

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. 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!

GOSPEL

Mt 21:33-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Email: sales@stpauls.com.au Scripture readings taken from The Jerusalem Bible, © 1966 Hodder & Stoughton Ltd. All rights reserved. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2026. No 2163. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

4 OCTOBER 2026

A RICH ALLEGORY

Jesus continues from last Sunday to question the attitudes of religious leaders of his day and, by inference, those who assume religious leadership and authority in Matthew's day.

Jesus' teaching looks like a parable, but it is an allegory, where each element of the story represents historical events or figures. Its focus is another landowner (God) who plants a vineyard (the image of Israel), cares for it and leases it to tenants. At vintage time his servants (the prophets) go to collect the produce. But the tenants maltreat all those sent to collect the produce, even to the point of finally killing the son of the viticulturalist (Jesus), the last emissary sent.

The parable is an allegory of salvation history, the story of Israel, the action of God to cultivate Israel's goodness with the eventual rejection of God's final emissary, Jesus. The allegory is not anti-Jewish. Matthew writes for a Jewish audience. The evangelist reflects on the mystery of Israel's history and the failure of the Jewish leaders' intent to do away with God's final prophet and emissary, Jesus.

To repeat, Jesus' death was the action of the religious leaders of his day and not the deed of the Jewish people. What happened to Jesus finds its parallel in the way the prophets of the Old Testament were treated. The key point of the story comes at the end: the Kingdom of God will be 'given to a people who will produce its fruits.' That people is us.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Isa 5:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM

Ps 79:9, 12-16, 19-20. R. Isa 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

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

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.

■ **The word of the Lord.**



Parish Clergy & Staff:

Fr Cassius Correya sdb (Parish Priest)
 Fr Peter Varengo sdb (Assistant Priest)
 Fr John Gandini sdb (Assisting Priest)
 Fr Anthony Nguyen sdb (Assisting Priest)
 Virginia Carter (Parish office Administrator & Finance Secretary)
 Rafaelina De Donato (Sacristan & Parish Office Assistant)
 Natalia Tawaf Molini (Faith Formation Coordinator)
 Jason Vu (Website Content Manager)

Parish Office:

Phone: 03 94817333 | Email: office@olsc.org.au

Website: olsc.org.au | Facebook:

facebook.com/people/Our-Lady-of-the-Southern-Cross/61560645217161/

We welcome any suggestions or comments from our Parishioners.
 It helps us to help our Parish.

Church Communities:

St John the Baptist Community

61 Queens Parade, Clifton Hill; Tel: 9481 7333

St Joseph's Catholic Church Community

46 Otter Street, Collingwood;

School: Tel: 9419 4918; Principal: Matthew Shawcross

The Chapel of the Good Shepherd

St Heliers Street, Abbotsford Tel: 9417 2909

Pastoral Care:

For a pastoral visit with Fr Cassius, or one of the Salesians of Don Bosco seminarians, we invite you to contact the Parish office.

For Urgent Pastoral Need Call: 0401 887 115

Mass Times:

St John the Baptist Church:

Tuesday to Friday at 9.15am, Saturday at 8.30am.

Sunday at 9:00am (Italian), 11:00am and 5:00pm.

St Joseph's Catholic Church:

Monday to Saturday at 8:30am, Saturday at 6:00pm (Vigil).

Sunday at 9:00am (Vietnamese).

The Chapel of Good Shepherd:

Sunday at 9:30am.

Sacramental Reception:

Baptism: Booking form is at: olsc.org.au/sacraments.

St John's: 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month—12pm.

St Joseph's: 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month during Sunday 9am Vietnamese mass, or contact the Parish Office.

Marriage: Booking form is at: olsc.org.au/sacraments.

Reconciliation: Fridays 7:15pm—8:00pm except for 1st Friday of the month—Holy Hour 7pm-8pm.

Holy Communion, Reconciliation & Confirmation: Please contact the Parish office.

Envelopes & Loose Collections 26-27 September 2026:

St John's: \$944.75 (includes EFTPOS) | St Joseph's: \$546.80

Thank you for your thanksgiving offerings and donations.

These help sustain and support our Parish gospel mission.

SAFEGUARDING

At the Parish of Our Lady of the Southern Cross, we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our Parish.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/safeguarding/commitment-to-the-safety-of-children-and-young-people>

We acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional land of the Wurundjeri people and offer our respects to the elders past, present and future. We recognise and respect the cultural heritage of this land.

PARISH OF OUR LADY OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 3-4 OCTOBER YEAR A

For All Those We Remember

Condolences & Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Mass Offerings:

We pray for the benefactors of St John the Baptist Church and St Joseph's Catholic Church.

May the God of Mercy fulfil the promise of their Baptism by welcoming them into eternal life.

Prayers for Healing

We pray for all in our parish who are sick, suffering, or facing distress, and for those who care for them, that they may feel Christ's healing presence.

Please pray for Tony Addamo, Cecily Hollingworth, Rachel Bartolo, Teresa Boetti, Ruzica Coric, Greg Andrews, Paul Sutherland, Joseph Bonnici, and all those who need prayers for their physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing.

If you are in need, or know of fellow Parishioners who are in need and wish to be included in our prayers, please contact the Parish office.

Sacraments at St John's

Please let us all pray for those receiving Sacraments at St John's this weekend.

On Saturday 3 October, Fr Cassius will unite Bianca Masino and Christopher Lentini in the covenant of marriage.

Deacon Silao will celebrate Baptism for Nikolina and welcome her into the Catholic Church.

Salesian Youth Club Mass 11 October

For those between the ages 18 to 35 years, please join us next Sunday 11 October for Mass at 5pm at St John's, followed by a social and relaxed gathering where we share a meal, play games, and enjoy a faith-filled conversation.

Reading Roster—St John's

Date	First Reading/Psalm	Second Reading/Alleluia	Prayers of the Faithful
4 Oct	TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
11am	Lorraine Lipson	High McGinlay	Michael Black
5pm	Giuliana Alviano	Clotilde Berryman	Natalia Molini
11 Oct	TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
11am	Doriana Penso	Vin Penso	John Salamito
5pm	Salesian Youth Club	Salesian Youth Club	Salesian Youth Club

October, Month of the Holy Rosary

You are all warmly invited to pray the Holy Rosary together during the month of October after each morning mass on weekdays:

St John's after the 9:15am mass Tuesday-Friday;
St Joseph's after the 8:30am mass Monday-Friday.

Please let us come together for this gift of prayer.

From 1-7 October, *Aid to the Church in Need* invites us to join with Pope Leo XIV and Catholics world wide for the prayer campaign for peace and unity in the world—

One Million Children Praying the Rosary,

Families, parishioners, prayer groups, and schools are all encouraged to register to take part.

For free rosary resources and to register, please visit:

acninternational.org/millionchildrenpraying/

"When one million children pray the Rosary, the world will change."—Saint Padre Pio.



800 Years since St Francis of Assisi

As we celebrate the Feast Day of *St Francis of Assisi* this Sunday 4 October, we remember the spiritual transformation of *Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone*, and his Gospel mission that followed.

For a poignant article on the man who went on to become *St Francis of Assisi* — a man who renounced his worldly possessions to lead a life of poverty, who served the poor, who attracted followers with his radical life, who founded the *Franciscan Order*, and a man who still inspires us to act — visit:

melbournecatholic.org/news/what-is-ours-to-do-st-francis-and-the-radical-call-of-our-time



(Photo via Wikimedia Commons)

Footprints

Footprints is the official historical journal of the Archdiocese. An article outlining the history of St John the Baptist Church is the main feature in the latest edition, commemorating our 150th anniversary of the laying of the foundations stone.

Copies of *Footprints* are available for loan at the back of the church.
 John Andrews, Parishioner

Persistence – But Which Way?

The Word of God always carries a universal and eternally present intent addressing us and inevitably pointing the finger of challenge to what defines our true identity as believers and our faith relationship with God – a relationship so intense but also often strained when called to enact decisions and personal choices. From the beginning of biblical narrative the vineyard is the embodiment of God's people and humanity carries a mark of divine chosen ownership addressing humanity as 'my people'. The prophet Isaiah had long spoken of the inevitable tension between God's initiative and plans, and the human response shaped on self-righteousness and control of one's destiny and life-fruitfulness (Is 5:1-7). God is tirelessly seeking to enter into a uniquely personal relationship with his people while the very ones chosen by God appear equally determined on pursuing personal agenda. God will not give up to share, sustain, and energise our lives, but in turn we are chronically drawn away from the relationship offered us. Having accepted God's self-invitation to enter the vineyard of our lives and journey with us through good and bad, we often look on God as the intruder making demands of us that we do not expect and even less want, and readily blame Him for everything that is wrong in our world.

In this endemic tension, persistence on both sides dominates the message: the relationship between landowner and tenants of today's parable enacted twenty centuries ago on dusty tracks on Palestine is proclaimed and actualised from our Sunday pulpit. We readily accept that we are the object of God's unconditional love, seeking us and depending on us, we almost nourish a sense of right to this divine love. But then we refuse to acknowledge this demand for love and compassion reaching us from someone else, and even less we are ready to meet others' needs, those yearning for our love and support, simply because it does not suit us, or because that person is different or not to our liking. Rather than an abstract intellectual assent to a set of moral truths, faith is a living and life-giving relationship between God and us, expressed and lived through relationships with each other, within each unique environment and/or culture. This demands a decision to accept God on God's terms, not as control but in companionship where we are and as we are. Faith means to accept that this onrush of God takes the most unexpected turns and twists and often defies our best-laid plans, accepting that God calls us not because of personal merits or achievements, but simply because God finds us loveable and thinks us worth his friendship and concern. Faith means to reach out in the same relationship of friendship and concern to others not because of their roles, status, achievement or moral righteousness, but simply because God enters our life through their life. Let us then be people of positive persistence and decision, letting God into the vineyard of our lives and embracing unconditionally each and every co-tenant whom we encounter on the journey of life.

Fr Peter Varengo sdb