

# 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 3rd - 4th October 2020

**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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 79:9. 12-16. 19-20. R. Is 5:7

**R/** The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

**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.

The Word of the Lord.

**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!**

**Gospel:** Matthew 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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

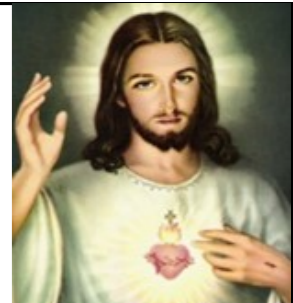
**With so much violence in the news,  
our mind could be overcome with the powers of evil.  
We need what St Paul says: "beloved, whatever is true,  
whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure,  
whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence  
and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."**



## Sacred Heart Parish Preston

322 Bell St, Preston 3072

**Parish Contacts:** Phone: (03) 9480 3398 Or (03) 9484 2124  
Email: preston@cam.org.au Website: www.sacredheartpreston.com.au



## 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 3rd - 4th October 2020

### Sent to Produce Good Fruits

Two main thoughts come to mind while reflecting on the gospel parable today. First, the infinite goodness, patience and the mercy of God in his dealing with humankind and secondly, the unsounded depth of wickedness and ingratitude to which people can sink.

To his chosen people God had given every good thing indicated in the image of the fertile vineyard: his revelation, protection, new land at Canaan and the promise of the messiah. But they had other plans and they wanted a kingdom on earth. Yet we see God's patience with them, forgiving them, again and again pardoning their infidelities, sending his messengers and kings and taking care of them. All God asked in return was their cooperation. However, when the prophets were sent to them as God's messengers they refused to accept them and did not listen to their warnings. Finally, the landowner, God, sent His only beloved Son Jesus to them, saying, "They will respect my Son." Rather than believing and accepting the teachings of Jesus, the Son of God and the promised Messiah, the chief priests and the Pharisees plotted against Him and killed Him.

Today, we are God's people. We are the tenants in the God's vineyard. He expects us to work in his vineyard and to produce fruit that will endure. The question to ask ourselves today is: How are we doing? How much better are we than the chief priests, the elders, the Scribes and the Pharisees? We are especially privileged by baptism to be called to work in the Lord's vineyard. Time and time again we are invited to gather together to hear the Gospel message and to make it part of our lives. We are all called to be active members of the Body of Christ, the Church. Over the centuries, a number of prophets in our Christian communities have been rejected, abused and even killed. We think of Joan of Arc, Thomas More, and Oliver Plunkett and, in our own times, Bishop Oscar Romero, Martin Luther King, the countless victims of violence in Central and South America, in Africa and Northern Ireland. All these martyrs have one thing in common. They were killed not by pagans but by fellow-Christians, tenants in the Lord's vineyard.



This week, let us all take a few moments to review our status before God, asking ourselves how active are we in the Lord's vineyard. As we slowly reopen from the COVID-19 lockdown let us not remain indifferent to God's invitation to become vital tenants and produce fruits that will enrich our community and the Church.

**Office Hours:**  
Tues to Fri: 10.00am - 12.30pm

**Parish Priest:**  
Fr Jan Szweda, SVD

**Assistant Priest:**  
Fr Aloysius Nato, SVD

**Italian Community Chaplain:**  
Fr Albano Da Costa, SVD

**Deacon:**  
Yosef Meda, SVD

**Parish Office:** Cristina Agius

**School Principal:** Mark Tierney  
**School Phone:** 9487 1001

**Sacrament Co-ordinator:**  
Ylenia Useli  
shpcatechists@gmail.com

**Child Safety Officers:**  
Kay Dufty: 0431 376 212  
Robert Dullard: 0433 401 958

**Child Safety Committee:**  
Robert Dullard (Chair)

**Parish Council Members:**  
Catherine Zanatta (chairperson),  
Kay Dufty (secretary),  
Tony Eley, Gerard Grant,  
Ophelia Swai,  
Anisasio (Pauline) Veamatahau,  
Mark Tierney, Ben Fortuna and  
Natalie Baran

**Parish Finance Committee:**  
Peter Constable (Chair)  
0425 779 831

**St. Vincent de Paul Society:**  
Pauline O'Day (President)  
Ph: 9484 2445

### Parish Mass Schedule

#### Zoom Live Stream Masses

Monday – Friday at 9.10 am

Sunday at 10.30 am

Please call Fr Jan for  
Zoom ID on: 0400469540

**For other  
Online Mass  
Schedule  
see next page**

## An Open Letter to the Premier from the Catholic Bishops of Victoria

Friday 25 September 2020

Dear Premier,

It has been very encouraging to see COVID-19 numbers dropping so dramatically in recent weeks. We are grateful for the efforts and commitment of the government and health officials in containing the second wave of the pandemic, and for the clear leadership you have provided personally in your daily communication updates for all Victorians.

Throughout the various changes in restrictions over the last six months, the Catholic dioceses of Victoria have shown themselves to be resilient, well-managed and safe, carefully communicating each set of restrictions and ensuring their implementation, even when this caused much hardship.

However, people of faith across regional and metropolitan Victoria have raised serious concerns about the unfairness and inconsistency in the numbers allowed for religious gatherings by comparison with other sectors in the current 'third step'. We are being asked what the reason is for this dramatic difference, and we are unable to provide an answer, even after several meetings with DHHS in which we have sought explanations.

Over the last two weeks, we have worked cooperatively with members of the government and health authorities, and have resolved a number of inconsistencies and communication difficulties. However, a pressing need remains to address the unfairness of the disparity in numbers.

In the most simple of measures, the current restrictions in regional Victoria literally fail the 'pub test': if people of faith can gather in a restaurant or bar catering for a particular number of patrons (and remove their face covering), they ought to be able to put on their mask, cross the road and worship in their faith community with the same numbers, provided equivalent COVID-19 safe practices are in place.

We ask that this disparity be rectified urgently and that the principle of fairness be applied for each subsequent step on the roadmap to reopening. Catholic communities have shown their commitment to acting responsibly and cooperatively throughout the pandemic, and they will be greatly encouraged in this if they can see that people of faith are being given the same consideration as other sectors of the community.

You remain in our prayers and we look forward to finding a constructive solution to this issue, which is causing unnecessary pain and distress for people of faith across Victoria.

Yours sincerely,

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli  
ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE



Most Rev Paul Bernard Bird CSsR  
BISHOP OF BALLARAT



Most Rev Shane Mackinlay  
BISHOP OF SANDHURST



Rev Peter Slater  
DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATOR, SALE



### Collections

1st Collection: \$160.00

Direct Debit for September: \$1694.00

2nd Collection: \$100.00

Father's Day Appeal: \$160.00

Thank you for your kind generosity!



### Online Masses

**St. Patrick's Cathedral - Live Streaming at:**

<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

Monday- Friday: 1pm, Saturday: 8am, Sunday: 11am

**Recorded masses can also be viewed at:**

[www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass](http://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass)

Or: <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>

### TV Masses

**Channel 44 (31):** Live telecast from St. Patrick's Cathedral, Sunday at 11am

**Channel 10:** Mass for you at home, Sunday at 6am.

**RAI:** Italian Mass from the Vatican, Sunday at 8:30am

### Celebrating World Mission Month

October is recognised in the Catholic Church as World Mission Month, a time when Catholics all over the world join to support and celebrate global missionary work. Catholic Mission, as the Australian arm of the Pontifical Mission Societies, plays a vital role.

'What Catholic Mission and the international network of Pontifical Mission Societies can do, is to help some of the most vulnerable people in the world', says Catholic Mission Victorian Director, Kevin Meese. 'This year we focus on the essential work of priests, religious and lay missionaries in Cambodia, supporting people with disability and their families.'

In north-west Cambodia, The Arrupe Centre and Outreach Program is providing learning and growth opportunities for the community, still affected by landmine incidents and associated illnesses. This centre is managed by Bishop Enrique "Kike" Figaredo Alvargonzalez in the Apostolic Prefecture of Battambang. For over 20 years, Bishop 'Kike' and his team have been working to advocate for people with disability. This program is just one of the many examples of the global work supported by Catholic Mission.

### Assist a Student (AAS) Information Weekend

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you for your past and current support of the St Vincent de Paul Society and its "Good Works". However, we would like to draw your attention to, and provide information of our overseas Assist A Student program. I acknowledge the difficult times we are facing here in Victoria because of COVID-19, but it is even more difficult for the very poor overseas students that we assist.

In 2019, the National Council of the Society requested a review of the AAS program. The review concluded, "The AAS program is valued and has real impact as intended in our partner countries. The amount will increase to \$100 per student". It has been \$70 per student since the beginning of the program in 1996. However, any amount towards the program is appreciated. The money is used to assist very poor students in countries to our north to attend school, who may otherwise without the assistance, not be able to afford to attend. Any administrative costs are met by the Australian St Vincent de Paul Society. It is aimed at breaking the poverty cycle the student finds himself/herself in, and it encapsulates the Vincentian message of "a hand up, not a hand out". If you would like any further information, please contact Paul McCarthy on 0432 585 580.

Yours in Christ,

Paul McCarthy, State Coordinator, Assist A Student

[assistastudent@svdp-vic.org.au](mailto:assistastudent@svdp-vic.org.au)

### 'Walking with Wisdom' Contemplative Sessions

Via Zoom - Thursdays, 10am-12.30pm (AEST) on 8, 15, 22 & 29 October 2020. The Heart of Life invite you to join a series of contemplative sessions with Carole Carmody and Marlene McGrath, providing opportunities for Deep Listening: to oneself at this unique time in our lives; to Divine Wisdom in the Heart, and in the Hearts of Others; and to engage in a gentle, creative response. Join for one or all sessions. \$85 for the Series or \$25 per session.

Bookings at [www.trybooking.com/BLILH](http://www.trybooking.com/BLILH).

Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, tel 03 9890 1101, [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne)

### Pondering Grief - Reflection event via Zoom

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> Oct 2020, 10am-1pm. Facilitated by Counsellor/Supervisor/Educator Linda Espie, this event provides the opportunity to reflect on and honour our inner life of change and transition. With creative, space and gentle guiding support, this workshop will offer a sacred place for the breadth of human experiencing and spirit to guide individual exploration. Limited to 10 participants. Cost \$30. Bookings and payment via Trybooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/BLUEA> For more information, contact [holsc@bigpond.com](mailto:holsc@bigpond.com) or tel 9890 1101.



### 2020 Live Streamed March for the Babies

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, the Annual March for the Babies 2020 will be a Live Streamed event @ 1p.m. Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup> Join in online [www.mftb.online](http://www.mftb.online) for Victoria's largest pro-life event in defence of the victims of Victoria's inhumane abortion laws, unborn children and their mothers. Featured speakers, powerful testimonies, music and opportunities to promote the "culture of life". Thanking you in anticipation, Greg Byrne for Bernie Finn Chairman of the March for the Babies Committee.

### WE PRAY FOR:

The elderly and the sick

*Dhea Abenir, Anthony, Lopisoni Amato,  
Peter Bourke, Pasquale Curcio,  
Nicola D'Orazio, Anthony Joseph, Ray Mc Veigh,  
Peter Pennell & Bronislawa Slobodzian*

We commemorate

*Georgina Falzon, Natalina Folino, Serafino Folino,  
Francesco Mobilio, Russo Ana Mobilio,  
Cristina Mobilio, Giuseppe Mayorana,  
Bruno Rugerio, Tony Petito, Francesco Russo &  
Vincenza Folino*

O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen.

**85 years of Support through Crisis**  
CatholicCare's story began in 1935 during the Great Depression, when one in three Australians were out of work.

Just as we did 85 years ago, we continue to support our community through times of crisis like the Black Saturday bushfires, the East Gippsland bushfires earlier this year, and the Covid-19 pandemic.

But families and individuals will experience their own crises too. Family violence, relationship breakdown, financial insecurity, homelessness, illness, or addiction to alcohol or drugs are some examples of the crises we see within our community. No one should ever have to walk a tough journey alone. With a listening ear and a compassionate heart, we're walking alongside families and individuals to guide them along their journey to a brighter future.

### Let us Return to the Eucharist with Joy!

"Aware that God never abandons the humanity He has created, and that even the hardest trials can bear fruits of grace, we have accepted our distance from the Lord's altar as a time of Eucharistic fasting, useful for us to rediscover its vital importance, beauty and immeasurable preciousness. As soon as is possible, however, we must return to the Eucharist with a purified heart, with a renewed amazement, with an increased desire to meet the Lord, to be with him, to receive him and to bring him to our brothers and sisters with the witness of a life full of faith, love, and hope. In times of difficulty (e.g. wars, pandemics), Bishops and Episcopal Conferences can give provisional norms which must be obeyed. Obedience safeguards the treasure entrusted to the Church." (From Cardinal Sarah's Letter on the celebration of the liturgy during and after the COVID 19 pandemic, September 2020)

In light of this, and as a provisional measure for the time-being only, Archbishop Peter Comensoli asks that Communion be distributed in the hand only (and not directly on the tongue), as a precautionary step to protect against COVID-19. This is not done lightly, because in normal circumstances the Church in Australia does not limit reception of the Sacrament to one way or another. This is not a permanent situation, and will be reviewed at each significant change in the Victorian Roadmap. The Archbishop will lift this requirement at the earliest opportunity. Catholics who do not feel able to receive the Sacrament in this way due to personal devotion or piety are to be respectfully encouraged to make a spiritual communion. In the case of serious sickness or end of life the Sacrament is available without restriction.