

Gospel

21:33-43

The holy Gospel according to Matthew

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.

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St Michael's Parish Contacts

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Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The metaphor of the vineyard, cherished by both ancient Israel and the early Christians, suggests that while vines might be hardy, they are also vulnerable. So is the reign of God. It must be tended and protected from what might endanger it, so that it may produce abundant and delectable fruit. In the gospel account, the vine does indeed produce an abundant crop. In fact, it is the very productivity of the vineyard that sets the stage for the treachery described. We can see ourselves in both uses of the vineyard metaphor. There are times when, regardless of what God seems to be doing for us, we simply rebel against God's plans. We stand in defiance. There are other times when we, who are disciples of Jesus, act as if the kingdom is ours. We might even marginalise or force out others with whom we do not agree, so that we have sole control.

When we consider the justice of God, it is important that we place it within the right context, lest we create a picture of God that is false and misleading. It is because of God's tender love for the vineyard that treachery cannot be tolerated. If we have produced unacceptable fruits, it is for our own good that God steps in and dismantles the structures that enabled us to produce bad fruit. It is appropriate that God would snatch the vineyard from our grasp and entrust it to one who will faithfully carry out God's plans.

Biblical Overview by Greg Sunter

This text is one that has been used by some Christians to justify their hatred and persecution of Jews. They point to the parable Jesus told as evidence that Jesus blamed the Jewish people for his death. It is a strange fact that some people believe that the only way to justify their own beliefs is to try to destroy the beliefs (and believers) of other faiths. For hundreds of years Christians abused and tormented Jews, driving them out of cities and even countries. The terrible treatment of Jews in World War II was drawing on a long history of Christians persecuting Jews.

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Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

nowraparish.org.au

27th Sunday (Year A) ~ in the season of the year

5 October 2008

First Reading

5:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard. My friend has 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

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. R.
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. R.
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.

Second Reading

4:6-9

A reading from St Paul to the Philippians

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

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!



St Michael's Parish, Nowra – Tel: 4423 1712 E-mail: office@nowraparish.org.au

Website: nowraparish.org.au Incorporates the Church Communities of St Michael, Nowra; St Patrick, Berry Sacred Heart, Bomaderry; Mary, Help of Christians, Culburra; St Joseph, Kangaroo Valley; Holy Spirit, Vincentia.

27th Sunday of the Year (A)

5th October 2008

SUNDAY Masses:

NOWRA 6pm Vigil; 8am, 9.30am & 6pm
BERRY: 8.00am **BOMADERRY:** 9.30am
CULBURRA 6pm Vigil
VINCENTIA 6pm Vigil, & 9.30am
KANGAROO VALLEY 11.00am

MASSES DURING THE WEEK:

Nowra: Mon (**Public Holiday**) 8.00am, Tues/Wed/Thurs 8.15am, Fri. 7.00am & 11.30am; Sat 9.00am
Morning Prayer: Wed 7.50am; **Holy Hour** Fri 10.30am
Berry; Tues. 5.30pm **Culburra:** Thurs. 5.30pm
Bomaderry First Friday 5.45pm
Vincentia: Mon/Thurs/Fri. 8.00a.m. Tues/Wed 5.30pm
S'haven Heads: Friday: 3.30pm.
Kangaroo Valley: Mon/Tues/Thurs/Sat 8.00am Wed 6.15am.

Confession/Reconciliation

Nowra: Sat 11.30-12.30pm. 5.00 - 5.30pm
Culburra: Sat. 5.30pm. **Berry:** Tues 6.00pm
B'derry: 1st Fri. 5.15pm. **K'Valley:** Sat 4.30--5.00pm
Vincentia: Sat 5.00pm – 5.30pm

DIOCESAN MASS SUN, 5 Oct at St Thomas Aquinas Church Bowral at 11.00am as part of the Tulip Festival. Featuring music from WYD and a Mass arranged by Geoff Harvey.



We prayerfully remember the recently deceased; **Ted Goswell, Laurie Lloyd, and Eileen Rooney**, Also **Marie Longhurst, Daniel Gleeson** and **Moya Piercy** whose anniversaries occur at this time. *May they rest in eternal peace.*

Correction: Pastoral Council Meeting on Sunday 12 October. Members please note the commencement time of 4.00pm to accommodate our guest speakers

We welcome Fr Charles Rau - a Columban Missionary to the Parish this weekend, he will be celebrating the Masses in Nowra in the absence of Fr Richard. Fr will encourage parishioners to support 'The Far East' missionary magazine.

THE ANNUAL PARISH DINNER at Worrigea House last Saturday night was a wonderful success. 159 parishioners participated in the evening and Daniel Hopper's recollections of World Youth Day 08 were inspiring – he is certainly a very animated speaker. A big thank you to all who helped in making the evening a great success.

AN INFORMATION NIGHT FOR EMPLOYERS/FAMILIES AND VOLUNTEERS - the diocesan office of disability is organising an information night regarding **Work Experience and Employment** opportunities for adults with additional needs on Wed 5 Nov from 7.30 – 8.30pm in the Parish Centre. Guest speakers from Essential Personnel will offer information and advice including support services, Government Subsidies and Entitlements for employers who are interested or Parishioners in the workforce who think their bosses may be interested. **ALL WELCOME! RSVP** as soon as possible 4654 8709 (leave message on voicemail) or jheininger@materdei.org.au



Personnel will offer information and advice including support services, Government Subsidies and Entitlements for employers who are interested or Parishioners in the workforce who think their bosses may be interested. **ALL WELCOME! RSVP** as soon as possible 4654 8709 (leave message on voicemail) or jheininger@materdei.org.au

A MEMORIAL MASS for Carina Fenech, recently deceased, will be offered at St Michael's Nowra on Wed 8th October at 7.00pm. Friends, family and those who were unable to attend the Funeral at Wollongong are cordially invited .

SHOALHAVEN CROSSROADS will next meet on Fri 10 Oct at Nowra Baptist Church, Old Southern Rd., South Nowra. The Salvation Army is the host church. Come at 7.00pm for a 7.15pm start. Meeting goes till 9.15pm.

WYD PASTORAL DVDS & COMMEMORATIVE BOOK can be purchased through Sydney. The DVDs can be purchased as a boxed set for \$79.95 featuring eight events. The Stations of the Cross or Highlights package can be purchased individually at \$24.95. Visit www.wyd2008.org

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP – there will not be a meeting on Mon 6 October due to the Long Weekend.

FASHION PARADE – The Nowra Branch of the Catholic Women's League and NEC Direct Fashion invite you to a Fashion Parade at St Michael's Parish Hall on Sat 18 Oct at 2.00pm. Entry \$8 donation (afternoon tea and lucky door prizes). RSVP Marie Hanley 4448 5347 or Katherine Brandon 4464 1897.



NOWRA CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

- 18 Oct. Sat Fashion Parade – 2.00pm.
- 7 Nov. Friday Ecumenical Evening. – 7.30pm

POSITION VACANT – Diocesan Youth & Young Adult Coordinator to help develop and foster a comprehensive diocesan youth and young adult ministry. Contact Richard McMahon 4253 0976 for further details or Richard.mcmahon@wooll.catholic.org.au

“At the 2000 WYD in Rome, one young man has a minor accident which turns into a year-long-life-and-death struggle – developing his pilgrimage beyond all expectation...” **James Cross has been invited** to tell his story in the Parish on Mon 27 Oct in the Parish Centre as an initiative of the Young Adults group. He spoke at WYD08 and is an entertaining and inspirational speaker. He has written a book titled **Pilgrimage to Life a True Story of Suffering and Grace** which you will have an opportunity to purchase on the night.

Feastdays:

Tues 7 – Our Lady of the Rosary (The Rosary will be prayed at 8.a.m. prior to Mass at St. Michael's.)

Archbishop Hart has urged Catholics and all people of goodwill to join him in an Hour of Prayer this Sunday October 5 at 12.15pm (at St Patrick's Cathedral) to pray for the defeat of the Abortion Law Reform Bill, which has already passed through the Lower House.

“POSITION VACANT” - Volunteers urgently needed to help at St John's High School canteen – operates daily 9.30am – 2pm. No handling of money required. If you can spare one morning a month or have any free time at all to offer please contact Vicki 4423 1359 in school hours.