

## 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 4 October 2020



**The Fruits of the Kingdom.** The tenants in today's Gospel had received much from the landowner who had established the vineyard. It was only fair that he should receive a share of the fruits of the crop. Likewise, we have received much from Christ whose grace produces in us the fruits of truth, goodness, purity, love, honour and virtue. We pay our dues to Christ when we share these fruits with others.

### **Responsorial Psalm:**

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

### **Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!**

### **2020 Sacraments Program**

We are very pleased to announce that our Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion will go ahead. There will be restrictions to ensure the health of our children and their families.

**First Holy Communion - Sunday 1, 8 and 15 & 22 November at 11am**

**First Holy Communion Sessions begin**

**Monday 14 & 21 September**

**Monday 12 & 19 October**

**Please contact the Sacramental Coordinator for further information**  
**sacraments@stambrose.org.au**

Our First Holy Communion Candidates are in preparation to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Please pray for all our Sacramental Program candidates and their families.



**HSC Mass – 5pm Sunday 11 October 2020**



Fr. Brian Egan, Parish Priest  
Fr Chaminda Wanigasena, Assistant Priest  
2 Burke St, Concord West NSW 2138  
[admin@stambrose.org.au](mailto:admin@stambrose.org.au)  
[sacraments@stambrose.org.au](mailto:sacraments@stambrose.org.au)  
[parishcouncil@stambrose.org.au](mailto:parishcouncil@stambrose.org.au)  
[www.stambrose.org.au](http://www.stambrose.org.au)  
Phone: 02 9743 1023  
VASA: 9736 3686, 8765 1295  
St Ambrose Primary School  
Stuart St, Concord West  
Principal: Ms Linda McFadden  
Ph: 9743 5605  
[info@stambconcord.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@stambconcord.catholic.edu.au)

**Sunday Masses: Sat Vigil 5pm, Sunday 9.30am & 5pm**  
**Live-streamed Mass: Sat Vigil 5pm. You can participate from your home online & receive the Spiritual Communion.**

**Weekday Masses: 9am Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri (or Fri 9.15am school Masses)**  
**Tuesday evening 7.30pm**

**Saturday 8.00am Devotions to Our Lady of Lourdes**

**Saturday 9am Mass**

**Reconciliation: Sat 3.30 – 4.30pm**

**Adoration: Mon & Fri 6-9pm, Tues 5.45pm – 7.15pm,**

**Sat 3.30 - 4.30pm, Italian Cenacle: Mon 9.30am**

**Holy Hour & Cenacle: Wed after 9am Mass, Fri 9.30am**

**Baptisms: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month at 11am by appointment.**

**Weddings: by appointment. Contact Parish Office.**

## 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 4 October 2020

**Rosary Pilgrimage** – the official pilgrim statue of

**Our Lady Help of Christians**

Will be travelling through the parishes of the Archdiocese during the month of October.

Our Lady will be visiting our Parish this

**Monday 5 October.**

Our Parish Family Rosary will commence at 6.00pm.

Please feel free to bring flowers as a gift to Our Lady during her visit to our Parish.





**Please remember in your prayers the following for whom Masses will be offered.**



**Recently Deceased:** Kevin McGrath, Raymond Dickerson, Eugenio Libro, A.J. Singh, Santosh, Fr John Langtry, Ray Hardman, Mary Kosmas

**Anniversaries:** Asuncion Dimaculangan, Jack Leckie, Phillip Mouawad, Dulcie & Tony Tumminello, Mary & Jim Waters, Carmel Nolan, Giovanna Caldaroni

**Others:** Fr Kevin McGovern, Patrick & Margaret Egan, Veronica & Anne Gough, Mario Iannacito, Angelo Iannacito, Mabel & Kevin Rice, Peter Waters, Helen Timpanaro, Paul Broderick, Harry O'Hara, Eugene & Aileen Morris, Ted & Laura Merlino, Harriet David, Terry Tully, Michael Culligan, Angelina Camuglia, Dr Leonado Dimaculangan, Jennifer Bast, Doug Kemp, Carmel Cullinan, Francesca Vizzari, Anthony Zovaro, Eric Pewal, Chris Elliott, Paola Pilosio, John Ferranda, Olivero Vendramin, Thomas Murickananickal & Kochappan, Joseph, Anna Nguyen, Gordon Bridges, John Baptist Nguyen, Giuseppe Rubbo, Teofilo Zamora, Paul, Filomena Agostino, Marie Madeleine Danev, Nicola Betto, Margaret Sharpe, Tamam Koloi, Helen Timpanaro, Mario Gemin, John Ryan, John & Gwen Kennedy, Antoinette Constable, Ludivina Green, Agata Rodi, John Baptista Zammit, Catherine and John Manning, Joe and Mary Mangion, Rema Flannery, Margaret Jean Sharpe, John Pomroy, Mary & Ernest Vanzella, Gaetano Patamia, Filomena Agostino, Desmond Lim, Herdy Riduan, Gina Querin, Ruby Madera, Caoile Families, Iannacito, Funaro & Di Iorio Families, Guiseppe & Maria Idiotta, Whiteford Family, Culligan Family, Cootes Family, Zammit Family, DeBono Family, Moses Family, Nancy's Family, Dahdah Family, Wheeler & Higgins Families, Morson Family, Abraham, George & Cherote Families, Kennedy and McGovern Families, John White, June Bates, Dorothy Vantwest, Thelma & Stephen Muller & Family, Soloman Family, Merrell, Bourke, Gielis & Shields Families, deceased members of St Vincent de Paul Society, dearly departed souls and all souls in Purgatory.

**Please pray for the sick especially:**

Joe Abbate, Terry Murphy, Patricia Christosi, Dalton James Bonnici, Maria Manno, Joseph Borg, Yuan Sheng Ye, Veronica Rutherford, Paul Dovico, David Bagnato, Angela, Rosaria Natalina Patamia, Felice Minutillo, Charlie Rossini, Kelly & Ursula, Giuseppina Algozzino, Viru, John and Betty Gattenhof, Esther Tully, Rosa Mastro, Tanya Greenaway, Gianna, Matthew, Luisa, Zia Pina, Grace Comare, Sean Peters, Elizabeth Esguerra, Juliet Walsh, Barbara Wayne, Marilyn Deguara, Elijah, Adrian Vanzella, Matthew Chan, John Rodrigues, Belinda Nicholls, Nan Peters, Carmela Smigliani, Shinta Widzaza, Alan Borg, Rosa Maria Santos, Bhupinder Tamber, Rebecca Sinclair, Marina Arasaratnam, Teresa Domalewski, Adel Abraham, Anne Vassily, Gloria Clark, Kim Long, Bob & Marion Merrell, Stacey Spencer, Joanne Ford, David, Celia and Gomes Family, Warwick Cook, Louise, James Anthony Manassa, June Corcoran, Rosina Morson, Celina Shaw, Laurence O'Connell, Sam Carroll, Dr Bede Muller, Robert Carey, Mario Bianco, Rochelle Rodrigues, Kevin Desouza, Pat Toohey, Charmaine Yu, Anne Collins, Anna Vitezniak, Adrian Walker, Lauren Wedd, Peter Weinfefe, Ivy Ross, Dr Siri Kannangara, Maria Rosa de Angelis, Frank Zappia, Cecily Culligan

**Special Intention:** Anton Felix



**FROM THE PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:**

On March 26<sup>th</sup> this year Fr Brian wrote a letter to all Parish volunteers who are in any way connected with the celebration of our Parish Masses here in St. Ambrose' Church. This letter was included in a **SPECIAL KIT** which was prepared for all those volunteers, namely, acolytes, youth choir ministers, Ministers of the Word (Lectors) all Eucharistic ministers whether ministering at church or in the home, and Parish collectors. Surprisingly, the number of our volunteers in these areas is about 70 people which speaks well for the generosity and fidelity of our Parish community.

This letter in March from Fr. Brian, included in the **SPECIAL KITS** that were prepared for the above 70 volunteers notified the reason for the need for each and every volunteer in the above ministries to be covered by the Archdiocese. The Archdiocesan directive lists the ministries as are mentioned above...

Consequently, **SPECIAL KITS** were prepared for the volunteers as mentioned above. The **FOUR** requirements for each volunteer to ensure that they are safely covered as a volunteer in the parish are as follow:

1. A Volunteer Registration Form signed by volunteer
2. Code of Conduct Form signed by volunteer
3. Working with Children paperwork obtained from NSW police.....
4. Completion of an Induction Training Session or face to face training, thus obtaining A SALT CERTIFICATE.

**The above is necessary for all volunteers to Parish Ministry in which they are currently involved....**

Volunteers who have completed step 1, 2 and 3 of the above, then contact me to obtain the website on which to complete online training....which can be done in 2 sessions if needed.

Over the six months, **ONLY 30** volunteers out of 70 have completed the above requirements. If you have not responded, I would be grateful if you could let me know if there is any difficulty you are experiencing with which I can be of assistance. This is important for our Parish as the Catholic

Professional Standards Office has a goal of completing its work by the end of the year... Sr Judith Clark

**'LOVE GOD.....LOVE OTHERS'  
CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES FOR THE NEEDY CHILDREN  
OF SOUTH EAST ASIA....**



These are unusual times, so we need to think in an unusual way....re our

**ANNUAL OUTREACH to the NEEDY**

"Operation Christmas Child" in our Parish will be going ahead as Samaritan's Purse still continues to co-opt volunteers, to collect, to pack, and to prepare boxes for transport to Asian children in time for their Christmas. Boxes will be available this weekend at the side door of the Church OR if the Church is closed, there will be BOXES on the verandah of the Convent, with brochures which remind you of the importance of what gifts are suitable for sending these children.

Please READ the Brochure carefully. Since the opportunity for particular shopping is in many ways curtailed, maybe you have NEW items at home which could be suitable for a GIFT BOX....or you might be able to shop. Any small offering you can make will be appreciated by those packing the boxes.

**RE RETURN OF YOUR GIFTBOX WHEN READY TO SEND**

If you are coming to Mass, please leave your GIFTBOX under the Altar as part of your Offertory at the Mass. As the church is often closed at various times feel free to leave your GIFTBOX on the front verandah of the Convent, Unit 2/90 MacKenzie Street (park at the front of the house...easy to drop/or pick up BOX on the front verandah)

Would there be any SEWERS in our Parish who are prepared to stitch together some library bags if we supply you with the material? Please contact Sr Judith [judith.clark@rscsisters.com.au](mailto:judith.clark@rscsisters.com.au) 97361477 or 0455727501

Alternatively, if you are unable to pick up and fill a BOX....just leave your gifts for the children in the plastic box on the Convent verandah and they will be taken to the despatch centre by our generous volunteer Parishioner. Thank you for helping us to continue this loving service to the needy children this Christmas 2020.

**CWL Silver Circle Week 3 Results**

1 <sup>st</sup> prize	No. 31	\$20.00	Vivienne Cole
2 <sup>nd</sup> prize	No. 26	\$10.00	Sybille Duane

**COVID-19 Update**

The NSW Government has recommended parishioners wear face masks when attending religious services as an additional safeguard to help combat the spread of COVID-19.

**A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney**

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org) or call (02) 9390 5810 or You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

**LIVESTREAMING OF MASS**



As we all become accustomed to the restrictions due to COVID, the livestreaming of our 5pm Saturday Mass each week is being welcomed by those who are not able to join us in the Church.

Sean, Tyler, Zack and Audrey have done a superb job over recent months but they will not be able to continue indefinitely.

Sean is keen to share his knowledge and skills with others and has set up a single camera system to simplify the livestreaming. We are asking for Parishioners willing to learn how to operate the equipment which will be available in the Church. Such a group of Parishioners, appropriately trained, would come on a rostered basis so you would not be required to do it every week.

If you are interested in knowing more please come along to 5pm Saturday Mass and have a chat to Sean or, if more convenient, contact the Parish Office on 9743 1023 or email [admin@stambrose.org.au](mailto:admin@stambrose.org.au).

### **Holy Fathers Appeal – this weekend.**

The Holy Father's Appeal is typically held on the Feast Day of St Peter and Paul on 29 June. However, due to COVID-19, Rome has rescheduled the appeal to 3-4 October. This appeal highlights the global charitable causes of Pope Francis and is aimed at alleviating the suffering of those affected by natural disasters, wars, the refugee crisis and poverty, to name a few. This is still a very trialling period for parishes, so any support you might provide is greatly appreciated. To give, please use the appeal envelopes provided or phone the Fundraising Office on during office hours on **1800 753 959**.

### **SACRAMENT OF THE SICK**

During these times of uncertainty, many are experiencing anxiousness for the first time and this Sacrament gives us strength, courage and awareness of God's loving presence in our lives.

Mark your calendar for the date of the next Mass with Sacrament of the Sick on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October** at 10:30. VASA can provide transport if needed.



Anointing the sick

### **Br Julian's Reflection 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

***"The kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruits."*** Matthew 21, 33-43

In reading today's gospel (and the gospel readings taken from Matthew over the next few weeks) it's important to remember that they are reflections on the events of the last week of Jesus' life, during which his conflict with the Jewish leaders reached boiling point. In today's parable of the vineyard owner and the rebellious tenants to whom he had leased it, Jesus identifies himself as yet another prophet who has been rejected by Israel. He goes even further, indicating that he is the son of the vineyard owner (God) who will be done to death by tenants whose uncontrolled desire for greed, power and status delude them into thinking that his death

will deliver to them all they want. The risk in reading the parable only in this way is that we can use it to point the finger of blame at people in leadership, and forget that there is a message in the parable for us, too. As an indirect way into exploring this parable, I share a Sufi story with which, almost forty-four years ago, the Dutch-born theologian and writer, Henri Nouwen began a public lecture entitled *Compassion: The Core of Spiritual Leadership*:

*Once upon a time, there was a man who strayed from his own country into the world known as the Land of Fools. He soon saw a number of people flying in terror from a field where they had been trying to reap wheat. "There is a monster in that field," they told him. He looked and saw that it was a watermelon.*

*He offered to kill the "monster" for them. When he had cut the melon from its stalk, he took a slice and began to eat it. The people became even more terrified of him than they had been of the melon. They drove him away with pitchforks crying, "He will kill us next, unless we get rid of him."*

*It so happened that at another time another man also strayed into the Land of Fools, and the same thing started to happen to him. But, instead of offering to help them with the "monster," he agreed with them that it must be dangerous and by tiptoeing away from it with them he gained their confidence. He spent a long time with them in their houses until he could teach them, little by little, the basic facts which would enable them not only to lose their fear of melons, but even to cultivate them themselves. (If You Meet the Buddha on the Road, Kill Him, Palo Alto: Science & Behavior Books, Inc., 1972, p.8)*

Nouwen went on to say: "This beautiful story tells us better than any essay the crucial difference between someone without compassion and someone with compassion. We know too well how great our temptation is to laugh at the fools who do not understand and to create hatred by cutting melons from their stalk. We also know that it is our hard but urgent vocation to become fools with the fools, to live in their land helping them with gentle patience to convert their fears into new expectations. That is the Christian vocation to compassion. It is the vocation to have the mind of our Lord Jesus Christ, who 'did not cling to his equality with God, but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave and became as we are' (Philippians 2:6-7).

Compassion is core to a spiritual life, and three questions need our special attention. The first question is: how does compassion manifest itself? The answer is: in solidarity. The second question is: how is compassion disciplined? The answer is: by voluntary displacement. The third question is: how is compassion lived out in the light of the gospel? The answer is: in

discipleship. Compassion manifests itself in solidarity, is disciplined by voluntary displacement and is lived out in discipleship. I hope to discover some clues about how to avoid becoming unwise melon hunters!" (*The Core of Spiritual Leadership*, Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical Leadership and Cultural Research, Occasional Paper No. 2, published March 1977) "Voluntary displacement" is an unusual concept meaning stepping away from our society's expectations on us to shine as individuals and, instead, to accept that we are as ordinary and as broken as everyone around us. Voluntarily adopting that attitude opens the way for us all to be truly compassionate.

not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace. Amen



In the person of Jesus, God entered fully into human experience, living our life and embracing the challenges, distress and fear that touch us all. In so doing, Jesus taught us how to transform our lives and live in the love God extends to us. Today's parable illustrates that faith in God is not some kind of gift given only to self-appointed people of privilege. Nor is it a weapon of the powerful for imposing on others an arbitrary catalogue of dos and don'ts. Rather, faith is an awareness that God is present to us, accompanying us along every step of life's journey. The only authentic response to that is gratitude.

But how does today's parable translate to our lives in our contemporary circumstances? Every single parable that Jesus told was designed to disturb the comfort of those who were present. In similar measure, they are an invitation for us to join as participants. We are tenants of a world to which Pope Francis, in his encyclical *Laudato Si*, refers as "our common home". An integral dimension of our vocation as Christians is to be stewards of the earth, of the vineyard that has been entrusted to our care. Even a cursory glance over recent decades of our history is sufficient to demonstrate that many of us allowed those around us with power and money to exploit the vineyard for which we all have a responsibility to nurture and care. If we are not directly implicated in abusing our "sister Earth" (*Laudato Si*, #2) our silence is a sin of omission. In the concluding chapter of his encyclical, Pope Francis states: "Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience." (*Laudato Si*, Ch. 6, #217) I conclude with Pope Francis' prayer of compassion for the earth and its people:

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty,