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**27th Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)** October 8th, 2023

**SUNDAY MASS TIMES**



 Saturday 6.00pm St. Patrick’s church

 Sunday 9.30am Christ the King church

 Sunday 11.00am St. Patrick’s church

**WEEKDAY LITURGY TIMES**

 Tuesday 10.00am Christ the King church

 **Wednesday 10.00am St. Patrick’s church (Funeral Mass)**

 Thursday 10.00am Christ the King church

 Friday 10.00am St. Patrick’s church

**MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED**: Special Intention, Bridie and Ian Hope, Andrew May, Ken Wilson,

**ANNIVERSARIES: October 8th – October 14th:**

Mary Nolan, Michael McLeary, Lily McLeary, Theresa Macaulay, John Kane, Stephen Jones, Michael Peter Shaw, Kathleen Mary Marshall, John Park, Thomas Graham, Joan Addison, Francis Snaith, Peter Raffle, Frederic Osborne, Kenneth James Wilson, William Taylor, James Ross, Margaret Bryan, Joseph Waters, Veronica Buckle, Mel Tosh, Michael Hamilton, Anthony Williams, James McBride, Mary Herrity, John Joseph Hazlett.

**PLEASE REMEMBER** in your prayers all our sick and housebound brothers and sisters.

**The word this week**

Isaiah 5:1–7 The Lord seeks a harvest of justice.

Psalm 79 ***‘The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.’***

Philippians 4:6–9 Dwell in thoughts of purity and justice and you will know peace.

Matthew 21:33–43 The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

T

oday we focus on the vineyard: frequently we see the vineyard as an image or parable of the Kingdom of God. A vineyard takes a great deal of work, throughout the year; it must be tended, watered, pruned, cared for if there is to be any fruit - there are no quick results with vines. So the financial and labour investments made would create high expectations for a good crop. How heartbreaking when the fruit is as sour as vinegar! So it was with God and his people: he invested immense care and love on them, tending then and giving them what they needed – but the fruit was rotten and sour. What can God do? Hand the vineyard over to some tenants who will bring in a harvest. That is us, the new people of the Church: but what sort of harvest will we produce?

**AT MASS TODAY WE PRAY** Eucharistic Prayer 2 and Preface 8 for Sundays

God’s generosity was poured forth with the gift of God’s only Son. In solemn remembrance we now raise our voices in thanksgiving for this great gift.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Please remember in your prayers **Mrs. Marie England,** aged 84, from Thornaby. Her Funeral Mass will take place at St. Patrick’s church this Wednesday, October 11th, at 10.00am. May she rest in peace.

**CAFOD FAST DAY:** CAFOD basket available today for the CAFOD Fast Day collection.

**AFTERNOON BINGO AND SCONES** at Christ the King Hall on Saturday, October 28th, 1.00pm – 4.00pm. Raffle too!

Tickets £5 each and are available from usual outlets. Come along and enjoy.

**ST. PATRICK’S CHRISTMAS DINNER** at ‘The Griffin’, Bader Avenue on Saturday, 16th December, 12.45pm

3 course lunch with raffle, bingo etc. Just £20. See Carol Woodgate or Kath Hall. Only 50 places available!!!

**ST. PATRICK’S CHURCH CLEAN:** There will be a big clean up in St. Patrick’s church this Friday morning after the 10.00am Mass. Everyone is welcome to come and get involved – the more the merrier.

**PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN AT MASS:** We have Christ the King School children at 10.00am Mass on Thursday mornings in church. On Friday mornings we have St. Patrick’s School children at 10.00am Mass in church. All are very welcome to join us.

**POPE FRANCIS** on Wednesday last, Oct. 4th, officially opened a long-anticipated Vatican summit on the very future of Catholicism, encouraging its participants — bishops and laypeople alike — to reject the temptations of doctrinal rigidity and to embrace a vision of the church that is open and welcoming to all.

***"The blessing and welcoming gaze of Jesus prevents us from falling into some dangerous temptations: of being a rigid church, which arms itself against the world and looks backward; of being a lukewarm church, which surrenders to the fashions of the world; of being a tired church, turned in on itself,"*** PopeFrancis said in a homily in St. Peter's Square that marked the start of the month-long Synod of Bishops' synod on synodality. **We remember all concerned in our prayers.**

**27th Sunday of The Year (A)**

**October 8th, 2023**

 **First reading** Isaiah 5:1-7

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.

 **Second reading**  Philippians 4:6-9

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**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I chose you from the world

to go out and bear fruit,

fruit that will last,

says the Lord.

Alleluia!

 **Gospel Reading**  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.’