

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.

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.

Reflections on the Gospel

THE SONG SUNG OVER THE CHURCH

Jesus probably told the parable of the Tenants against the religious leaders in Jerusalem in his day. Having resisted the prophets sent by God, they are now resisting the last of them, namely, himself. As such they have shown themselves to be usurpers, retaining for themselves the 'vineyard' (Israel) and its 'produce' (the life of the people). For them, the arrival of the Kingdom (of God) will mean dispossession and retribution.

The early Church retold the parable in the light of Jesus' death and resurrection, and a belief in his status as God's Son. Also present is a bitter awareness of the *No* given to the Gospel by the bulk of Israel and a sense of the Church itself, made up of Jews and non-Jews, as the community of the Kingdom. Through the continuing presence of the risen Lord (Matthew 28:20), the community can and ought to produce the 'fruits' that God desires.

The long and tragic history of Christian intolerance and persecution of Jews calls for sensitivity in handling texts like this that reflect the early Church's disappointment with Israel. Today we should move on from Christian triumphalism at Jewish expense to concentrate upon the 'fruits' that God looks for from us. God has made the 'rejected stone'—the crucified and risen Lord—the 'cornerstone' of the Church. The question for us is whether the 'song' sung by God over this new vineyard (cf. the First Reading) is one of delight or disappointment. Inevitably, perhaps, a bit of both. In either case it will be a song of love.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

04 OCTOBER 2020

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

4 Oct 2020
Wk 27 Yr A/2

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrickswestamworthparish.org/>



Parish Priest Fr Anthony Koppman
Deacon Deacon Peter Harrison

Presbytery 67658211
Office Hours:
Tues - Fri 9.30 - 11.30 am
westamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au

Administration: Ms Anne Bowden
Ms Di Bolitho
Sacristan Mrs Elaine Smyth

St Joseph's School
Principal Mrs Katie Hanes 67654079

WEEKEND MASSES Vigil: Sat: 5.30pm Sun: 9am and 5.30 pm
**72 people only in the church

WEEKDAY MASSES Mon: **No Mass Tues: **No Mass
Wed: **12 noon Our Lady of the Rosary
Thurs: 9am Fri: 9 am Sat: 9am

CONFESSIONS
Sat: 4.30-5.15pm
*Or by appointment

Entrance Antiphon

*"Within your will O Lord all things are established and there is none that can resist your will.
For you have made all things: the heaven and the earth, and all this held within the circle of heaven.
You are the Lord of all".*

May God have mercy on all those asked to be remembered in prayer:

Recently Deceased: Sr Jan Setter rsj, Terry Smith, Barbara Scott, Peter Koch, Marie Trinder, Thomas Brown, Peter Press, Bob Edgecock.

Anniversaries: Warren Doherty (6/10), Michael Lillicrap (27/10), Alma Mulherin (29/10), Bill Teo (29/10), Sheila McNamara, France Martin, Betty Lynch (2/9), Matthew Moloney (9/9), Bill Hansen (10/9), Bert McCann (14/9), Dulcie Smith (19/9), Carmel Graham (22/9), Mary Betts (24/9).

Deceased: Dudley Ryan, Sr Kathleen Price (sjm), Elizabeth (Betty) Perry, Max Kennedy, Joy Aurelia Trowbridge, Lionel Grattan, Margaret O'Callaghan, William Coulston, Andrew Tickner, Hugh O'Brien, John O'Brien.

Sick: Bob Worthington, Kim Myers, Rachel MacPherson, Shirley Hobbs, Deacon Peter Harrison, Jenny Buxury, Aria Lee Hawley, Joy Makepeace, John Joe Kielty, Monica Austin, Joe Lew, Trisha Aquino, Paul Steer, Baby Jack Smith, Noel O'Brien, Bill Press, Karen Guillermo, David Owens, Yvonne Tarrant, Terry Lee, Rosa Maria Santos, Margaret Greentree, Janice Rizzi, Richard Crawford, Sr Pat Bartley, Judy Cumins, Brindley Cavallaro, Maureen Harrison, Elaine White, Linda Bourke, Peggy Bussell, Margaret Doyle, Christopher Struck, Graeme Bussell, Jack & Marge Attard.



CRACKERS TAILS - A Garden Selection

*What grows under your nose? Tulips!
Where do farmers send their kids to grow? Kinder-garden.
What did the baby corn say to the mama corn?
Where's popcorn?*



COMING EVENTS

4 Oct Sunday 2am -Daylight Saving begins
7 Oct Solmenity of Our Lady of the Rosary (Patroness of our Diocese)
18 Oct World Mission Appeal (Mission Sunday)

"May God bless you and keep you strong." (1875)



PUBLIC ROSARY: On Sat. 10 October at 11 am a public Rosary will be prayed in honour of Our Lady of Fatima near the corner of Peel and Fitzroy Streets near R M Williams. This public Rosary is being prayed worldwide on this day. You are invited to come and pray the Rosary together for Our Lady's blessing on our country. We will be social distancing. Contact 67618228

CARERS' WEEK: 11 to 17 October 2020 is recognised in Australia as Carer's Week. We are encouraged in this week to open the doors to our parishes and open our hearts to carers.

BLESSING OF RELIGIOUS ITEMS: Sunday 25th October after the 9am Mass. Enrollment of Brown Scapular and blessing of religious items Scapulars and other religious items available for the parish piety stall after Mass each week.

30 SCHOLARSHIPS AT AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY: Do you know of anyone considering their next step in life following school who may be interested in studying a Bachelor of Arts (Western Civilisation) in 2021? There are 30 scholarships on offer. Contact the office.

NON-EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS AT ST ALBERTS COLLEGE: Bishop Kennedy is seeking to appoint up to 3 non-executive directors to the St Alberts College Board. Candidates will have values that align with the College as a Catholic organisation AND are passionate about the College's work. In addition, it is essential that a candidate has skills, knowledge and experience in at least one of the following areas: law, finance, business development, youth work, education or hospitality. For further information and a Position Description please email the Chair of St Alberts College chair.stalberts@armidale.catholic.org.au.

HELP FOR MARRIAGES UNDER STRESS: The BreakThrough Online Course created by SmartLoving will enable you to identify your conflict triggers, learn strategies to de-escalate an argument and find constructive ways to re-establish connection. Restore hope for your relationship's future. Visit: www.smartloving.org/breakthrough

FORWARD NOTICE OF CHANGE TO MASS TIMES: Due to Clergy Retreat there will be NO EVENING MASS (5.30 PM) AT ST. PATRICK'S ON SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER and no weekday masses from 8 - 14 Nov. (9 am). Normal Masses will resume from 5.30 pm Sat. 14 Nov.

COVID-19 UPDATE: Masses are continuing in line with current COVID-19 restrictions. ONLY 72 PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO ATTEND MASS AT ANY ONE TIME AT ST PATRICKS.

It is preferable for you to register with the Parish Office. PLEASE EMAIL THE PARISH AND LEAVE YOUR NAME, TELEPHONE NUMBER, EMAIL ADDRESS AND PREFERENCE TIME FOR MASS ATTENDANCE (Saturday evening or Sunday). The parish phone is not always attended so please only call if you do not have email. If not registered you may still attend mass, however you MUST leave your name and contact details on the sheet upon entering and can only enter if less than 72 people have registered on the entry sheet already. **Masks are currently strongly recommended but not mandatory at the time of print.



**SOCIAL DISTANCING - **YOU MUST ** REGISTER TO ENTER
** SANITISE HANDS ENTERING AND LEAVING
** KEEP YOUR DISTANCE**

Sat Cleaning Roster: 10/10/20 B and B Lane 17/10/20 J Cunningham and K O'Brien

First Collection WEST TAMWORTH PRESBYTERY BSB 082105 Acc 001023642
Second Collection WEST TAMWORTH CHURCH BSB 082105 Acc 001041198