

LITURGY OF THE WORD  
Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A  
First Reading *Isaiah 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.

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.
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.
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.
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.) The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

Second Reading *Philippians 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*

R. Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation *John 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 *Matthew 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*

R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

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REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate  
Good Wine requires Hard Work

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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TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

Pope Francis Monthly Prayer Intentions—  
OCTOBER  
For the Synod  
We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

Upcoming Events

Choir Practice  
1PM Mondays

Cenacle Prayer 9.30 am  
Fridays after Mass, and 1st Saturday of the month @ 9.30am

ENJOY THE GOOD NEWS  
Wednesdays after 9am Mass

Cuppa With Mary  
MacKillop Tuesday 10th October  
10-11am. CMR All are Welcome

Wrap With Love  
WEDNESDAY 25TH  
October 1pm CMR  
All are welcome

Craft Group Thursdays 10am

ADORATION TUESDAYS @ 4pm

COFFEE CLUB Thursdays after Mass  
Venue: Corrigans Cove  
All are welcome

GOD IS A LONGSUFFERING LOVER

Matthew begins his version of the God News by providing us with “a genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham.” (Matthew 1:1) Beginning with Abraham, Matthew stresses the special ties that link Jesus with the Hebrew/Israelite/Jewish people. Furthermore his list covers three periods (comprised of forty two generations) of Jewish history: Abraham to King David (c1000BC); David to the Babylonian Exile (587BC); and from the Exile’s end (538BC) to Christ’s birth. What kept the Jewish people surviving as a nation, or at least a remnant of one, over nearly two millennia was the Covenant God made with Abraham (c1875BC).

“Yahweh said to Abram(sic): ‘I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing. I will bless those who bless you: I will curse those that slight you. All the tribes of the earth shall bless themselves by you’” (Genesis 12: 1-3)

The Covenant comprised duties for and commitments by both parties. God committed to treat Israel in accordance with its special position as his chosen people and to teach them the principles of a contented and holy life. Abraham made the commitment on behalf of himself and all succeeding generations to be obedient to God and to live in accordance with moral principles (later codified in the Torah or Law of Moses, its teachings and practical applications).

Alas! For nearly nine hundred years the Israelites were slack observers of their side of the Covenant. King David raised them out of the mire and became honoured as an ideal king and as the forefather of the future Messiah in Jewish Prophetic literature.

Today we have a reading from the prophet Isaiah (740-701BC). Palestine is in a mess. In fact it was split into two kingdoms (Judah in the south 922-587BC; Israel in the north, 922-587 BC). There was little moral leadership emanating from the royal palaces or from the priestly sanctuaries. It fell to Isaiah to preach a change of heart. He compares the generations of Jews who have preceded his audience to a vineyard planted with choice vines by a loving owner who gave it every opportunity to flourish. He protected it and was so confident it would produce fine grapes that he expected to make excellent wine. But instead the product was wild useless grapes. What had gone wrong? Just in case his listeners didn’t see the meaning of the comparison Isaiah hits them between the eyes.

“Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of Hosts Is the House of Israel And the men of Judah Those chosen vines.

The Lord expected justice, but found bloodshed. Integrity but only the cry of the distressed.”

I ask myself these questions. “What more could our Creator God have done for me? What more our crucified Redeemer? What more the Holy Spirit?”

Surely the answers will spur me on to a life of greater gratitude for God’s many graces and love.

Joe Quigley





## MASS THIS WEEK

### Monday 9th October

### Sunday 15th October

**Monday 9th:** No Mass

**Tuesday 10th:** Mass 5pm  
No Adoration

**Wednesday 11th:** Mass 9am

**Thursday 12th:** Mass 9am

**Friday 13th:** Mass 9am

**Saturday 14th:** Mass 6pm

Reconciliation 4.30-5.30pm

**Sunday 15th:** Mass 9am

**There will be no Adoration on Tuesday 10th October and Fr John will celebrate Mass at 5pm same day**

### Masses in Aged Care Facilities

- Mass First Wed of Month @10.30am Denhams Beach Community Care (Opal)
- Mass 2nd Wed of the month @10.30am The Glen
- Mass 3rd Wed of month @2pm The Manor
- Mass 4th Wed of month @2pm Maranatha Lodge

### ROSTERS

#### 7/8 OCTOBER

##### Cleaning

9-13 Favetta/O'Neill/  
Nugent

##### 6.00PM MASS

Welcomer J Anderson  
Commentator: P O'Kelly  
Reader: S Ebejer  
Eucharistic Ministers  
K Lovering, M Weatherall  
Computer Screen  
K Conway

##### 9.00 AM MASS:

Welcomer T van den Broek  
Commentator A Skinner  
Reader: L Page  
Eucharistic Ministers  
L Stevens, K Corbin  
Computer Screen D May.  
MORNING TEA:  
M Vidovic & Zdenka

### 14/15 OCTOBER

##### Cleaning

16-20 D & L May

##### 6.00PM MASS

Welcomer: M Devine  
Commentator: B Maynard  
Reader: J Mackay  
Eucharistic Ministers  
C Brownlie, M Bridges  
Computer Screen  
J O'Sullivan

##### 9.00 AM MASS:

Welcomer M deSmet  
Commentator: N Beatty  
Reader: D Herring  
Eucharistic Ministers  
V & C Burns  
Computer Screen T Priest

##### MORNING TEA:

M & C Lowe

### **St Vincent de Paul Conference Bateman's Bay**

would like to thank Parishioners for their ongoing support of our Conference and their good works. Your assistance has always been very generous and practical. Our Conference will be hosting the morning tea after the 9am Mass on Sun Oct 15 as a way of saying **THANK YOU**. Come and speak to us and get an information brochure and enjoy morning tea.

**BSECET Trivia** will be held on Saturday 14th October @ 2pm at the Salvation Army—25 Old Hume Highway, Batemans Bay.

**\$15 entry**

Please come along and show support as well as have a great time!!

Enquiries: Angela Horsfall 4472 1099

### MARIAN PROCESSION 2023

Sunday—October 22

Please see poster in church foyer for DETAILS

**PUBLIC ROSARY: October is the Month of the Holy Rosary and on Saturday, 14 October there will be a Public Rosary at 11am at the Rotunda, Russmartin Park, Moruya. Everyone is welcome. For further details, please call Michael Irwin on 0478 227 979.**

You are invited to the **DIACONATE ORDINATION** for **Mr MARK HA**

On FRIDAY 3RD November @5pm, St Christopher's Cathedral FORREST ACT 2603

**RSVP** by October 25th:

marcokhoithang@gmail.com or 0455288442

### PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

If you would like to join the parish e-platform giving for both the Priest and the Church, the details are as follows:

**ACC Name:**

St Bernard's Operating

**BSB:** 062-786 **Bank Acc:** 00012939**Ref:** Family Name

### Remembering the Sick:

Dawn Robinson, Maria de Rocco, Pam Wilson, Laurence Foran, Julie Morgan, Myrna Glenn, Norma Dean, Ann Marie McLoughlin, Antionette Doyle, Christine Norman, Anne Gatehouse, Tony Vogel, Suzanne Hughes, Trent Fisk, Carolyn Burns, Sr Marie McAlister, Peter O'Neill, Beverley Biglia, Fr John Walter, Lola, Fr Kevin Murphy, Allan Rogers, Pam Wilson, Antony and Andrew, Rita Condon, Ben Copland, Femia and Mark, Vince Burns, John Dillon, James Lee, Trish Hamilton, Jim Banks, Dennis Sheather, Mary Henderson, Diane Lanzon, Marion O'Grady, Victor Edith, Jan Simpson, Dawn Robinson, Allan Odum, Luke Ward, Andrew Morton, Ken Evendon, Judy Betts, Anica Bautovic, Angela Mylott, Jeanette Clarke, those in hospital and nursing homes.

**Death Anniversaries:** are listed in the Memorial Book at the front of the Church and names can be added to it if dates are provided.

**We pray for the recently deceased in the Parish Community:** Fr Don Gunn, Krsto Jarnjevic, Julie McDonald, Tony Plascak, Janet Thornbury, Michele (Mick) Ferrante, Barry O'Neill, Frank Belsa, Henry Thomas, Rosa Spano, Geza Markovits, Del Bateman, Kayleen Mortlock, Dan Quigley, Maree O'Brien, Rees De Winter, John Dunne, Maria Ivelja, Stjepan Matasin, Peter McGann, Dante Pasqualin, Loretta Jones, Filomena Dela Torre, Christopher Horsfall, Dawn Millman, Mara Pranjic, Travis Basevi, Judith Dewick, Nita Gorzalka, Linda Russell

### PASTORAL LETTER

### INDIGENOUS VOICE TO PARLIAMENT

### REFERENDUM

### SOME MORAL/ETHICAL REFLECTIONS -

Regarding the Voice to Parliament Referendum, the Bishops of Australia have encouraged us to consider the moral/ethical dimensions and not simply political arguments.

To assist us in forming our individual and collective consciences, may I offer the following very brief and initial reflections.

We are to ask: "How ought I/we vote? ... What ought I/we **DO**?" This is a good place to start. However, if we leave the question simply at this we may well end up with an answer based on political arguments alone.

The deeper moral/ethical question probes our conscience further. It asks: "What ought I/we **BE** as Australians given this issue now before us?" To answer this deeper moral question requires considerations on two levels simultaneously: social structures and human attitudes.

On the level of social structures, there is a strong argument for change. At present, simply being born an aboriginal person places an Australian seemingly in a highly marginalised position.

The **Uluru Statement from the Heart** (2017) expresses this succinctly. *"Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are alienated from their families at unprecedented rates. This cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future."*

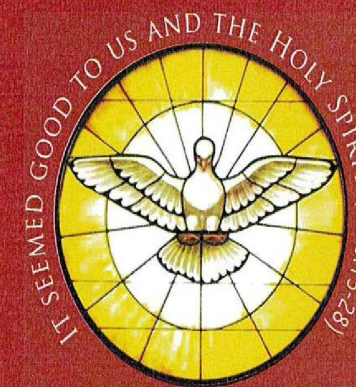
The entrenched nature of this crisis seems to indicate an intergenerational social structure that is diseased.

Good ethics would insist that a deeper diagnosis of this situation would involve the interplay of structures with human attitudes. This dual consideration assists us in discovering foundations for the common good – the doorway to true justice.

This requires dialogue and listening with our First Australians. It is in this area of attitudes that Aboriginal activist, Noel Pearson (27 October 2022, Boyer Lectures), identifies a major weakness in finding healing solutions.

He says in a most disturbing refection: *"We are a much unloved people. We are perhaps the ethnic group Australians feel least connected to. We are not popular and we are not personally known to many Australians. Few have met us and a small minority count us as friends. And despite never having met any of us ... Australians hold and express strong views about us, the great proportion of which is negative and unfriendly."*

Regardless of the result of the 14 October 2023 Referendum and the social structural changes proposed, this area of conversion of attitudes



## YEAR OF THE Holy Spirit

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT  
FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE

O God, who by the light  
of the Holy Spirit,  
did instruct the hearts  
of the faithful,  
Grant that by the same  
Holy Spirit we may be  
truly wise and ever rejoice in his  
consolations.  
Through the same  
Christ Our Lord

AUGUST 2023 - AUGUST 2024

would remain.

We all surely have a communal responsibility to ponder deeply on the type of Australia we want to become because of the Referendum. Let us educate our individual and collective consciences on the issues involved and vote according to these deep reflections.

As Pope St John Paul II so famously stated in the much quoted speech he gave to Aboriginal Australians in Alice Springs (29<sup>th</sup> November 1986),

You are part of Australia and Australia is part of you. And the Church herself in Australia will not be fully the Church that Jesus wants her to be until you have made your contribution to her life and until that contribution has been joyfully received by others."

Archbishop Christopher Prowse  
Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn  
**3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023**

## FRIENDS OF MARANATHA SPRING SALE

Monday 23rd October

A fundraiser to be held at  
Maranatha Lodge  
10.30am—1pm

Sale of pre-loved clothes for  
that special occasion.

Morning Tea is provided and  
there will be a special raffle



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Ray and Anne Brown



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**WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND THE WALBUNJA PEOPLE OF THE YUIN NATION. WE PAY OUR RESPECTS TO THEIR ELDERS, PAST, PRESENT AND EMERGING**