

Two things stand out for me reflecting on this Sunday's readings. When we read the parable of the sower, we legitimately ask ourselves what are the areas in my life where the word of God can fail to be sown in my heart and the hearts of others through me. There is a need for continuous reflection and examination of conscience. How sad it might be that God provides so much for us and we fail to take advantage of the gifts that are offered.

There is another dimension that we need to reflect upon: we are about His mission; we are sowing His gifts. This also means we are called to be reflective on His work among us. When we try to understand God's agenda rather than setting our own, the rewards are incredible. A harvest of a hundredfold was beyond anyone's understanding; where we cooperate with God, the results are miraculous. It reminds me of a former bishop who once said "if you want to make God laugh tell Him your plans."

**Fr Paul O'Donoghue**