



Please pray for: Frank & Alice May Purcell (deceased)

Mass Times in St Benedict's Church:

Sunday 4th October 2020 – Twenty-Seventh Sunday, Ord Time (A)

Sunday, 04 Oct	10.30 am	Solemn Mass
Sunday, 04 Oct	6.00 pm	Young Adults Mass
Monday, 05 Oct	No Mass	St Faustina Kowalska (Optional)
Tuesday, 06 Oct	12.35 pm	St Bruno, priest (Optional)
Wednesday, 07 Oct	12.35 pm	Our Lady of the Rosary (Memorial)
Thursday, 08 Oct	12.35 pm	Thursday – Week 27, Ordinary Time
Friday, 09 Oct	12.35 pm	Sts Denis and John Leonardi (Opt)
Saturday, 10 Oct	No Mass	Saturday – Week 27, Ordinary Time

Regular Confession Times in St Benedict's Church:

Monday to Friday: 11.45 am – 12.30 pm (before 12.35 pm Mass)
Sunday: 5.30 pm (before 6.00 pm Mass)

Mass at St James' Church, Forest Lodge:

Saturday Vigil: 5.00 pm
Sunday: 8 am, 9.30 am & 11 am
Wednesday & Friday: 9.00am
Saturday (morning): 8.30am

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding Office



If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Archdiocese of Sydney we invite you to contact us. We will listen to you respectfully, offer support and discuss the options you have available to you. *Please contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office on ph 02 9390 5812.*



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.

Communion Antiphon:

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

The Holy Father's Appeal (Peter's Pence) – this Sunday, 4th October – our parish will hold the Holy Father's Annual Appeal this Sunday (normally held at the feast of Saints Peter & Paul, 29th June) for which we ask your support. Through your gift, you can help Pope Francis bring hope, opportunity and the spirit of Jesus Christ to our less fortunate brothers and sisters around the world. Envelopes are at the back of the church. Thank you.

Saint Bruno – was born in Cologne, Germany in 1035. Bruno was well educated and taught theology for over 25 years. Yearning for a solitary life of penance and contemplation, he joined several companions in a quasi-community life. Bruno settled in the Chartreuse Alps and there founded a contemplative, monastic order, the Carthusians. After a brief time as a papal advisor, Bruno returned to his hermitage in Calabria (south Italy). He died in 1101 and was canonised in 1514.

Our Lady of the Rosary – this commemoration was established in 1573 in thanksgiving for a Christian victory over the Ottoman forces at Lepanto. It is a memorial of the Virgin Mary as honoured in the rosary.

Saint Denis & Companions – Saint Denis is the patron saint of France and in particular, of Paris, where, as its first bishop, he organised the Church there. He was martyred in Paris with two clerics during Valerian's persecution. An abbey and large abbey church were built at his tomb in Paris. He died around 250.

Saint John Leonardi – born in Tuscany, Italy, in 1541, John Leonardi became an assistant pharmacist and later a priest. He formed a religious community to teach Catholic doctrine to youths and adults in the confused times of the reformation. Internal troubles drove him to Rome where he found the friendship and guidance of Saint Philip Neri. Leonardi laid the foundations for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. He died in 1609 after helping plague victims and was canonised in 1938.

One Million Children Praying the Rosary – *Aid to the Church in Need, Australia* invites you to join in and pray the rosary on Sunday 18th October at 9am. For further details, please visit – www.aidtothechurch.org

The Bee's Knees...! Remember when there were a lot more bees and frogs? My kindergarten friend of almost 50 years said more recently to me, 'Where did all the frogs go? Remember when we were little and they were in the garden?' I sure do! I think that the prevalence of frogs and bees (and many other creatures) is a very good test of how well our environment is doing and in those years since two little girls were running around the garden, many have disappeared. Since the bushfires earlier this year, Rural Aid has launched a campaign to help beekeepers get back on their feet and to help replenish our bees, saying that bees are crucial to everything we eat, every day and that bees are Australia's littlest livestock! Help Aussie beekeepers get back on their feet so that hive numbers can flourish. You can help support our vital bee industry by planting vital native flowers in your yard or at school or by making a donation. Help #SaveAussieBees or go to www.ruralaid.org.au or phone 1300 327 624 – and help beekeepers get their buzz back. © jw

A thank you from the Koala Hospital at Port Macquarie, Shoalhaven City Council and Rural Aid
Please see the church noticeboard for notes of thank you and acknowledgement for our bushfire and drought appeal donations from earlier in the year, helping the wild koala breeding program, the Shoalhaven City Council appeal, getting people and small businesses back on their feet, and *Buy a Bale* with hay for the farmers! © Thanks once again to everyone for your generosity and kindness – you are wonderful!

A VOCATION VIEW: 'The human family has received from the Creator a common gift: nature.' *Pope Francis – Laudato Si*

Streaming of Sunday Mass – from St Benedict's Church – 6pm – Here is the link to this Sunday's Mass – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (4th October 2020) – <https://youtu.be/THgbEoif3dY>

***This Monday, 5th October is a Public Holiday** – there will not be 12.35pm Mass tomorrow.

***5th October is also the new feast date for Saint Faustina Kowalska**, decreed by the Vatican on the 100th anniversary of Pope St John Paul II's birth (18th May 2020). Pope St John Paul II canonised Saint Faustina on 13th April 2000, making her the first saint of the new millennium.

Fr John Neill, op – Celebrating 60 years of Priesthood – 22nd October will be Fr John Neill's 60th anniversary of ordination. For this wonderful occasion, the Dominican community, St Benedict's Parish and UNDA will be celebrating two Masses for Fr John. There will be 12.35pm Mass on Fr John's anniversary date, Thursday 22nd October and also 10.30am Mass on Sunday 25th October – followed by morning tea. Further details will follow re Fr John's COVID Safe morning tea, but save the date! ☺

Saints Francis of Assisi – was born in Assisi (Italy) around 1181 or 1182. The carefree son of a wealthy merchant who gave up his inheritance to embrace utter poverty. His 'Canticle of the Sun' captures his lyrical spirit and oneness with all creatures. An outstanding example of the beatitude 'Blessed are the poor in spirit'. At the end of his life he bore in his flesh the marks of Christ's suffering. Remembered for preaching the poor and crucified Christ in both word and humble action. Saint Francis died near Assisi on 3rd October 1226.

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 cf. 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!

GOSPEL Mt 21:33-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

He leased his vineyard to other farmers.

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.

Reflections on the Gospel



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

04 OCTOBER 2020

THE SONG SUNG OVER THE CHURCH

Jesus probably told the parable of the Tenants against the religious leaders in Jerusalem in his day. Having resisted the prophets sent by God, they are now resisting the last of them, namely, himself. As such they have shown themselves to be usurpers, retaining for themselves the 'vineyard' (Israel) and its 'produce' (the life of the people). For them, the arrival of the Kingdom (of God) will mean dispossession and retribution.

The early Church retold the parable in the light of Jesus' death and resurrection, and a belief in his status as God's Son. Also present is a bitter awareness of the *No* given to the Gospel by the bulk of Israel and a sense of the Church itself, made up of Jews and non-Jews, as the community of the Kingdom. Through the continuing presence of the risen Lord (Matthew 28:20), the community can and ought to produce the 'fruits' that God desires.

The long and tragic history of Christian intolerance and persecution of Jews calls for sensitivity in handling texts like this that reflect the early Church's disappointment with Israel. Today we should move on from Christian triumphalism at Jewish expense to concentrate upon the 'fruits' that God looks for from us. God has made the 'rejected stone'—the crucified and risen Lord—the 'cornerstone' of the Church. The question for us is whether the 'song' sung by God over this new vineyard (cf. the First Reading) is one of delight or disappointment. Inevitably, perhaps, a bit of both. In either case it will be a song of love.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

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FIRST READING

Isa 5:1-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
The vineyard of the Lord God of hosts is the House of Israel.

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.

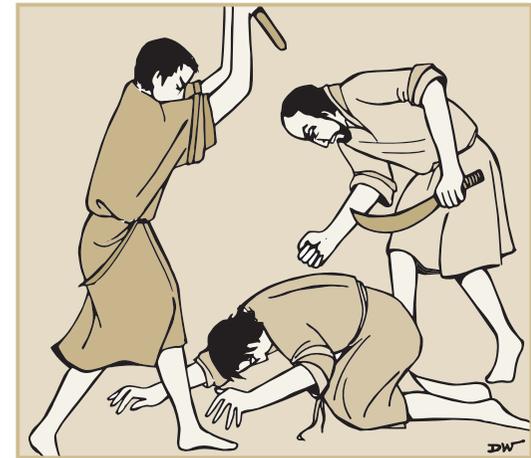
Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
is the House of Israel,
and the men of Judah
that chosen plant.
He expected justice, but found bloodshed,
integrity, but only a cry of distress.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM Ps 79:9, 12-16, 19-20. R. Isa 5:7

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. **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

Phil 4:6-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Do these things and the God of peace will be with you.

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