

St Luke the Evangelist, Blackburn South & St Timothy's, Forest Hill



ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A - 4 October 2026



Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 79(80):9,12-16,19-20, Philippians 4:6-9

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 21:33-43

"Hear another parable. There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. Afterward he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a nation producing the fruits of it."



Meditation: What is the message of the parable of the vineyard? Jesus' story about an absentee landlord and his not-so-good tenants would have made sense to his audience. The hills of Galilee were lined with numerous vineyards, and it was quite common for the owners to let out their estates to tenants. Many did it for the sole purpose of collecting rent.

Parable of the Wicked Tenants: In the Gospel, Jesus takes up Isaiah's vineyard imagery and gives it a new and more personal meaning. The landowner represents God, the vineyard Israel, and the tenants the religious leaders entrusted with caring for God's people. The servants sent to collect the harvest represent the prophets, many of whom were rejected and persecuted. Finally, the owner sends his son. The tenants' response reveals the depth of their rebellion: "This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and acquire his inheritance." The son represents Jesus, the beloved Son whom the Father sends after a long history of calling his people to repentance. His rejection and death foreshadow the Passion, when Jesus will be taken outside Jerusalem and crucified. The irony is striking. The chief priests and elders condemn the wicked tenants without realizing that they are condemning themselves. Jesus therefore announces that the kingdom will be entrusted to a people who will "produce its fruit." God's vineyard is not given merely for possession; it is entrusted for a purpose. Those who receive God's gifts are called to bear fruit for the kingdom.

The Lord's vineyard in the house of his people: Why did Jesus' story about wicked tenants cause offense to the scribes and Pharisees? It contained both a prophetic message and a warning. Jesus' listeners would have likely understood this parable as referring to God's dealing with a stubborn and rebellious people.

This parable speaks to us today as well. It richly conveys some important truths about God and the way he deals with his people. First, it tells us of God's generosity and trust. The vineyard is well equipped with everything the tenants need. The owner went away and left the vineyard in the hands of the tenants. God, likewise trusts us enough to give us freedom to run life as we choose. This parable also tells us of God's patience and justice. Not once, but many times he forgives the tenants their debts. But while the tenants take advantage of the owner's patience, his judgment and justice prevail in the end.

Gift of the kingdom: Jesus foretold both his death on the cross and his ultimate triumph. He knew he would be rejected and put to death, but he also knew that would not be the end. After rejection would come glory - the glory of his resurrection from the grave and his ascension to the right hand of the Father in heaven. The Lord blesses his people today with the gift of his kingdom - a kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. And he promises that we will bear much fruit if we abide in him (see John 15:1-11). He entrusts his gifts and grace (unmerited favor and blessing) to each of us and he gives us work to do in his vineyard - the body of Christ in our midst today. He promises that our labor for him will not be in vain if we persevere with faith to the end (see 1 Corinthians 15:58). We can expect trials and even persecution. But in the end we will see triumph. Do you follow and serve the Lord Jesus with joyful hope and confidence in the victory he has won for you and the gift of abundant new life in the Holy Spirit?

Living the Word of God: What fruit is the Lord seeking from me at this point in my life? Where do I see evidence of justice, mercy, generosity, and love, and where might I be producing "wild grapes" instead? What anxiety or concern do I need to place more completely into God's hands? Can I bring it to him in prayer while deliberately giving thanks for the ways he has already cared for me? What occupies my thoughts most often? How might I more intentionally fill my mind with what is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, and gracious, and then put those things into practice?

Daily Quote from the Early Church Fathers: Life through death, by Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, 354-430 A.D.

"Unless the Word of God had first assumed our mortal flesh He could not have died for us. Only in that way was the immortal God able to die and to give life to mortal humans. Therefore, by this double sharing He brought about a wonderful exchange. We made death possible for Him, and He made life possible for us." (excerpt from Sermon 218C, 1)

Photo by Fr Alex Chow, 20 Jun 2015 Lovely vineyard in the country side of Wachua, Austria
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Office (for both Churches): 17 Stevens Road Forest Hill Vic 3133 (St Timothy's)

Parish Office tel: 03 9412 8499; Presbytery tel: 03 9877 2292

St Luke the Evangelist, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South

Email: foresthill@cam.org.au | Email: blackburnsouth@cam.org.au | Web: luktim.church

Parish Priest*Fr Alex Chow***Parish Secretary***Sonya O'Farrell**Wednesdays,**Thursdays & Fridays**10am – 2pm*

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SUNDAY MASS**Saturday Vigil:** 5pm (SL)**Sunday:** 8:30am (SL)

10:30am (ST)

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WEEKDAY MASSES**Tues.** 6:30pm (SL)**Wed.** 9:15am (ST)*1st Wed. Mass of**Anointing @ 11am***Thurs.** 9:15am (ST)**Fri.** 9:15am (SL*)

6.30pm (ST)

Sat. 9.15am (SL*)**Rosary after Mass*

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RECONCILIATION*SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:10pm**Sat 9.45 - 10.15am**ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:10pm*

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HOLY HOUR*SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:30pm**ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:30pm*

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HOSPITALITY AT ST.**LUKE'S****2nd weekend of each
month - BYO (optional)****YOUNG ADULT GROUP****Sunday 4th Oct. @ 2pm at
St Timothy's Church****SALT YOUTH GATHERING****Thu. 8 Oct @7pm, Library
St Luke's Primary School.****LEGION OF MARY -****Tuesday 6th Oct @ 9am at
St Luke's Parish Hall
Kitchen. Enquiries to
Lucy 0419 591 423****Next Week's Daily Readings**
5 Oct - 11 Oct Ordinary Time**MONDAY Oct 5** Gal 1:6-12
Ps 110:1-2, 7-10 Lk 10:25-37**TUESDAY Oct 6** Gal 1:13-24
Ps 138:1-3, 13-15 Lk 10:38-42**WEDNESDAY Oct 7** Gal 2:1-2, 7-14
Ps 116 Lk 11:1-4**Our Lady of the Rosary****THURSDAY Oct 8** Gal 3:1-5 Lk 1:69-75
Lk 11:5-13**FRIDAY Oct 9** Gal 3:7-14 Ps 110:1-6
Lk 11:15-26**SATURDAY Oct 10** Gal 3:22-29
Ps 104:2-7 Lk 11:27-28**SUNDAY Oct 11** Is 25:6-10
Ps 22 Phil 4:12-14, 19-20
Mt 22:1-14**28th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME****CHILDREN'S LITURGY / FAMILY MASS****ST TIMOTHY'S:** Sunday 11th & 25th
October @ 10.30am Mass**ST LUKE'S:** Next Family Mass will be on
Oct. 10th and on the second Saturday of
each month**PILGRIM STATUE
OF OUR LADY**

This beautiful statue of our Lady is available for parishioners to have in their homes for a week at a time. You are encouraged to pray a daily rosary with family and friends. You have the option of a rosary with members of the Legion of Mary on delivery. Contact Lucy Ferris to book in for your preferred week on 0419 591 423.

**FETE REQUEST - CAN YOU DONATE
SOME CHOCOLATE & LOLLIES?**

Donations of chocolate blocks (180g) and lollies (any kind) would be gratefully received by the fete committee. These will be used on the day of the fete at the Choc Toss and Lolly Stall. Donations can be left in the foyer of both churches. Thank you!

CAKE PLATES AVAILABLE

Cake Plates for the Fete are now available in the foyer of both churches. Please take one or more and bring it back on Fete day with something yummy on it! Thanks in advance.

MINISTERS OF THE WORDSaturday 5pm SL
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST**3 and 4 OCT**Lucy Ferris
May McKeown
Michelle Chen**10 and 11 OCT**Caren Garlick
Michael Ballek
Molly Hemsley**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**Saturday 5pm SL
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am STGodfrey Thong
Margaret Gearon
Daphne HickmanVal Gardiner
Liliana Restrepo
Laura Cigana**SLIDE OPERATORS**Saturday 5pm SL
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am STChoir
Megan McLean
Lee Min YeeChoir
Paul Tierney
Manny Gonzalez**SL WELCOMERS 3-4 Oct**5pm Val Gardiner
8.30am Marie Pekish
10.30am Volunteer**SL CHURCH CLEANING**10th Oct - Maree's Team
Maree Moss, Allen Leung,
Serena Ng & Lynda Kilroe-Smith**SL CHURCH FLOWERS**

3 Oct - Kate Skowronska

10 Oct - Edna Lee

ST CHURCH FLOWERS

Parishioners

SL WELCOMERS 10-11 Oct5:00pm Libby Theodore
8.30am Margaret Gearon
10.30am Volunteer**ST CHURCH CLEANING**9th Oct
Trevis Yee & Ben Perera**ST COUNTERS**This week Team 3
Mary Choy & Eileen Chang
Next week Team 4
Pabs Gonzales & Chris Lim

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

All who are sick, especially Terry Wells, Sarah, Peter & Maria Lazzari, Seng Chan, Fran Davidson, Filomena Italiano, Derek Koh, Ann Jones, Shirley Prabha, Helen MacKay, Kevin Ryan, Emilio Moreno Garcia, Agatha Wink, Chris Leach, Dora Leung, Hazel Grealy, Josephine Alexander, Kit Bing Fan, Kathryn Holmes, Stewart Davis, Mark, Margaret Hayes, Charmaine Bancroft, Marilene Japour, Paciencia Cabral and all those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend.

All who have died, especially John Tudor, Pauline Taylor & Akon Mabior who died recently and for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time including Beatrice Patrick, Elijah Oleta, Enrique Reyes, Teresa Arelette, Carlton Gleeson, Natasha Mikolic, Doris Beatty, Maurice Rodrigues, Kate McLoney, Cris Canete, Fr. Tom Jones, Percy Alwis, Kathleen Donnithorne, Donald Wood, Margaret Regester, Giuseppina Defina, Isaura Tenorio, Antoni & Wanda Rusc, Mary Kim Yian Yeo & Bertha Andrews. May they rest in peace.

POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR OCTOBER:

For mental health ministry. Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

FUNERAL: The funeral for John Tudor, a long-time parishioner of St Timothy's, will take place at 1pm on Wednesday Oct. 7 at St John the Evangelist Parish, 494 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham. The funeral Mass will be webcast on the Tobin Brothers website.

PARISH & SCHOOL FETE: Two weeks to go until our fete on **Sunday October 18th**. We are **not taking** any more pre-loved clothes but book donations are welcome. The next fete committee meeting is on Thurs.

8th Oct. at 7pm in St Luke's parish hall kitchen. To volunteer to help on the day please use this QR code. Contact Sonya in the parish office or email stlukesfete@gmail.com for more information. **More volunteers are very welcome to join us, as many hands make light work!**



SILVER CIRCLE CONTINUES THIS WEEKEND: Our Silver Circle raffle tickets are on sale after all Masses this weekend. Tickets are \$25 each and one lucky person will win the \$500 prize at the fete. Card & cash payments accepted. Congratulations to Godfrey Thong, the winner our first money back draw!

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC: Standing tall

MAJELLAN MEDIA: The Best Team Wins

MESSAGE FROM SONYA O'FARRELL, PARISH SECRETARY

Dear Parishioners,

I want to inform you that I will be finishing my part-time role as Parish Secretary on Friday 23rd October after eight years working for St Luke the Evangelist parish and four years for St Timothy's parish. I will be taking on a full-time role and while this is the right decision for me, I will miss my daily interactions with you all. Please be assured that I will remain a member of the parish and treasure greatly the friendships I have made in my role. Thank you for all your support over the years.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER:

The First collection is for the priest and retired priests.

The Second collection is for parish expenses.

Please note that collection totals will no longer be published each week in the newsletter. Presbytery and Church donations will be reported on a monthly basis at all weekend Masses. To donate regularly via envelope, credit card or bank account, please contact the parish office.

Parish Groups & Contacts

Volunteers and Rosters:

*Kelvin & Susan Chen (ST),
Margaret Gearon (SL)*

Baptism Preparation: *Fr Alex*

Parish Collection Preparers

*ST: Barry Silvester &
Michael Kawalevski*

Parish Safeguarding Committee

*Fr Alex, Sonya O'Farrell,
Darren McLean & Janette Clark*

Parish History

SL: Margaret Gearon

Parish Accountant

Bernard Negline

SL & ST: Hall Hire

Sonya O'Farrell @ 9877 2292

Church Sacristan

*ST: Roster of Parishioners
SL: Greg Grant*

Church Cleaning & Flowers

*SL: Megan McLean
ST: Susan Chen*

Church Linen: *SL: Beryl Chelliah*

Parish Garden Maintenance

*ST: Des Connors
SL: Darren McLean*

Parish Choirs

*ST: Miguel Ilagan
SL: Fr Alex*

Bible Timeline: *Chris Lim*

ALPHA: *Lynda Kilroe-Smith*

Young Adult Ministry:

Sarah Santilli & Jersy Soesanto

RCIA: *David West*

St Vincent de Paul Conference

*For Assistance: 1800 305 330
(Monday to Friday 10am-3pm)
ST: John McCoy
SL: Margaret Gearon &
Steve Kilroe-Smith*

Entrance Antiphon: Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

Response to the 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!

Eucharistic Acclamation: We proclaim your death O Lord and profess your resurrection until you come again.

Communion Antiphon: The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.

AMALGAMATION – One Mission, Two Churches:
A Journey Towards One Parish

The first forum will be held at St Timothy's Church on Sunday, 11th October from 11:45am until 1:15pm.

All parishioners are invited to attend this Forum

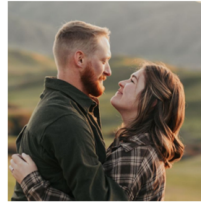
What will happen to our churches?

Both St Luke's and St Timothy's churches will continue to be places where we worship, pray, gather and build community. Amalgamation does not mean that either church will close. Both churches will continue to operate under their current names, and there are no short- or medium-term plans to close or repurpose either church building. We want our two church communities to continue to flourish, while working more closely together as one parish. As with any parish, the use of our buildings may need to be reviewed in the longer term in response to attendance, potential demographic change, usage, pastoral needs and available resources. If any significant change were ever proposed, this would be discussed openly with the Parish Pastoral Council and the wider parish community. There is no such proposal at present. In fact, over the past 24 months, we have already seen many examples of the two communities working together and making use of both churches. These include:

- Bible Timeline: offered at St Timothy's earlier in 2026 and currently being offered at St Luke's from August to November 2026.
- Youth Mission Team: based at St Timothy's, with activities and events taking place across both churches.
- Holy Week: combined parish Masses and celebrations have been held across both church communities.
- RCIA: the 2025–2026 and 2026–2027 programs have been supported by a combined core team from both parish communities.

These are examples of what we hope to see more of: not one church replacing the other, but two church communities sharing their gifts, resources and ministries for one mission. Our hope is that St Luke's and St Timothy's will continue to be welcoming, reaching out and vibrant places of worship and community, while growing together as one parish with two church communities.

Share your feedback, comments or questions:
Scan the QR code to respond online, or place a written note in the suggestion box in the entrance foyer. Thank you for helping shape our parish's future!



MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

**Loving Smarter:
Keys to Relationship Success**

Anchored Webinar with
Francine and Byron Pirola

NEW

Tuesday 27 October 2026, 7.30-8.30pm, Online, Zoom.

Join Drs Byron and Francine Pirola, founders of SmartLoving, as they share practical insights into what makes relationships flourish. During this online webinar, you will discover how understanding your spouse's unique needs can strengthen communication, deepen emotional connection and help you avoid common relationship pitfalls. To register, go to weblink o register, go to weblink

<https://melbournecatholic.org/events/anchored-loving-smarter>

RCIA is starting soon!

Are you interested in becoming Catholic or know someone who is? Want to learn more about the faith in a friendly environment? We will be meeting at St Luke's on Tuesday nights at 7pm, starting from the **20th of October**.

To join us or for more information, contact Fr Alex (alexander.chow@cam.org.au) or simply scan the QR Code.

NEW



Pray with Pope Leo XIV: One Million Children Praying the Rosary

From 1-7 October, Aid to the Church in Need invites you to join with Pope Leo XIV and Catholics worldwide for the One Million Children Praying the Rosary prayer campaign, for peace and unity in the world.

Families, parishioners, prayer groups, and schools are all encouraged to register to take part! For free Rosary resources and to register, please scan the QR code or visit:

www.acninternational.org/millionchildrenpraying

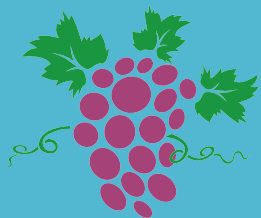


ST LUKE'S FETE in partnership with ST TIMOTHY'S - 18th October '26

We are promoting the fete on social media. Please like and share our posts to encourage everyone to attend the fete and support our generous sponsors.

<https://www.facebook.com/stlukesfete2026/>

<https://www.instagram.com/stlukesfete/>



God's kingdom will be given to those who do right

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A



Working for God

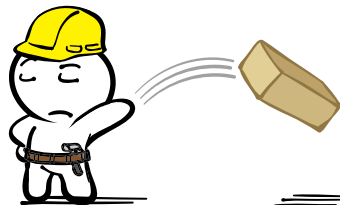
Jesus says that we shall be given God's kingdom if we work hard to do right. How can we be good workers for God?

I can be a good worker for God by...

I can be a good worker for God by...

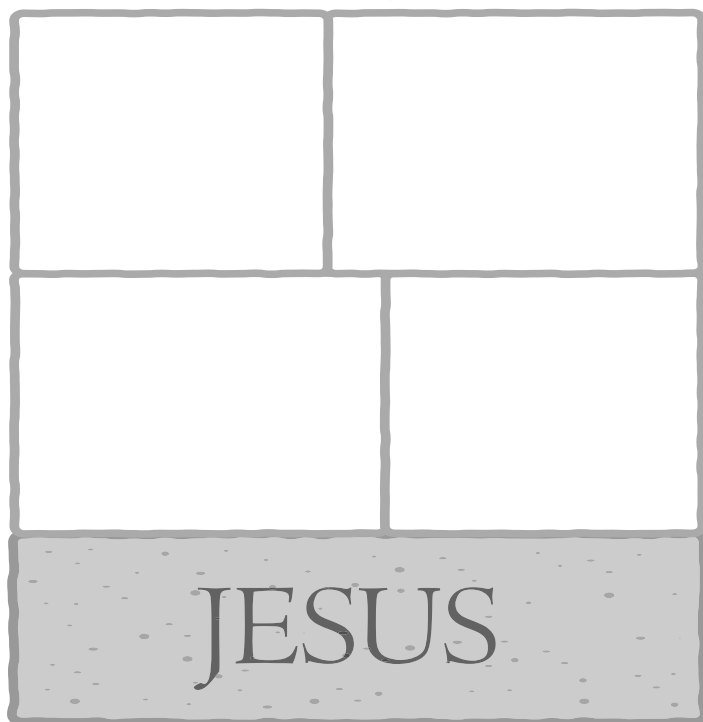
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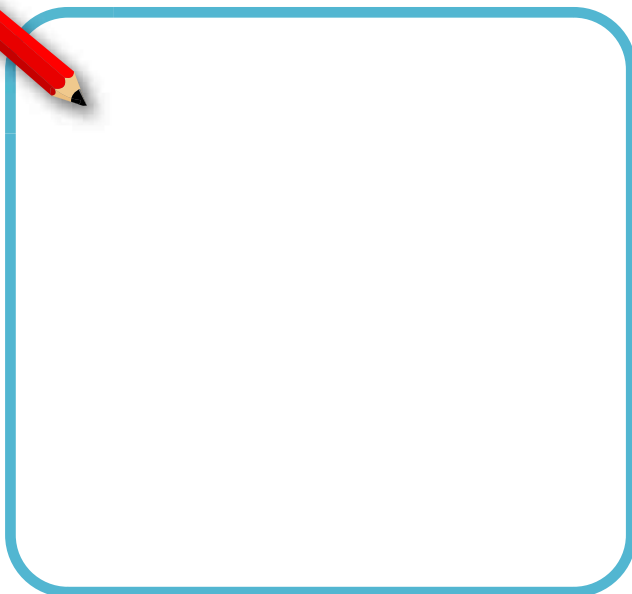


THE STONE REJECTED BY THE BUILDERS HAS NOW BECOME THE MOST IMPORTANT STONE OF ALL.

With Jesus as the cornerstone of our faith, fill in the other stones with pictures of the people in our world who are rejected and outcast.



Jesus used parables to help explain his teachings to his disciples. Draw a picture from any one of the following parables...



27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 4 OCTOBER 2026



COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
who in the abundance of your kindness
surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat you,
pour out your mercy upon us
to pardon what conscience dreads
and to give what prayer does not dare to ask.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

READINGS AND REFLECTIONS

Australians know about wine and winemaking. We rank sixth globally in wine production, and the number of wineries has trebled in thirty years. The imagery used in today's first reading and gospel will therefore be familiar – planting a vineyard, building a winery, harvesting and crushing grapes to make the wine. We also understand the importance of skilled winemaking and sound management on behalf of the owner.

Both Isaiah and Jesus use the wine industry to issue a strong challenge that might come to us as a shock. They confront us with the questions surrounding our response to God's gifts and our stewardship of the gifts entrusted to us

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.

5:1-7 First Reading

Isaiah uses a vineyard and winemaker to speak of our response to God's gifts, or rather, our lack of response. The reading begins with a lyrical story of the winemaker. He has undertaken a labour of love. What more could he have done for the vineyard, he asks, yet it has yielded nothing but sour grapes. So sadly, he abandons the site and lets it go to wrack and ruin.

The reading ends by spelling out the metaphor. God is the winemaker. The people are the vineyard. Instead of a rich yield of good grapes, there are only sour grapes; instead of justice, only bloodshed; instead of integrity, only distress. The tone is more bitter disappointment than angry judgement.

The reading extols God's love and commitment to the people of the covenant, but this requires a response. The reader is charged to put the challenge before the assembly: recognise God's care and respond with goodness of heart.

The phrase '*men of Judah*' can be read as '*people of Judah*'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79:9, 12-16, 19-20

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.**

Responsorial Psalm

These verses of Psalm 79/80 continue the imagery of the vineyard. The first half of the psalm restates the message of Isaiah. God planted the vineyard. Why does it lie in waste? (We know the answer from the first reading.) In fact the response we sing is a line from Isaiah.

The second half becomes a heartfelt plea for God's continued protection and a firm assurance on our part of conversion and trust in God. Only God's intervention can rescue us and bring us into divine light. The cantor/reader should try to make the last couplet the highlight of the psalm: God, bring us back!

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.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

21:33-43

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.'

Second Reading

Paul likes the Philippians and here offers them (and us) some truly inspiring advice. It is centred on Christ and promises God's peace which is beyond anything we can imagine.

As Paul urges us to fill our minds with what is noble, good and true, we can easily envisage the nasty opposites which are being banished, but Paul's exhortation remains entirely positive.

This passage will be a delight for the reader to speak and for the people to hear. It should be taken quietly and meditatively. The repeated 'everything' should not be stressed; rather focus on what follows. Leave the assembly with a sense of God's peace reigning in their hearts. 'Brothers' should be read as 'brothers and sisters'.

Gospel

Jesus is speaking to the religious leaders. He and they knew well the oracle of Isaiah which we heard in the first reading.

The story begins the same way, but then branches off as the owner leases the vineyard to tenants. Suddenly the story is no longer about the response of God's people but about the stewardship of its leaders. It becomes very personal as the tenants are shown to be exploitative, violent and selfish. They will come to a wretched end.

Matthew builds in further elements of allegory as well. The son who is killed is Jesus. The other tenants who will take over the vineyard are the new people of God, the Church. This makes sense of both the imagery of the rejected stone that becomes the keystone, and also the saying about taking the kingdom of God away to be given to those who will produce its fruit.

We can imagine that the religious leaders were not amused to hear this scathing parable (we read as much in the next verse which is not part of today's reading). So, the tension mounts as Jesus moves towards the cross.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Solemn Blessing (Ordinary Time VI)

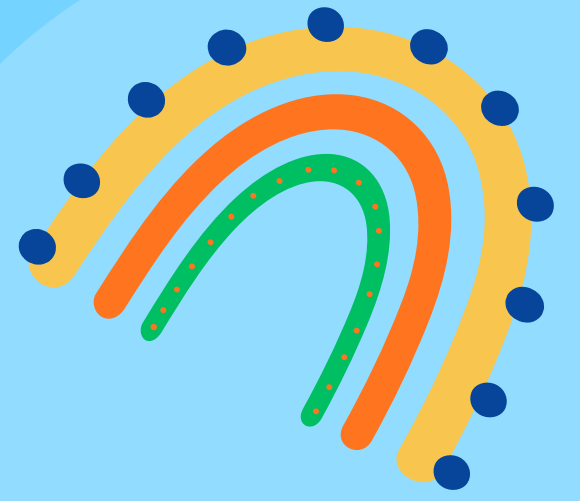
May God bless you with every heavenly blessing,
make you always holy and pure in his sight,
pour out in abundance upon you the riches of his glory,
and teach you with the words of truth;
may he instruct you in the Gospel of salvation,
and ever endow you with fraternal charity.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son,+ and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

Amen.

(Adapted from the Solemn Blessing for Ordinary Time VI,
Roman Missal p. 717)



JOIN US FOR OUR **ST LUKE'S** **FETE**



SUNDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2026 11AM-4PM

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!



**Fairground Rides | Food Trucks | Market Stalls
Face Painting | Silent Disco | Petting Zoo
Pre-loved Clothing & Books | Silent Auction
Butterfly House | Beer Garden/Wine & Cheese
Devonshire Tea & BBQ | Homemade Cakes
St Luke's Art Show | Plants | Hampers
School Performances and More!**



**SCAN
ME!**

**for more
details**



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ST TIMOTHY'S FOREST HILL
St Luke the Evangelist School - 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South



St Luke the Evangelist Blackburn South

We are Taking Enrolments for All Year Levels

Book in for an Open Morning or a Personal Tour

SCAN TO
BOOK A
TOUR



We are Companions on The Journey

2026

