

Sunday Readings

8th October 2017

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet 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.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 79:9. 12-16. 19-20. R/. Is 5:7

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

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/.

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/.**

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/.**

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

A reading from the letter of St Paul
to the 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.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:33-43

The Lord be with you. *And with your Spirit.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

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,
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary Year A

the word of god

saints of the week

Jesus has really strong words today in the Gospel from Saint Matthew. We can think that these words are directed to others, but we should also realize that the Gospel is always written for us personally and directed to us personally. The things that we find in the Scriptures are both general and sometimes historical, but always written for our personal conversion and daily struggle to be faithful.

Each one of us is the vineyard of the Lord. It is we ourselves who keep the Lord out and do not allow Him to transform us. We find so many excuses to keep our lives for ourselves and not to seek God's will in our lives. How often we find excuses to avoid the demands of the Gospel! How often we find ways to make our lives easier and to avoid the Cross of the Lord.

This truth about ourselves should not discourage us. All we ever need to do is see the truth about ourselves and ask God to pardon us and heal us - and God is there for us.

This is our spiritual life: the following of Jesus. As we follow Jesus, we find that we betray Him. Yet we know His forgiveness.

The challenge is at the end of the Gospel: bear the fruit of holiness! That means that if we strive to remain in Christ and to renounce our sin, the fruits of the Holy Spirit can finally be seen in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Let us strive for holiness and may the Lord Jesus Christ strengthen the Holy Spirit within us to the glory of the Father.

prayer of the week

"Everybody Welcome" Prayer

Heavenly Father, you have welcomed us into your kingdom and your heart's desire is to draw every human being to yourself.

Grant us clear eyes to see people as you see them, sensitive feet to stand in their shoes, and warm smiles to welcome them in your name.

Give us such generous hearts, that our church becomes a foretaste of heaven where every soul you send us finds their loving home in the community of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Monday 9 October 2014 Blessed John Henry Newman (1801 - 1890)



Born in London in 1801, he was for over twenty years an Anglican clergyman and Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford. His studies of the early Church led him progressively towards Catholicism, and in 1845 he embraced "the true fold of the Redeemer". In 1847 he was ordained priest and went on to found the Oratory of St Philip Neri in England. He was a prolific and influential writer on a variety of subjects. In 1879 he was created Cardinal by Pope Leo XIII. Praised for his humility, unstinting care of souls and contributions to the intellectual life of the Church, he died in Birmingham on 11 August 1890.

He was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI at a ceremony in Birmingham on 19 September 2010.

A Prayer of Blessed John Henry Newman

May the Lord support us all the day long,
Till the shades lengthen and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life
is over,
and our work is done.
Then in his mercy may he give us a safe lodging,
and holy rest, and peace at the last.

Amen.

Friday 13 October 2017 St Edward the Confessor (1003 - 1066)



He became King of England in 1042. He was regarded as a saint during his lifetime, renowned for his generosity to the Church and to the poor and for his readiness to listen to his subjects' grievances. He died on 5 January 1066, the last of the old Anglo-Saxon line, and his death precipitated the dynastic quarrels that led to the conquest of England by

William of Normandy later the same year.

On 13 October 1163 his relics were translated to a new shrine in Westminster Abbey.