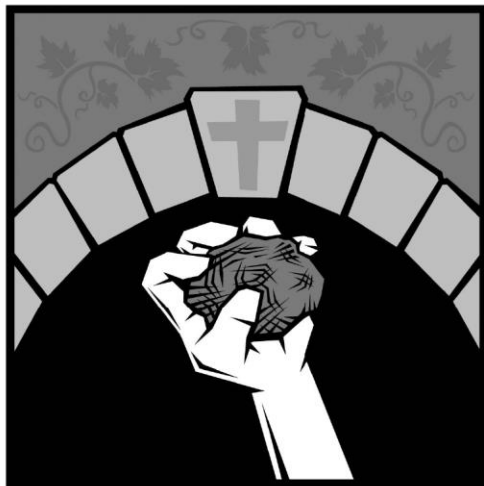




Gospel Mt 21:33-43

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.'

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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The Living Word

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

4 October 2026

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!*

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Office Hours: Tuesday morning, Wednesday & Friday 10am - 3.00pm
Weekday Masses: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday 9am;
 Friday 11am (Mass & Exposition); Tuesday 7.30pm (Mass & Novena)

Sunday Masses: **English:** Saturday 5.30pm, Sunday 9am, 10.30am, 5.30pm
Chin - Burmese: Sunday 2.30pm; **Tongan:** TBC
Vietnamese: Saturday Vigil 7pm, Sunday 12.30pm

Confessions: Saturday 9.30am

MASS INTENTIONS 4 - 10 October 2026

Sat 5.30pm Carmela Carnovale RIP
Sun 9.00am Filip & Mara Krsticevic RIP
 10.30am Giuseppe Bonanno RIP
 5.30pm *Pro Populo*
Mon 9.00am Parish Intention
Tues 7.30pm Owen Sugay RIP
Wed 9.00am Parish Intention
Thur 9.00am Healing for child with Asthma
Fri 11.00am Marie Hudson RIP
Sat 9.00am Parish Intention

ADORATION

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament



Fridays 12pm - 3pm
Your invitation to come and spend some quiet time with the Lord.

DONATIONS: Cards / Phone TAP & GO in church or QR or

Bank Transfer Church. BSB: 083 347 Acc: 6909 17739

Thank you for supporting our parish!



RESTORATION PROJECT FOR THE 100 YEARS CENTENARY

THANK YOU for the DONATIONS for the Stations of the Cross.

Week 2	5.30 pm	9.00 am	10.30 am	5.30 pm
Lectors	Mary Rapa	Michael Payne	Tongan Choir	Volunteer
Extraordinary Ministers	A. Mastroianni	Sr. Shirani Britto	Jennifer Godfrey	
Data Projector	Connie Sposato	Antoinette Spiteri	Teresa Sandra/ Tongan Choir	Volunteer
Weekly Counting	John Francis & Michael Payne			

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic or has not been Confirmed, please contact the Parish Office to enrol. Classes will be commencing in the near future.

Living on the Vine: Scott Hahn Reflects on the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time



In today's Gospel Jesus returns to the Old Testament symbol of the vineyard to teach about Israel, the Church, and the kingdom of God. And the symbolism of today's First Reading and Psalm is readily understood.

God is the owner and the house of Israel is the vineyard. A cherished vine, Israel was plucked from Egypt and transplanted in a fertile land specially spaded and prepared by God, hedged about by the city walls of Jerusalem, watched over by the towering Temple.

But the vineyard produced no good grapes for the wine, a symbol for the holy lives God wanted for His people. So God allowed His vineyard to be overrun by foreign invaders, as Isaiah foresees in the First Reading.

Jesus picks up the story where Isaiah leaves off, even using Isaiah's words to describe the vineyard's wine press, hedge, and watchtower. Israel's religious leaders, the tenants in His parable, have learned nothing from Isaiah or Israel's past. Instead of producing good fruits, they've killed the owner's servants, the prophets sent to gather the harvest of faithful souls.

In a dark foreshadowing of His own crucifixion outside Jerusalem, Jesus says the tenants' final outrage will be to seize the owner's son and to kill him outside the vineyard walls.

For this, the vineyard, which Jesus calls the kingdom of God, will be taken away and given to new tenants—the leaders of the Church, who will produce its fruit.

We are each a vine in the Lord's vineyard, grafted onto the true vine of Christ, called to bear fruits of the righteousness in Him and to be the "first fruits" of a new creation.

We need to take care that we don't let ourselves be overgrown with the thorns and briars of worldly anxiety. As today's Second Reading advises, we need to fill our hearts and minds with noble intentions and virtuous deeds, rejoicing always that the Lord is near.

SAVE THE DATE - Parish volunteers are required to complete a **Safeguarding Children and Young People Training**. All volunteers are invited to a face-to-face training on **14 November 2026, 10am** at the **Marianna Hall**. Please email us if you would like to attend. Volunteers can also do the training at <https://tinyurl.com/449t4jv8>.

Child Safety Reminders: *Please ensure you know where your child is if not beside you.*

Parents please accompany your child if they need to leave the church building.

Our parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children and the vulnerable.

Safeguarding Coordinator: James - safeguarding@olic.au