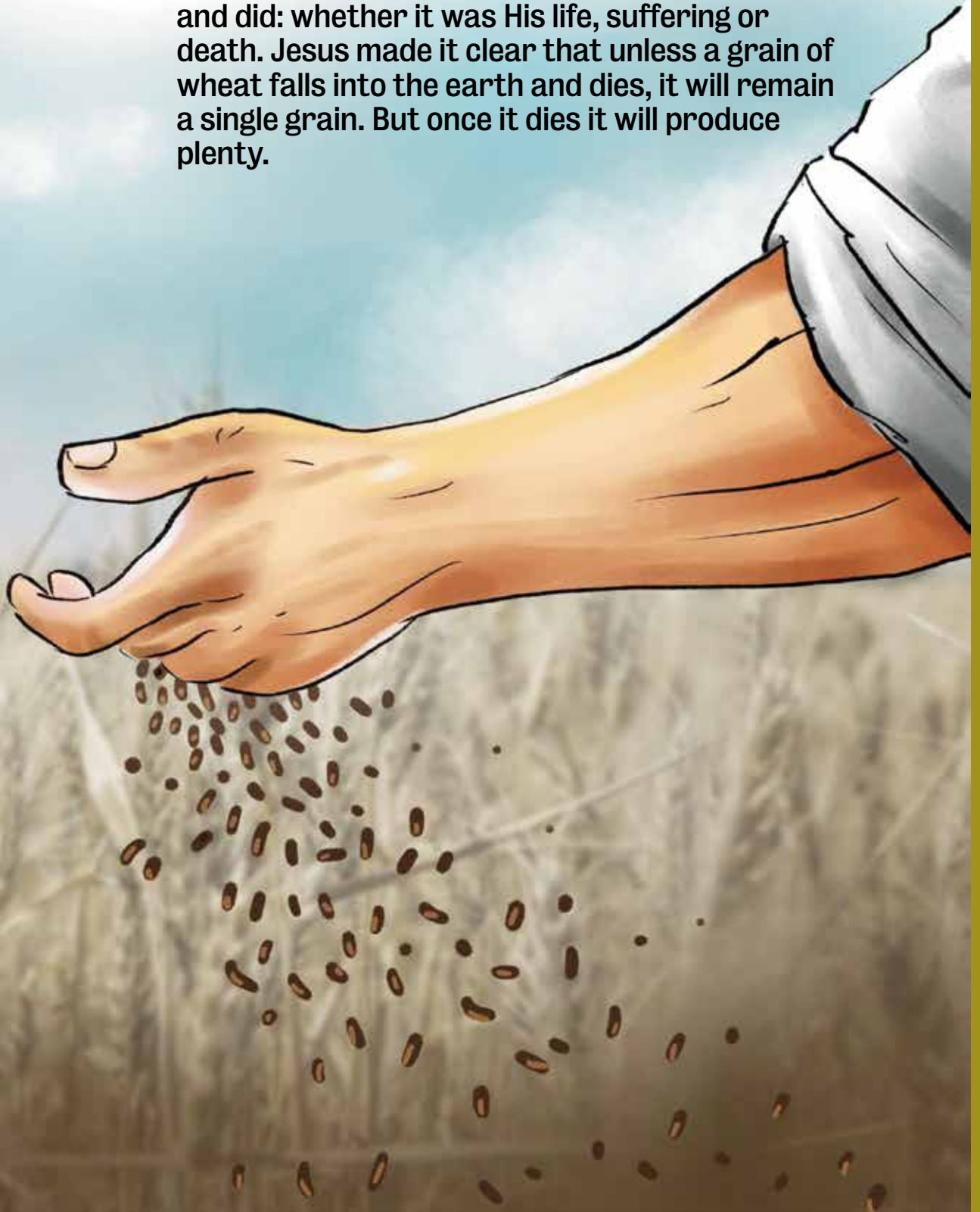


The Grain of Wheat



There is a running theme in all that Jesus said and did: whether it was His life, suffering or death. Jesus made it clear that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it will remain a single grain. But once it dies it will produce plenty.



More than any other parable, the Grain of Wheat vividly imagines the death and resurrection of Christ. Today Christianity is spread all over the world, as a result of the sacrifice on the Cross!

Jesus said that if anyone wants to be His follower, he has to take up the daily Cross and follow Him. It is in this carrying of the Cross and following Him that Christian life comes to fullness.

The Son of God had come to the end of His mission on earth. He was preparing himself to face a painful death. His disciples were afraid at the prospect of Jesus leaving them. It was then that Jesus took to the image of the grain of wheat to prepare them for the future.

After Christ's death and resurrection, His disciples and several other saints and ordinary people, dared the vast and dangerous seas to discover new lands. They underwent many hardships and sufferings before the new lands could be populated with Christians.

Jesus proclaimed that through His death, eternal life will be offered to humanity. Jesus' hour of suffering on the Cross was also an hour filled with heavenly glory. The Cross became the throne of glory from which Jesus drew people across the world to himself.



Word of God

John 12: 20 – 26

Some Greeks were among those who had gone to Jerusalem to worship during the festival. They went to Philip (he was from Bethsaida in Galilee) and said, "sir, we want to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew, and the two of them went and told Jesus. Jesus said, "the hour has now come for the Son of Man to receive great glory. I am telling you the truth: a grain of wheat remains no more than a single grain unless it is dropped into the ground and dies. If it does die, then it produces many grains. Those who love their own life will lose it; those who hate their own life in this world will keep it for life eternal. Whoever wants to serve me must follow me, so that my servant will be with me where I am. And my Father will honor anyone who serves me."



Insight

Pandita Ramabai (1858- 1922) was a Pune-based Sanskrit scholar, Christian missionary, social reformer and a pioneer in women's education. Her conversion to Christianity had caused a strong reaction in Maharashtra in the late 19th century. She offered shelter and education to a large number of child widows and orphaned children at her institute. She translated the Bible from Greek and Hebrew to Marathi. The Indian government released a special postal stamp to honour her in 1989.

Notes



QUOTE:

“Nowadays the world does not need words, but lives which cannot be explained except through faith and love for Christ’s poor.”

-Father Pedro Arrupe SJ

my TASK this week

To Watch

To Read

To Do



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Home

Read the biography of Blessed Sister Rani Maria Vattalil who was killed because of her work among the poor to effect social justice and human dignity. She was stabbed 54 times in a bus near Udainagar, Madhya Pradesh on 25 January 1995. The Franciscan Clarist nun was beatified on 4 November 2017 and her feast is on 25 February.