

27TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME: YEAR A

The Tidings

4TH OCTOBER 2020



PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Michael Moody

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EMAIL: melton@cam.org.au

WEBSITE: pol.org.au/melton

PARISH SECRETARY: Margaret Cassar

PARISH OFFICE — 10 Unitt St Melton

(if using Google Maps—20-22 Unitt St, Melton)

Office Hours — CLOSED

POSTAL ADDRESS — PO BOX 96, Melton, 3337

CHILD SAFETY OFFICER: Liz Coustley

Child Safety Officer Phone— 0490 885 515

Child Safety Officer Email— cso.melton@gmail.com

The Parish Office is not open during lockdown.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE:

Please contact the Parish Office.

**PARISH OF MELTON
SERVING THE AREAS OF:**

Melton, Melton West, Aintree, Boonie Brook,
Harkness, Grangefields, Kurunjang, Plumpton,
Rockbank, & Toolern Vale

MASS TIMES

St Catherine of Siena Church

108 Bulmans Road, Melton West

All Masses have been suspended due to
the COVID-19 measures.

St Dominic's Church

Church Street, Melton

All Masses have been suspended due to
the COVID-19 measures.



A MESSAGE FROM FR. MICHAEL

Welcome to October!

With the closing of public places of worship and the school holidays on, I visit St Catherine of Siena Church and the school just to see if all is well. This week, as I sat in my car, I watched someone walk past the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, stop, make the sign of the cross, say a prayer in front of the Tabernacle and then continue walking. It was a powerful sight that moved me greatly. When building the Church, we had a vision of how it would be used. Putting the Tabernacle in sight of Bulmans Road may have seemed unusual, but witnessing someone's reflection this week made it worth while. There are not too many Churches where you can sit in front of the Blessed Sacrament even when places of worship are closed.

It is has been 6.5 months since our last "live" Mass. The Gospel reading on our last weekend together in the Church was the reading of the lady at the well. Jesus said to her "If only you knew what God is offering you". I ponder this Gospel reading in light of what has developed since that weekend. Do we forget what we are offered each week? What other gifts do we take for granted? How many times have we travelled past the Tabernacle and not noticed that it was there? Or not thought to pause for moment?

On Sunday the Premier gave his update for the Government COVID-19 Roadmap. Only a very small concession was made for religious ceremonies. Gatherings of five (5) people plus the leader in an outdoor setting was allowed. On Friday morning we experimented with using the pergola at the presbytery as a makeshift Church — outside with room enough for social distancing and adjacent to the place of worship. Those present were representatives from the founding parishioners. We will share this Mass online. I am not sure how this will develop but we do know that we can do it albeit with some more finessing required. Stay tuned...

As always...stay safe and stay connected—See you at 'Cuppa After Mass' —

Fr Michael Moody

RECENTLY DECEASED

**Helen Scerri,
Catherine Angel
Rodrigo**

ANNIVERSARIES:

3rd— 9th October
**Jim Lawson, Brian
Dobson, Marge Price,
Kellie Maree Elmer, Carlo
Bacchilega, Normal
Skinner, Margaret
Buttigieg, Lynette
Dudkowski, Carmen
Galea, Peter Fenlon,
Clarence Corera, Philip
Aldridge, Br Cahill
Gleisner SDB, Fr Peter
James, Gerti Roberts,
Daniel Paoli, Bronwyn
Huxtable, Shyamalee
Candappa, Sean Stewart,
Birdwyn Dennis Allen,
Mrs Nugera Royal
Thompson, Carmen
Sullivan, Lucina Dimaano,
Carmelo Bartolo, Joseph
Cassar, Ellen Veronica
Kealy.**

The Parish of Melton is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults



First Aid is located in the Lay-Sacristy. The Defibrillator is located in the foyer of St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School.

COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES RAFFLE RESULTS

Prize No	Prizes	Ticket No	Parish
1	Suzuki Beleno	032770	Good Shepherd, Mulgrave
2	Suzuki Beleno	095457	St Patrick's, Lilydale
3	Suzuki Beleno	049753	Our Lady of the Pines, Donvale
4	\$1000 Coles/Myer Gift Card	083496	Our Holy Redeemer, Surrey Hills
5	\$1000 Coles/Myer Gift Card	011368	Clairvaux Primary School, Belmont
6	\$500 Coles Myer Gift Card	024215	Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Dromana
7	\$500 Coles Myer Gift Card	069241	St Damian's, Bundoora
8	\$500 Coles Myer Gift Card	077953	Resurrection Parish, Keysborough
9	\$500 Coles Myer Gift Card	109047	St Simon's, Rowville
10	\$500 Coles Myer Gift Card	077525	Resurrection Parish, Keysborough
11	\$500 Coles Myer gift Card	092015	St Michael's, Ashburton
12	\$500 Coles Myer Gift Card	056036	St Scholastica, Bennettswood
13	\$500 Coles Myer Gift Card	015841	St Agatha's, Cranbourne
14	\$500 Coles Myer Gift Card	069696	St Damian's, Bundoora

PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED DURING LOCKDOWN.

PLEASE NOTE—The Parish office will be closed during the Stage 4 lockdown period. The office will reopen when restrictions are lifted. If you wish to contact the office please do so by email—melton@cam.org.au

OCTOBER—HOLY ROSARY MONTH

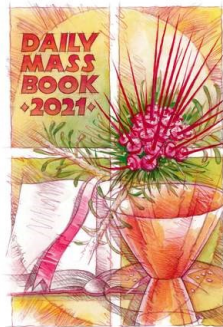
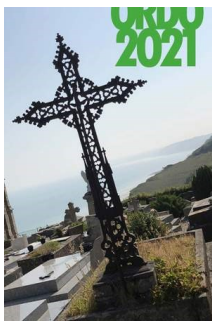
October is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. We will be celebrating on our Facebook page during October. Please remember to like our page—www.facebook.com/catholicparishmelton.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Just a friendly reminder that daylight savings starts this weekend. Remember to put your clocks forward an hour.

BREAK OPEN THE WORD, ORDO & DAILY MASS BOOK 2021

If you would like to order a copy of Break Open The Word (\$22), ORDO 2021 (\$12) or Daily Mass Book (\$22) for 2021, Please contact the Parish Office via email—melton@cam.org.au.



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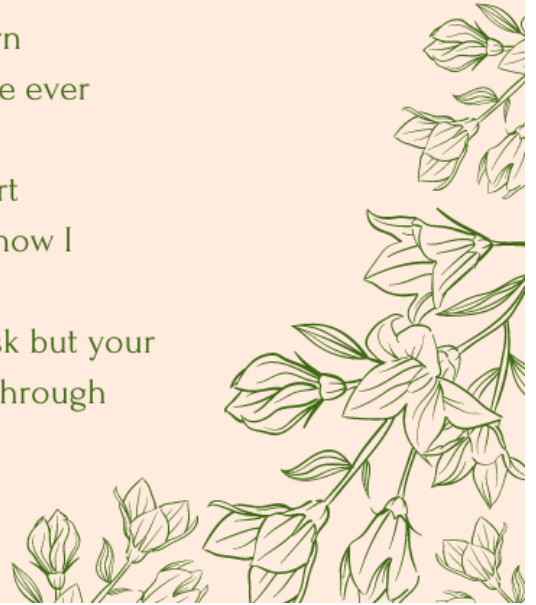


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Mask Prayer

Lord,
 May your love and light shine in and through
 me today in a way that no mask can hide.
 May my eyes dance with the laughter and joy
 replacing my hidden smile.
 May my actions of care and concern
 speak louder than my muffled voice ever
 could.
 And may the generosity of my heart
 radiate out through who I am and how I
 respond to the world around me,
 so that others may not see my mask but your
 image shining out, moving in and through
 me today.



JOIN US ON SUNDAY
 AT 10.30AM FOR...

Cuppa After Mass

STEWARDSHIP: FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2020

**Weekly Pledged:
 \$7,679.84**

**Weekly Amount Given:
 \$4,331.23**



- DIRECT DEBIT/CREDIT CARD
- ONLINE THROUGH CDF PAY FOR PARISHES
- ENVELOPES

Giving to the Melton Parish

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GIVE TO THE PARISH
 CONTACT US VIA EMAIL AND WE CAN ASSIST.

CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE - MELTON@CAM.ORG.AU

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THIS WEEK'S READINGS

First reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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

(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

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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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SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

by Brendan Byrne SJ

Aside from the Second Reading, all elements of today's scriptural offerings cohere around the image of the vineyard. But the First Reading, the Responsorial Psalm and the Gospel take up the image in rather different ways, even if in all three cases it is clear that the vineyard represents Israel.

The **First Reading**, from Isaiah 5:1-7, seems to record a 'song' or poem the prophet has composed for a close friend who has had a disappointing experience with a vineyard. The prophet then uses his friend's experience with the vineyard as an allegory of God's experience with Israel, imaged, as so often, as the Lord's 'vineyard'.

The landowner's love for his vineyard and his eager anticipation of enjoying its fruits is shown by all the measures taken to ensure its productivity: located on a fertile hillside (rich soil and good drainage); cleared of stones; planted with the choicest vines; guarded by a watchtower and protective wall; a winepress ready to process its produce as soon as it is ready. How unexpected, then, the yield of sour grapes. How understandable the disappointment of the owner and the destructive measures he takes, in such contrast to the love and care he had shown before.

The application of the 'song' to Israel – in both positive and negative respects – is obvious and telling. Israel has received from God all the love and protection suggested by all landowner's activity in regard to the vineyard. God has looked, then, to receiving a rich return on all this attention. But instead of 'justice' and 'integrity', the only produce is 'bloodshed' and 'a cry of distress'.

Remarkable here is the way in which the image serves the prophetic concern that the faithfulness and love Israel has received from God should have been reproduced as social justice in all its forms. Instead, what has resulted is the 'sour grapes' of violence against the vulnerable and cries from the poor who have been wronged. In this way, the reading gives a response and explanation to the question uttered in the Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 79[80]): 'Why have you broken down its walls?' It is not external forces that have ravaged the vineyard (now, more specifically 'the vine') but corruption – lack of social justice – within.

The parable that makes up almost all the **Gospel**, Matthew 21:33-43, clearly picks up several features of Isaiah's 'song' of his friend's vineyard. Once again, the 'vineyard' is Israel but how, exactly, Jesus meant the parable to be understood and how we should interpret and explain today are matters of considerable delicacy. This is one of four or five texts in the Gospels most open to anti-Semitic or anti-Jewish readings and proclamation.

While it is not all that easy to discern the exact shape of the parable as told by Jesus, we can be fairly sure that he told it against the religious leadership in Jerusalem in his day. They have resisted the prophetic messengers sent by God, the last of whom was himself; they have shown themselves to be usurpers, attempting to control and retain for themselves the vineyard (Israel) and its produce (the life of the people). The arrival of the Kingdom (or Rule) of God will mean for them dispossession and retribution.

Subsequently, the early Church retold the parable in the light of its knowledge of the death and resurrection of Jesus and its belief in his status (God's Son). Strongly colouring its understanding of the parable is its bitter awareness of the 'No' given to the Gospel by the great bulk of Israel and its keen sense of itself, made up of both Jewish and Gentile believers, as the community (literally, 'nation') to whom the Kingdom is now being given (v 43). Through the continuing presence of the risen Lord ('Emmanuel') to the end of the age (1:23; 28:20), they can and ought produce the 'fruits' that God desires from the 'vineyard'.

Today, we can move on from the early community's preoccupation with the 'No' of Israel and concentrate, as the First Reading suggests, upon the 'fruits' that God looks to see produced within a new vineyard. The parable gives no grounds for Christian triumphalism at Jewish expense. God has made the 'rejected' stone, the crucified and risen Lord, the cornerstone of the 'building' (the 'vineyard' image changes to an architectural one) that is the community of the Church. The question for us is whether the 'song' (Isaiah 5:1) sung over the vineyard is one of delight or disappointment. Inevitably, a bit of both. But, in either case, it will always be a song of the Friend's love for the vineyard.

The attractive exhortation Paul provides in the **Second Reading**, Philippians 4:6-9, offers guidance for maintaining peace on both an individual (peace within) and communal level.

MELTON PARISH

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