



We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people who are the traditional custodians of this land and pay respect to the elders past, present and emerging of the Kulin Nation.

### 27<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 2020 - Terry

A couple of days ago, I was asked 'Has 2020 been a wasted year for you?' How would you answer this question if asked of you?

How many times have we heard or even said, 'I'll be glad when this year is over'. Or when speaking of the Covid19 virus and the restrictions:

'Another groundhog day, one day is just like the next'.

'I'm so missing the grandchildren' (like missing some of the most significant times in their lives as well as their hugs and kisses).

'I am forgetting things, and my mind is just not active enough.'

'I'm bored and there are times in the day when I just don't know what to do with myself.'

'This isolation is getting to me and I'm over it.'

'The kids are sick of home-schooling and it's been such a wasted year for them'.

These are just some of the reactions and they can make us think that this is a wasted year, and even though it's far from over, that's how it will look on December 31<sup>st</sup> this year.

Then there will be others of us who say, 'No, this year is not wasted.' Perhaps these are some of the comments:

'I've had time to walk', 'to listen to music', 'to do the garden', 'to play games with the kids', 'to read and even write', 'to meditate and pray', 'to ring people and have time to really talk', 'to knock on doors with a meal for someone', 'to discover new skills in technology, like face-time, zoom meetings', 'to enjoy driving my few kilometres without any traffic'.

These are some of the other reactions. Of course if you have lost your job or you have had the virus, or known a family member or close friend with the virus, or you work in the medical team, police and essential services, you will see the year very differently.

Why talk about this when our Gospel from Matthew for today is another of the vineyard stories Jesus told as he addressed the chief priests and elders? In the story the landlord leased a vineyard to tenants and entrusted them with the responsibility to care for it and collect produce. The tenants didn't do this. They seized the landlord's servants and dealt with them harshly before killing the landlord's own son. When the landlord returned he dismissed the tenants and leased it to other tenants.

It's a loaded story of course and is directed at the chief priests, the elders and the leaders before them. It's how they have treated the succession of prophets God had sent to Israel. They had not listened to Jesus himself and he was about to be killed. They had not produced the fruits of the vineyard, the kingdom of God, the fruits of love, mercy, compassion and forgiveness and God will lease the vineyard, the kingdom of God, elsewhere.

Such a story seems a far cry from the question, 'has this been a wasted year for you?' Yes, that's true. But if we were to take the line, how well are we listening, maybe we have another insight. The chief priests and the elders and indeed the leaders of their faith tradition before them had not listened. Perhaps we could say the same of our own faith tradition in our Church story today. In a different way, yet we know we have failed. We have a coming Plenary Council to see if we can really listen and produce the fruits of the vineyard.

*(continued on page 3)*

*This parish has a commitment to ensuring the safety of children and vulnerable people in our community.*

*For more information visit [pol.org.au/eltham](http://pol.org.au/eltham) or [pol.org.au/montmorency](http://pol.org.au/montmorency).*

*We support the recommendations of the Royal Commission into institutional abuse and pray for all the survivors.*



## PARISH TEAM & INFORMATION

### OUR PEOPLE & OUR CONTACT DETAILS



#### Parish Priests

Terry Kean - Pastor in Solidum

[terry.kean@cam.org.au](mailto:terry.kean@cam.org.au)

Michael Sierakowski - Moderator

[michael.sierakowski@cam.org.au](mailto:michael.sierakowski@cam.org.au)

Barry Caldwell

#### Parish Office

86 Mayona Road

9435 2178

Mon - Fri 9am-3pm

[montmorency@cam.org.au](mailto:montmorency@cam.org.au)

Kate Kogler:

Parish Secretary

[eltham@cam.org.au](mailto:eltham@cam.org.au)

Gina Ang:

Pastoral Worker & Caring Group Co-Ord—**Eltham**

[gina.ang@cam.org.au](mailto:gina.ang@cam.org.au)

Peter Williams:

Child Safety Officer

[SFX&OLHC.ChildSafety@cam.org.au](mailto:SFX&OLHC.ChildSafety@cam.org.au)

Website:

[www.pol.org.au/montmorency](http://www.pol.org.au/montmorency)

[www.pol.org.au/eltham](http://www.pol.org.au/eltham)

(pol stands for Parish OnLine)

Facebook:

[St Francis Xavier Parish Montmorency](#)

Monty & Eltham Newsletter & Facebook items:

[eltham@cam.org.au](mailto:eltham@cam.org.au)

#### Schools

St Francis Xavier Primary School

Principal: Mr Philip Cachia: 9435 8474

[principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au)

[www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au)

Holy Trinity Primary School

Principal: Mr Vince Bumpstead: 9431 0888

[principal@htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au)

[www.htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au](http://www.htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au)

Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

Principal: Mr Chris Ray: 9439 7824

#### RECONCILIATION

Saturday, 10:30am Monty ~ Terry

1/2 hr prior to any mass said by Michael

#### Collections last weekend: 26 July 2020

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
Eltham	\$1,270.00	\$320.00
Montmorency	\$2,230.00	\$62.00

Please note the above figures are monies banked & do not include visa/mastercard or direct debits.

Thank you so much for your contributions.

**CDFPay:** (alternate thanksgiving options)

Montmorency - <https://bit.ly/CDFpayMontmorency>

Eltham - <https://bit.ly/CDFpayEltham>



Let us pray for all those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith ...

#### Montmorency

For the recently deceased;

Bevan Hall

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Giuseppina Marasco, Judy McInerney,

Gracie Money

For those in need of healing, especially:

Baby Kylie, Sriyani Algama, Nikki Attwood,

Robert Baker, Justine Best, Fr Glen Bourke,

Ray Bowman, Kristina Brazaitis, Desmond Deehan,

Renee Eastwood, Debbie Edgley, Julian Forrester,

Gennie Hannon, Samuel Hauser (Kyabram), Val Hayes,

Colleen Hussin, Jim Hussin, Tina Inserra, Adrian Jones,

Kate Lagerewskij, Erin McLindon, Hasti Momeni,

Therese Moore, Patricia Mulholland, Montagna Mustica,

Graham Neal, Geoffrey Nyssen, Mercy Ocon, Ron Pfeil,

Susan Phelan, Andrew Pighin, Terry Said,

Anthony Salvatore, Mary Salvatore, Maria Schroeders,

Jeanette Steward, John Tobin, Bruno Treglia,

Isaac Treglia, Aldo Viapiana, Sheryn Zurzolo.

#### Eltham

For the recently deceased;

For those whose anniversaries are at this time;

For those in need of healing, especially:

Robyn Atherton, Francisco Azarcon,

Hugh & Iris Azzopardi, Baby Harriet Banks,

Ray Bowman, Geoff Bunton, Andrew & Lucinda Collier,

Albina Croce, Eileen Culbertson, Jon D'Cruz,

Claire Dakwar, Ruth Decker, Marlis Dopheide,

Maria George, Dennis Goddard, Luke Hawthorne-Smith,

Mary Irani, Jack Issai, Diana Jackson, Jeanette Jenkins,

Maureen Jenkins, Moira Lyons, Val McDonough,

Baby Finley McPartlin, Simone Owen, Jo Porter,

Barry Scully, Kath Wheelahan.

To include an anniversary please contact Parish House

9435 2178 or [eltham@cam.org.au](mailto:eltham@cam.org.au).



(continued from front page)

And in a very real way, haven't we all an opportunity, in fact an obligation to listen to what's happening this year? We have the time and we hope the faith to see an invitation from God to work in the vineyard of compassion, love, mercy and forgiveness. We are gifted with life, every day a blessing.

Let me conclude with a beautiful little poem from Mary Oliver, entitled. *'Why I wake early'*

Hello, sun in my face.

Hello you who make the morning and spread it over the fields  
and into the faces of the tulips and the nodding morning glories,  
and into the windows of, even, the miserable and the crotchety-

Best preacher that ever was,

dear star that just happens to be where you are in the universe

to keep us from ever-darkness,

to ease us with warm touching,

to hold us in the great hands of light-

Good morning, good morning, good morning.

Watch now how I start the day

In happiness, in kindness.



Happy birthday to

**Richard Houlihan**

**90** who turns

**90**

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

on Saturday 3rd October

## *Live-Stream Masses*

Our spirits are buoyed by the decreasing number of positive cases. Not only for our own sakes but also for the sake of those who are and have been working tirelessly for so long, in so many areas, for the good of us all. Their generosity immeasurable, our gratitude is beyond words. A return to hugging and holding family and friends again appears is on the horizon. The thought of gathering again around the Table of Eucharist excites us. Until that time, we continue to invite and offer live-streaming of Mass at 10:00am each Sunday. We hope it helps you to feel connected to each other as we journey together, ever closer to the finishing line.

We seem to have found the cause of our technical glitch and hope all will be well from here on.

We leave the steps below in case you still require them to help stay connected:

1. Go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com), type: olhc sfx youtube (click search)
2. OLHC SFX YouTube will appear (click on it)
3. You will see the thumbnail of Masses already streamed
4. You will see somewhere on the screen 'subscribe' (red box) (click it)
5. Then click on any of the Masses or watch the live-streaming of Mass of the day

*Patsy & Team (0429 439 675)*

## SFX Organ

Any history on this Organ?

I would like to send it to an appropriate place, where it can be of use and played regularly! Some one or church or organisation might just love this instrument back to life!

Apparently, Fr Cassamento, loved it into being, some 25years ago.

Peter Matterson and Terry Kean, rarely saw it played!

So, time to find a new and more appropriate home!

If you know any stories or history regarding this SFX Organ, please tell, to help us make the right decision!

A Baby Grand Piano might be hiding in a Montmorency home, that has not been used for some time, and we would love to look after this Piano for you in the church!

Any ideas? Thanks, Michael



**Anyone who is in need of spiritual support, you may like to ring Trish Taylor on 0402 914 817 to borrow a Christian meditation CD of short talks by *John Main & Laurence Freeman*, that will enrich your journey.**

**You do not need to be a meditator or even interested in Meditation but the talks are inspiring and each talk about 10mins at most. There are usually about 10 to 12 talks on a CD.**

**I will leave them in the letterbox for you to collect and return the same way.**

**Trish**

A year ago, The Tablet's Ireland correspondent returned to an island at the southern extreme of the Malay Archipelago, two decades after the inconclusive ending of a brutal war /

BY SARAH MAC DONALD

# Timor-Leste comes of age

If the past is another country, as they say, East Timor underscored this by renaming itself the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste when it became fully independent in May 2002. Journeying between the past and the present is a theme of my radio documentary, *Timor-Leste: Coming of Age*, which airs this weekend on RTE Radio 1. It follows a journey of remembrance I undertook last year, retracing my first visit to East Timor 20 years ago in March and April of 1999. On 30 August that year, the people of the territory voted overwhelmingly for independence from Indonesia in a UN-sponsored referendum. After 24 years of brutal occupation, which had resulted in 200,000 Timorese deaths from war, famine and poverty, the clear result held out the possibility of a new beginning.

While I was in East Timor in 1999, two things happened which will forever tie me to this land. One was the Liquica church massacre, which occurred on 6 April 1999 - one of a series of atrocities that had begun when Indonesia invaded in 1975 and only ended when the last Indonesian battalion left in late-1999: the CIA has described the genocide in East Timor as one of the worst of the twentieth century.

The other event was very different. At Sunday Mass in the capital of East Timor, Dili, in mid-March 1999, as I was standing listening to a homily being given by the Nobel Peace laureate, Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo, a young seminarian, Paulo Freitas, now Fr Freitas, engaged me in conversation. He was training to be a Canossian Father in the Philippines and was in Dili for the baptism of a cousin's child. Then a beautiful thing happened. Paulo was going to Natalizio's godfather - and I was invited to Natalizio's godmother. It was a personal moment of joy and



Sr Carolina Correia, above; and (inset) Archbishop Virgilio do Carmo da Silva of Dili



thankfulness in a place overshadowed by violence and fear.

Although Timor-Leste is now at peace, poverty still stalks the land. Forty-two per cent of the people of this tiny half-island state live below the poverty line. The per capita GDP in 2018 was \$1,237, \$763 lower than in 2017. Life expectancy is 67. The government has been so focused on paying for the \$16 billion of infrastructure needed to bring its deep-sea oil and gas reserves ashore that it has imposed austerity even in such essential areas as health and education.

For those unable to afford state health care, the best bet is a clinic like the Maria Auxiliadora Clinic, in Venilale, a village 17 miles south of Timor's second city of Baucau, on poor mountainous roads. In the shadow of Mount Matebian, known as the "Mountain of the Dead", the Salesian Sisters provide free medical care. I stayed at their convent in 1999 and saw at first hand how the sisters looked after the children of Timorese resistance

fighters who had been killed, or were on the run.

Today the clinic is overseen by Sr Carolina Correia. She told me that it depends on donations from supporters in Australia, Italy and Korea to maintain its outreach to nearly 7,000 patients a year for things like TB, malaria, other tropical diseases and conditions associated with malnutrition. The sisters also help expectant mothers and promote natural family planning. "People still come to the clinic even though we do not get help from the government," Sr Carolina told me. "Health care in Timore-Leste is badly organised. There are many doctors now, but the hospitals lack medical supplies. People who are sent to the state hospitals don't want to go. 'Sister, if you send me there, I will die,' they say."

A trained nurse, originally from a village close to Baucau, Sr Carolina recalled how the pro-Indonesian militias forced their way into the Salesian convent in Dili in September 1999, after the result of the vote for independence became known, intent on burning it down. A punitive campaign of violence escalated. A total of 1,400 people were killed and thousands of others were driven over the border into Indonesian-controlled West Timor.

In the capital, Dili, up to 200 people sought shelter with the sisters. "It was 10 September at ten o'clock when they came. They were Timorese. They wanted everyone out of the convent, but we refused. They said they would come back for all the boys and men, so we told the men to run to the forest. Some went to Kupang in West Timor. We had no electricity, water or food but we remained because our people were here. When the militias came back, their eyes were all red. Drugs. They wanted rosaries and when we gave them some, they left and burnt other houses in Dili."

While I was in Dili last September, the Vatican announced the appointment of the Bishop of Dili, Virgilio do Carmo da Silva, as the country's first archbishop. Speaking to me about what had happened in 1999, he told me that the people of Timor-Leste identified strongly with the Catholic Church because "the Church journeyed with the people, shared their suffering and became the voice of these voiceless people".

**He acknowledged** that, 20 years on from the vote for independence, Timor had "experienced a lot of good things but we do not close our eyes to the many real challenges". Speaking about the role of the Church today, Archbishop da Silva said that aside from evangelisation, health and education are the two priority areas for the Church. He hopes the concordat signed between the Vatican and Timor-Leste in 2015, coinciding with the Church's 500th anniversary

in the territory, will provide it with the space it needs to continue its mission in these two sectors. "We are dreaming of having a private Catholic hospital one day, but we haven't reached that point yet," the archbishop said.

*The making of 'Timor-Leste: Coming of Age' was supported by the Simon Cumpers Media Fund.*

*The documentary can be heard here: <https://www.rte.ie/radio1/doconone/>*

VATICAN CORRUPTION  
**FAIR TRIALS AND FORWARD THINKING**

Pope Francis may know the remarkable story of Admiral John Byng, shot to death after a Royal Navy court martial for failing to engage the enemy violently enough. The extreme punishment was explained by Voltaire in his novel *Candide* as being *pour encourager les autres* - to keep other admirals on their toes.

An example of the same approach may be suspected in the Pope's treatment of Cardinal Angelo Becciu, whom he has summarily dismissed from his top Vatican position on a charge, so far unproved and strongly denied, of embezzlement. The difference may be that the British did at least offer the admiral a fair trial, and he was acquitted on one charge of cowardice. Cardinal Becciu has had no such opportunity to defend himself, and Pope Francis' action is not easy to square with the principles

of natural justice. It is significant that one of the first to praise the Pope's actions was Cardinal George Pell, formerly in charge of the Vatican's financial management with a brief to clean up its act. He and Cardinal Becciu clashed over the anti-corruption measures Cardinal Pell had tried to introduce. Cardinal Becciu maintains his innocence, and denies that he benefitted personally from the transactions at the heart of the case. This is an issue that has to be resolved in court, and Cardinal Pell, of all people, should want his old adversary to have a fair trial.

There are tricky questions of definition here. Cardinal Becciu appears to have favoured members of his own family in the award of contracts. Corruption is the abuse of office for personal gain, and he seems to believe that passing work to a family member does not count. He is Italian, and in some Italian families that would be regarded as entirely proper.

The "others" that the Pope wants to "encourage", if Voltaire's maxim is correct, are other senior members of the Vatican curia who share Cardinal

Becciu's attitude. It has long been rumoured that one of the factors that triggered the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI was the contents of a dossier on Vatican corruption. Pope Francis wants the Church to be model of propriety for the world to see and look up to. But there is a long way to go. Catholic Social Doctrine, which Francis regards as being at the heart of his papacy, is almost silent on the subject of corruption. The Vatican has tightened up its own rules, but should be in the vanguard of international efforts to expose and condemn corruption wherever it occurs. Corruption by governments should be understood as stealing from the poor.

The antidote to corruption is transparency and accountability. The Vatican could do with a large dose of both. The concept of synodality is a key one in Church reforms towards greater accountability. But while moving in that direction, the Church should start teaching and preaching against corruption as part of its mission to the world at large, come rain or shine.

# Pondering Grief

(Reflection event via Zoom)

Saturday 17 October 2020, 10am-1pm

Facilitator: Linda Esple  
(B.A., Grad Dip Hum Serv Admin, Grad Dip Experiential Creative Art Therapy, Assoc Dip Arts Welfare Studies, Adv Dip Gestalt Therapy)

This workshop offers an invitation to reflect on and honour our inner life of change and transition. With creativity, space and gentle guiding support, this workshop will offer a sacred place for the breadth of human experiencing and spirit to guide individual exploration.

Cost \$30 ~ Bookings: [www.trybooking.com/BLUJEA](http://www.trybooking.com/BLUJEA)



Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation  
296 Glenferrie Road, Malvern Vic 3144  
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Web: [www.heartoflifemelbourne.com](http://www.heartoflifemelbourne.com)

For anyone wishing to obtain a paper copy of the bulletin each week, either for yourself or to deliver to a fellow parishioner who is in isolation, please note that copies are available at both St Francis Xavier & Our Lady Help of Christians each Friday afternoon (after 3pm). Copies are placed in outdoor document holders, to the right of the church entrance door.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact the office on 9435 2178 or via email if you have any concerns or suggestions.



## Calendar of Events

<b>Sunday, 4 October</b>		
10:00am	Eltham	Mass - live-streamed ( <a href="https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE">https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE</a> )
<b>Sunday, 11 October</b>		
10:00am	Montmorency	Mass - live-streamed ( <a href="https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE">https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE</a> )
<b>Sunday, 18 October</b>		
8:30am	Eltham	Mass - live-streamed ( <a href="https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE">https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE</a> )
<b>Sunday, 25 October</b>		
10:00am	Montmorency	Mass - live-streamed ( <a href="https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE">https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE</a> )

## Rosters - 10 & 11 October

<b>Montmorency</b>	
Maynes, Phil	GRDN
Williams, Anne	PRYR
Williams, Peter	PRYR
<b>Eltham</b>	
Dunell, Linda	Altar Society
Saltalamacchia, Carmel	Altar Society
Zavadil Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue



October is mental health month and as we continue to deal with the pandemic, the mental health of many people is being seriously tested. So, this week we feature a story about building self-esteem in boys. We have chosen this topic initially because in Australia today, it is a sad and tragic fact that young men have a higher rate of suicide than any other demographic.

Other topics on mental health will follow throughout the month.

Read more: [www.majellan.media/classic-articles-from-the-vault-10/](http://www.majellan.media/classic-articles-from-the-vault-10/)

## Spring in Eltham...

Spring has sprung in the church garden and it is looking spectacular.

So nice to see flowers everywhere and to know that their annual routine has been undisturbed.

Angelina's beautiful garden greets the eye as you approach. (Thank you Frank!!) At the foot of the steps, pansies are on show.... such luscious pink and white flowers and so ephemeral. (Thank you Maurice!!)

There is nothing delicate about the rampant lavender on the hillside... it is revelling in the Mediterranean conditions.

Baby lavenders can be found beside the paths and near the driveway. The many bushes are filled with flowers and the bees are keeping busy.

The native pink and white thryptomene looks comfortable amid this eclectic mix.

It is pleasant to spend a minute or two on the wooden bench near the memorial wall remembering those who have supported our parish in the past. Many familiar names appear on the bronze plaques and I enjoy bringing them to mind.

This year will see very few people admiring the season of renewal in our parish garden but we must look forward to the future.

I find it a comforting thought that despite everything we can always take a virtual walk around the garden to refresh our spirits.

**Barbara**



## Spring in Montmorency...



**Elizabeth**

**Prayers of the Faithful for 4 October 2020**  
**Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
(John Ramsdale)

Celebrant: Brothers and sisters, let us turn to the Lord with confidence, for God is ready to hear our prayer for those in need.

We pray for all church leaders and give thanks for their work in supporting their members in these times. We look forward to the time when we can all gather together again and celebrate the Eucharist and rekindle our sense of community.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the leaders and the people of Australia, that we can look for ways that can unite and support each other, rather than those that divide us at this time.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the generosity and thoughtfulness of people in this parish who have assisted, and continue to assist, those in need including asylum seekers, refugees and neighbours experiencing difficulties, especially with loneliness and isolation.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the emergency and essential service workers, aged care workers and staff in service industries who are helping to maintain and protect the members of our community. We acknowledge that we appreciate their generosity and dedication.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who, through government restrictions, illness or other personal reasons are separated from their family or homeland. This is especially the case for those who are missing out on milestone family events. We pray that God's comforting love will sustain them.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We remember in silence our own particular needs and those of our families, friends and neighbours (*short pause*).

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all of those who are listed on the sick list in our Parish Bulletin and for all others who are suffering mind, body or spirit. We pray that they will experience the healing touch of Christ.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died recently. We also remember Giuseppina Marasco, Judy McInerney and Gracie Money whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in the peace and love of Christ.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: God of Hosts, you sent your only Son into the vineyard to produce a rich harvest. Hear the prayers of your people that we may remain faithful to your word and bear fruit that will last. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**



## Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43

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.'



## Reflection

A form of the parable of the wicked tenants is found in each of the synoptic gospels. It may be that the original story has been lost because by the time it found its way into the gospel tradition it had been "allegorised". Simply put, an allegory is a story in which different elements are identified as having a specific meaning. This contrasts with the most authentic parables where it is an unexpected ending that discloses meaning and generates insight.

In today's version of the parable it is clear that we are intended to see the landowner as God, the vineyard as Israel, the servants as prophets, the tenants as the Jewish authorities, and the son as Jesus. It is crucial to remember where in the gospel narrative this story appears. Jesus has already entered Jerusalem for the last time and the conflict between him and the religious leaders has become intense and irreversible. We must also be mindful of the role this story plays in later years as the Christian and Jewish communities begin to part company and see themselves as rivals.

The parable begins by drawing directly on the first verses of the reading from Isaiah. Later on it cites verses from Psalm 117/118 that are used in several places in the New Testament to shed light on Jesus' death and resurrection (see 1 Peter 2:7 and Ephesians 2:20 for example).

It is strange that the gospel reading does not go on to include the two verses that bring the chapter to a close (23:45-46). They spell out the reaction of the religious authorities to these parables of Jesus. We never hear them read on a Sunday or major feast. **Break Open the Word 2020**

### To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the canonisation of Saint Mary MacKillop

We invite you to order your free copy of

*Encountering St Mary MacKillop in Prayer*

The Sisters of Saint Joseph have created a commemorative prayer booklet to inspire us all to "take fresh courage..." as Mary did so often.

These prayers share details of her personal journey, highlighting Mary's values and spirit, and offering prayers and blessings for our modern world.

To order your exclusive copy please go to:

[www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/prayer-book](http://www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/prayer-book) or call us on Ph: 02 8912 2777

**MARY MACKILLOP**

*today*

