

**Reflection** by Fr Michael Tate

In the Hebrew scripture, Israel is spoken of as the Vineyard of God. We can say that now the Church is the vineyard of God. God is the Landlord, we are the tenants. It is our job to faithfully tend it and make sure it bears good fruit. If we are unfaithful, then God will find other people to carry on his plan, other tenants to tend his vineyard.

Certainly, we see that within the Universal Church. With the decline of the Eurocentric church, who has God turned to as new tenants for his vineyard? Look at the surging numbers of Catholics in sub-Saharan Africa, Nigeria, the Philippines, Korea. The persecuted Church in Vietnam and China is surviving and growing despite the severity of oppression.

I think we may agree that the vineyard of the Church in Australia is not as fruitful as it could be. This is a challenge for us. It is wonderful to see the energetic work of the new immigrants and refugees in our parishes (including the Bishop of Parramatta!).

We could pause for a moment to commit to taking up the privilege and duty to work in the vineyard of the Church.

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**Gospel** Mt 21:33-43

He leased his vineyard to other farmers.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, "Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son," he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They answered, "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone.

This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

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Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A**4 October 2020****First Reading** Is 5:1-7

The vineyard of the Lord God of hosts is the House of Israel.

Let me sing to my friend
the song of his love for his vineyard.
My friend had a vineyard
on a fertile hillside.
He dug the soil, cleared it of stones,
and planted choice vines in it.
In the middle he built a tower,
he dug a press there too.
He expected it to yield grapes,
but sour grapes were all that it gave.
And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and men of Judah,
I ask you to judge
between my vineyard and me.
What could I have done for my vineyard
that I have not done?
I expected it to yield grapes.
Why did it yield sour grapes instead?
Very well, I will tell you
what I am going to do to my vineyard:
I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on,
and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on.
I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug;
overgrown by the briar and the thorn.
I will command the clouds
to rain no rain on it.
Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
is the House of Israel,
and the men of Judah
that chosen plant.
He expected justice, but found bloodshed,
integrity, but only a cry of distress.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79:9. 12-16.19-20. R. Is 5:7

(R.) The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

1. You brought a vine out of Egypt;
to plant it you drove out the nations.
It stretched out its branches to the sea,
to the Great River it stretched out its shoots.
(R.)

2. Then why have you broken down its walls?
It is plucked by all who pass by.
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,
devoured by the beasts of the field. *(R.)*
3. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. *(R.)*
4. And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name.
God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. *(R.)*

Second Reading Phil 4:6-9

Do these things and the God of peace will be with you.

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Acclamation See Jn 15:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

*I call you friends, says the Lord,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.
Alleluia!*

CATHOLIC VOCATIONS

What Kind of People become priests, sisters or brothers? Are they uncommonly holy, unusually saint-like? No. They are people who make mistakes, people who aren't afraid to be human while in God's service. Are they people who can't face the competition and cruelty of the 'real' world? No. They are people who believe that through ministry they can immerse themselves in the world and make positive changes. Are they people who don't relate well with other people? No. They are people who love others – people who find real satisfaction chatting with a 93-year-old parishioner, holding the hand of a cancer patient, listening to the troubles of a street-wise teen. They are people with the courage to touch lives, hearts and souls in a high-tech, unchurched world. Are you that kind of person?

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

Emanuel Said

RECENTLY DECEASED

Bert Vella (in Malta)

ANNIVERSARIES

Alejandro Ferreras, Anthony Doan Dao, Anna Hoang Bich Hong, Simon Doan Quang Hieu, Anna Nguyen Thi Lieu, Gordon Beecham, James Grigg, John Gleeson, Alan Rycroft, Phillip & Joan McGee, Ross McGee, Raymond Luttick

PARISH SUPPORT

We are most grateful for your contributions during this challenging time. Thank you all for your support. Online donations can be made as follows:-

Presbytery Collection – 1st Collection

Account Name: St Peter's Presbytery A/C BSB: 083 347 Account No. 66541 7521 Reference as your first initial then surname, or remain anonymous

Church Collection – 2nd Collection

Account Name: St Peter's Church Account BSB: 083 347 A/C No. 53530 4676

Reference as your first initial then surname and if known, your giving number e.g. ASmith T/G 500

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Wed 7 Oct Our Lady of the Rosary

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS UPDATE

As we have been doing for the past 6 months, streaming of the weekend Mass will continue. The Archdiocese have sent new General Guidelines, following the announcement last weekend by Daniel Andrews of the move to Step 2.

We are now permitted to have outdoor religious services (must be adjacent to the Church) for 5 people, plus the faith leader. We are looking at the ways and means to organise this in our Church location and will keep you posted.

Anyone who would like to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation, please be in touch with the Parish Office.

The Parish Office still remains closed, however please do not hesitate to call or email if you need anything and we will respond as soon as possible.

If you have envelopes for the weekend collections, please contact me if they need to be collected, or keep them with you until we are able to open again. Please consider changing to credit card, direct debit or direct online banking. We can assist you with setting this up. May God bless you all.

Fr Arockia Sebastian

OCTOBER - THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

During the month of October, we are reminded of the importance of uniting our prayers with the Mother of God and conforming ourselves to Christ as revealed in the mysteries of His life. We grow in our appreciation of Christ through meditating on these mysteries.

Whilst we cannot be together in the Church yet, please remember to pray the Rosary in your own homes each day throughout October.

BREAK OPEN THE WORD OR DAILY MASS BOOKS FOR 2021

These 2 resources can be ordered through the Parish Office - \$22 each. Please call or email your order by **Wednesday 7th October**.



St Francis of Assisi Feast Day 4th October 2020

Lord, make me an instrument of
Your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow
love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master, grant that I

may not so much seek to be

consoled as to console;

to be understood as to

understand;

to be loved as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are

pardoned;

it is in dying that we are born

again to eternal life.

St Francis of Assisi

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Mrs Sherrill Johnson

The Parish of St Peter's, Keilor East and the Diocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community.

All staff and volunteers in our parish must have a current Working with Children Check.

ST COLUMBA'S COLLEGE, ESSENDON

Applications for Year 7 in 2022 will close Friday 9th October 2020. Our next Virtual Tour will be held on Wednesday 2nd September. Book your place at columba.vic.edu.au

AVE MARIA COLLEGE YEAR 7 – 2022

Applications for Year 7 in 2022 close **Friday 9th October 2020**. Contact the Registrar on 9331 9308 or via email at registrar@avemaria.vic.edu.au