

4th October, 2020

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, MENDLESHAM

27th of year A

Please keep silence from 9.25am to prepare for Mass

Theme: We are God's chosen people - the vineyard of the Lord in today's readings. We also face a challenge; we cannot take our chosen position for granted. Has the word of God's Son really found a home in our heart? Does it bear fruit in the way we live?

- **Blessing of clothes, blankets, toiletries for homeless**

Penitential Rite

Celebrant: Father, you sent Jesus into the world with a message for us.
Forgive us, for it does not often find root in our hearts.
Lord have mercy.

People: Lord Have Mercy.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, we listen to your word Sunday after Sunday.
Forgive us, for it does not bear fruit in the way we live.
Christ have mercy.

People: Christ Have Mercy.

Celebrant: Lord, do not reject your chosen people. Change our hearts and turn them into rich and receptive soil for your word.
Lord have mercy.

People: Lord Have Mercy.

Celebrant proclaims God's forgiveness

Opening Prayer: Let us pray that God will forgive our failings and bring us peace. Father, your love for us surpasses all our hopes and desires. Forgive our failings, keep us in your peace and lead us in the way of salvation.

Liturgy of The Word Of God

1st Reading: Isaiah 5 v. 1 – 7: It is not enough to be God's chosen people: we must bear fruit - which we can only do if we remain in the vine.

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.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 79

® **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. ®

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. ®

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. ®

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. ®

2nd Reading: Philippians 4 v. 6 – 9: St. Paul writes that the peace of God is ours if we really trust in God.

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.

Gospel Acclamation: (Alf)

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 v. 33 – 43: The Gospel takes up the image of God's vineyard. Jesus tells us that this is the Kingdom of God. It is given to those who will produce good fruit.

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.'

Creed – Apostles Creed)

Prayer of the Faithful:

Celebrant: Let us pray to God who has dominion over everything he creates and to whom all will one day return.

Reader: Let us pray that whatever situations people find themselves in, whether success or failure, joy or sorrow, they will always trust the God we call Father, and place themselves in his hands.

Let us pray that the Church may have the openness of heart, mind and spirit to recognise God's prophets today and to accept their message.

We pray for those who stubbornly refuse to hear God's word. You alone, Lord, can change their hearts and give them faith and life.

Let us pray for the Christian Community, the vineyard of Christ: that it may produce the fruits of justice, love and peace.

Let us pray for all gathered here: that they may be able to respond to God's love by loving others.

Let us pray that the fruits of the earth that we share and enjoy, may be shared with those in need. We pray for the Stowmarket food bank. Christian Aid and St Martin's for the homeless in Norwich.

Let us pray for the sick - especially those who are dear to us, that they may be comforted by the Lord, who accepted death on the cross. We pray especially for Jessica Mercer, Billy Carter, Nichola Berry, Ralph Lambert, Michael Denny, Daphne Elliott and Lynda Brill

Let us pray for those who have died, especially Alice Ball, Lynn Fraser, Malcom Cammidge, Tania Cammidge, Arthur Calver, William Pitt, Hilary Taylor, Ivor Bulmer-Thomas, Edward Sanders, Betty Rand - anniversaries

Mary knew that her Son was the keystone of the building. Let us pray with her. Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God' pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

S I L E N C E

All: God our Father, hear our prayers. Show us the way we must walk to be with Jesus our life, and to bring forth fruit that will last in your kingdom. We ask this through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offertory Prayers: Sanctus. Agnus Dei.

Post Communion Prayers and Angelus at the Shrine of Our Lady

This week: Divine Office - Psalter Week 3

- Mon:** 9.30 Mass Int: Homeless (Galatians 1v. 6-12; Luke 10 v.25-27)
- Tues.** 9.30 Requiem Mass Int: October Anniversaries (Gal. 1 v13-24; Luke 10 v. 38-42)
- Wed.** 8.00 Mass Int: Deepening of our Spiritual Lives (Gal. 2 v.1-2, 7-14; Luke 11 v. 1-4)
- Thurs.** 9.30 Mass Int: The hungry, Christian Aid (Gal 3 v. 1-5; Luke 11 v. 5-13)
- Fri.** 9.30 Mass Int: Christian Unity (Gal. 3 v. 7-14; Luke 11 v. 15-26)
- Sat.** 3.00pm 1st Mass of Sunday Int: Farmera (Is. 25 v. 6-11; phil. 4 v. 12-14; 19-20 Matt 22 v. 1-14)

Next Sunday: 28th of Year A

9.30

(Is. 25 v. 6-11; phil. 4 v. 12-14; 19-20 Matt 22 v. 1-14)

1. Next Sunday is Harvest Thanksgiving. Please bring tinned goods, vegetables etc for the homeless in Norwich.
2. Friends of St Mary's Boxes will be blessed on Sunday 25th October. Please see "Fr. Philip Writes" in October magazine
3. there will be a Bible study in church on Healing – Monday 19th October at 10.15
4. from Saturday – 1st Mass of Sunday will be at 3.00pm
5. List on table for November Candles - £6 each

Thought for this week

"The happiest people in the world are those who have found the life tasks to which they have been called.... and the unhappiest are those that have not even begun to search" – Robert C. Leslie