



# THE LORD'S VINEYARD

(MATTHEW 21:33-43)

Once again, we come across the symbol of the vineyard. In the Hebrew Bible, this image is often used in relation to Israel, and we found it in the parable of the generous owner who paid all his workers at the same rate.

Jesus tells this parable we hear today to the chief priests and elders, who have a position of authority among the people, and therefore one of responsibility for their wellbeing and care. The thrust of the parable concerns the Jewish leaders' plot to have Jesus killed: Matthew thus presents their treatment of Jesus as being in line with previous leaders' conduct towards the earlier prophets (although there is no evidence of any biblical prophets being murdered). We might remember that Matthew's community has a good proportion of Jewish members, so the rejection he speaks of is of the Jewish leaders, and not Israel as a whole. It is the tenants who are replaced, not the vineyard itself. Perhaps the better understanding of the expression that the kingdom of God will be "given to a people who will produce its fruit" is that it applies to the leaders of the Jewish-Christian community of which Matthew is a member. ■

## REFLECT

**A**worrying phenomenon in recent times has been the rise of prejudice against all sorts of people. Suspicion of "foreigners", immigrants, people seeking asylum and refuge has become commonplace throughout the northern hemisphere. The return of antisemitism especially has been noticeable in many quarters. In the past, this has been fuelled especially by texts from the Gospels according to Matthew and John, which have been interpreted as laying the blame for the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus squarely at the feet of the Jewish people as a whole. The Christian Church was portrayed as the true Israel, replacing God's covenant with Israel.

Critical scholarship of the New Testament has called into question this blanket blaming of the entire Jewish people: the leaders, chiefly concerned with the political implications of Jesus' teaching being a threat to their social position, were the ones who brought about Jesus' death, and had him executed, not as the Son of God, but on the political charge of claiming to be "the King of the Jews". Given the fact that the early Church existed in the Roman Empire, it was diplomatic to shift the responsibility for the crucifixion away from the Roman authorities and onto the Jewish leaders.

We might remember that one of the ingredients which went into the writing of the Gospels was the situation of the community in which the evangelist, in this case, Matthew, was at work. So the hostility between Jesus and the leaders of his time reflects the later difficulties between the Church and the synagogue. Jesus was a Jew, and many of his teachings are in harmony with those of rabbis whose sayings have come down to us through the writings of their disciples. Pope Francis has shown by his actions the importance of respect for people of other faiths, especially Jews and Muslims, out of which genuine friendship can grow. ■

## SAY

**Jesus is the true vine:  
we are his branches.  
(see John 15:5)**

## LEARN

The vineyard is a symbol frequently used in the Bible to represent Israel.

The chief priests and elders were essentially political figures: their power base was the Jerusalem Temple.

Jesus was put to death on a political charge, which was published on the inscription on the cross: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews".

## DO

Find out if there is an ecumenical or interfaith group in your local area: consider going to a meeting to discover what members of other denominations or religions actually are like, and what they really believe.



**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.

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
In the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**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,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**FIRST READING**

Isaiah 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 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.

**PSALM**

Psalm 79

Response:

**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. (R.)
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**

Philippians 4:6-9

A reading from the letter of 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.

Thanks be to God.

**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!

**GOSPEL**

Matthew 21:33-43

A reading from 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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

*(all bow during the next three lines)*

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins

and I look forward to the resurrection of the  
dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Accept, O Lord, we pray,  
the sacrifices instituted by your commands  
and, through the sacred mysteries,  
which we celebrate with dutiful service,  
graciously complete the sanctifying work  
by which you are pleased to redeem us.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

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

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Grant us, almighty God,  
that we may be refreshed and nourished  
by the Sacrament which we have received,  
so as to be transformed into what we consume.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon**  
**1 Radley Rd, Abingdon on Thames, Oxon, OX14 3PL**

We are a **LiveSimply** parish aiming to live Simply, Sustainably and in Solidarity with the Poor

Parish Priest: Fr. Jamie McGrath Tel: 01235 520375  
Parish Secretary: Lisa Paterson Tel: 01235 520375  
Office Hours: 10.30am-12.30pm Tuesday to Friday  
Office Email: abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

*We live stream all services*

Safeguarding Team: Tel. 07572 935 230  
Visits at JR Hospital: Fr Pius 01865 221732  
Visits and Help: Society of Vincent de Paul Group, contact via Parish Office  
Parish Website: [www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk](http://www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk)  
Primary School: St. Edmund's School, Radley Road, Abingdon, OX14 3PP Tel 521558



Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No 246871

[www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**CONFESSIONS:** For now, this is by appointment only.  
Please contact the parish office to make a booking.

### PRIVATE PRAYER

The church will be open for **private prayer only**,  
between **12.00pm and 1.00pm on Tuesdays and Fridays**.

### MASS BOOKINGS

Please remember that **bookings for the whole week beginning Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Oct. to Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> Oct. should be made on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October**. Do please try and give us several options for days/times when you could come and let us know **how many people you are booking for**. We will do our best to accommodate your request. If you would like to attend more than one Mass in the week, please make this clear when you book.

- Those people **without** Internet access can phone **07395 946827** between **10am and 11am each Monday** to give the day of the week when they are able to attend Mass. **There is no recorded answering message system**. Please do not use the office phone number or phone outside of this time period.
- Those **with** Internet access are asked **not** to use the phone booking system, but instead to email us at: **[contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk](mailto:contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk)** giving us 2 to 3 possible days of the week when you can attend Mass. Please do this **each Monday**. You will then receive a reply with the day allocated to you.
- In all cases, you are asked to state the number in your family who will be attending Mass. This is essential for our planning and to maintain safety distances.
- Be aware that singing is not yet permitted under the guidelines. Also, there will be no collection basket passed around, but you may leave donations as you leave the Church.
- Please note that there are currently only **two** Sunday Masses – one at **10.15am and the other at 6.30pm**.

Thank you all very much for your patience and help.

### 27<sup>th</sup> week of Ordinary Time

**In Church for those who booked, and also live streamed**

#### Sunday 4 October

10.15am Mass (Paul Gibbons, RIP)  
2.00pm Polish Mass  
6.30pm Mass (Mary Kelly, intentions)

#### Monday 5 October

9am Mass (Mary Angela Evans, RIP)

#### Tuesday 6 October

NO Mass See: [www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse](http://www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse) for other masses

#### Wednesday 7 October (Our Lady of the Rosary)

7pm Mass (Marie Tierney, RIP)

#### Thursday 8 October

9.30am Mass (Mary Rogers, RIP)

#### Friday 9 October

7pm Mass (Geoff & Florence Young, intentions – wedding anniversary)

#### Saturday 10 October

12pm Mass (Special intention)

## HOW TO BOOK FOR MASS

### No Internet Access?

Phone **07395 946827** **EACH MONDAY** between **10am and 11am ONLY**  
to book a place for the **FOLLOWING** week

### Have Internet Access?

**DON'T phone. Instead, email:**  
**[contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk](mailto:contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk)**  
**EACH MONDAY, to book a place for the FOLLOWING week**

## NEWSLETTER:

For now, please print your own copy from the *News* page of our website, or for those without Internet access, bring the copy delivered to you on Saturdays. We are also unable to accept any books, pamphlets, etc. at this point in time.

### YOUR PARISH STILL NEEDS YOU!

The parish still *really* needs your donations. You can make these on our website. This will enable those who normally use the weekly gift aid white envelope system or loose plate donations to continue to support the Parish. *You can also place donations in the basket as you leave church. Your continued support for the Parish is greatly appreciated.*

## INSEPARABLE BONDS

The Season of Creation ends this Sunday (feast of St Francis of Assisi) with the reminder from Pope Francis that *St Francis shows us just*



*how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society and interior peace (LS 10).*

## SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER DURING MASS:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot today receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

## FAMILY FAST DAY:

The CAFOD Family Fast Day to help people facing the worst of the coronavirus crisis has been moved to **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October**. We've all felt the impact of this terrible disease – let's come together to help the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world *survive, rebuild and heal*. Please pray for all those affected and donate online (**no envelope donations in church please**) at [cafod.org.uk/give](https://cafod.org.uk/give). You can also give easily via **text**. Text: **CAFOD** to **70085** to donate £10. *Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text **CAFODNOINFO** to **70085**.*

## SECOND COLLECTION

The next Second Collection is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> of October for *Peter's Pence*. The online giving page can be found here: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/second-collection-for-peters-pence-1>

**Keep in your prayers the children preparing to receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist on 10<sup>th</sup> October.**

**Also please continue to pray for the 22 young people who were recently Confirmed.**

## Parish Events for the Week

**NO EVENTS IN THE PARISH CENTRE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

### Future Diary Dates

*No events at the moment.*

### Youth Events

#### YOUTH GROUPS

*The Saturday youth groups will stop meeting for now.*

## NHS COVID-19 APP:

The new NHS COVID-19 app is now available to download for free on smartphone, in England and Wales. It is the fastest way to see if you're at risk from coronavirus. The faster you know, the quicker you can alert and protect your loved ones and community. The app has a number of tools to protect you, including contact tracing, local area alerts and venue check-in. It uses proven technology from Apple and Google, designed to protect every user's privacy. If you have downloaded it, you are now able to scan the code allocated to us, as you enter our church. It is on the inside door and on the notice board *inside* the church.

## JOURNEYING TOGETHER IN FAITH

This course takes place on **Mondays** from **6.30pm to 7.30pm** online using Zoom. It is open to anybody interested in growing their faith and is suitable for those who have completed the RCIA course as well. The format is one of discussion, sometimes watching a short video, and generally spending a little contemplative time together. For information and details, email: [contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk](mailto:contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk)

## MARY'S MEALS

Sue Richards has undertaken a fund raising effort to run 250 miles, in little chunks, in an effort to raise £1600 for this charity. If she achieves her goal, the money raised will feed 100 children for 1 year. You can find a link to make donations online on the *News* page of our website.

## PARISH WILDFLOWER MEADOW

Thanks to the four volunteers from the parish, the hay has been cut and gathered from the small meadow between the Church and the Parish Centre. The hay has been piled by the big yew tree between the meadow and the presbytery wall. If you need any hay for a pet rabbit or similar, please feel free to help yourself to some. 25 species of flower and plant have been identified in the small area which, together with the three bee hotels and two bird boxes next to it, are part of our on-going commitment to being a *Live Simply* parish.