1st Sunday of the month, 4:00pm-5:00pm Where: *St Patrick's Church, Wallsend*

The YA group will meet at 4pm the first Sunday of every month before the 5:30pm Youth Mass for formation opportunities.

All are welcome! We hope to see you there. Please contact Rose on <u>0408796252</u> for more information.

COVID-19-RELATED INFORMATION

Maximum Number of Persons in Churches

Under the current Public Health Order, the limit on the number of persons who can be present in a church is now calculated by allowing 2 square metres per person within the building.

In our Region, those limits are:

Sacred Heart Cathedral	221
St Mary's, Newcastle	108
St Joseph's, The Junction	200
Mary Immaculate, Tighes Hill	110
St Laurence O'Toole, Broadmeadow	110
St Peter-in-Chains, Stockton	140
Christ the King, Mayfield West	140

The limit applies to all Masses and other liturgical celebrations, such as weddings and funerals.

Provision of Contact Details

The Public Health Order requires the collection of contact details for those who attend any liturgical celebration in a church (e.g. Mass, weddings, funerals, Baptisms, etc.).

The contact details that are required are defined as a) name, b) phone number or email address, and c) the time of arrival. These details must be recorded for <u>each</u> attendee.

Attendees are able to use the Service NSW QR Code to provide their details—just like many other places using the Service NSW app on your phone, or via a QR Code reader. A Contact Details Form will be provided at the door to permit the collection of these details.

General Requirements

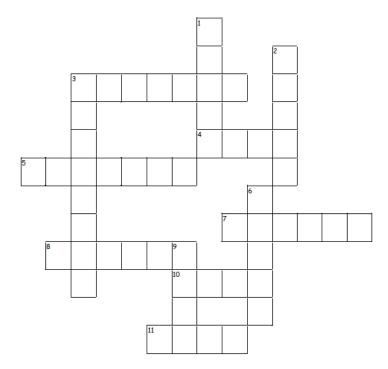
The requirements regarding cleaning, observing physical distancing, etc. remain in place for the time being, as does the requirement to refrain from physical acts of devotion that involve touching or kissing icons or statues.

Liturgical rituals have been adapted, and will continue to be adapted, in order to ensure the health and safety of all parishioners and visitors to our churches. We ask those who are particularly at risk – the elderly, those with compromised health, those who are sick – to refrain from returning to Mass for the sake of their own health. The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass given by the Bishop remains in place in these circumstances.

Requirements for Attending Mass

There is no need to register in advance to attend regular Mass. If you wish to return to Mass, you are at liberty to do so, though capacity limits will need to be observed at all Masses.

crossword Root your faith in the Lord



Across

- 3: Jesus explained that heaven is like
 - a _____ seed
- 4: trees and other plants grow from this small thing
- 5: all the lands that are ruled by a king
- 7: a well kept outdoor area with flowers and trees
- 8: alive
- 10: a part of a tree that is underground
- 11: a small, woody branch

Down

- 1: animals that fly
- 2: a dark area cast by an object in the sun
- 3: a very tall, large land mass
- 6: belief
- 9: to increase in size

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B [N11ORSUB_2012_CW3.rtf]

SENIOR WORDSEARCH Root your faith in the Lord

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Ez 17:22-24 Ps 92:1-2.12-13. R. see 2a Cor 5:6-10 Mk 4:30-34

Try to find these words:

birds
faith
garden
grow
kingdom
living
mountain
mustard
root
seed
shade
twig