



Reflection by Greg Sunter

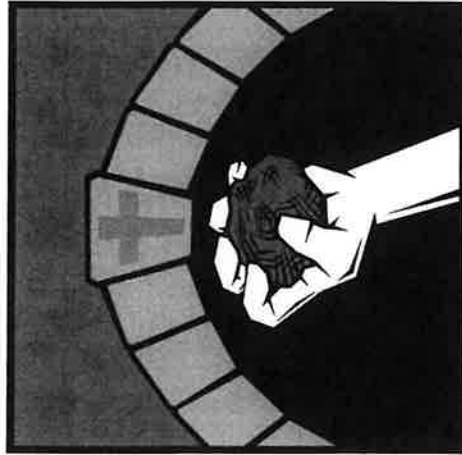
This week's gospel must be read in conjunction with the first reading (Isaiah 5:1-7) and the responsorial psalm, because the message of these passages is implicit in the parable told by Jesus. As soon as Jesus began to describe the vineyard – fenced around, a winepress dug and tower built – his audience would have immediately known that he was reflecting the Isaiah description of Israel as the vineyard of the Lord. Isaiah's condemnation of Israel in that passage is so strong that one can almost imagine Jesus' audience cringing in anticipation of where this story was leading.

The imagery Jesus used would have been so familiar to his audience that it was almost mundane, and yet Jesus, as usual, gives the image a twist. He describes a vineyard owner whose tenant farmers rebel, beat and murder his servants. Any one of these acts was punishable by death and the audience may well have expected the story to end there. And yet the landowner sends further messengers – hopeful of a change of heart from the tenants – and allowing them the opportunity to do what is right. After these messengers are also murdered, the landowner sends his own son to collect the harvest from the tenants.

Jesus, of course, is drawing on the familiar image of Israel as the vineyard of the Lord. God, the landowner, has entrusted this beautifully prepared land to the people of Israel and yet they have taken ownership for themselves and forgotten their Lord. Messengers, in the form of prophets, have been sent to call the people back to God but they were ignored and even murdered. Now, the Son has been sent to the people and received much the same response. When Jesus asks his audience of chief priests and elders what the landowner should do, they are acutely aware that he is asking them how God should deal with them.

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Gospel Mt 21:33-43

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.'

First Reading Is 5:1-7

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;
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

Ps 79:9. 12-16. 19-20. R. Is 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.)

Second Reading Phil 4:6-9

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 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 See 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!**

IN YOUR PRAYERS

SICK

We pray for all who are sick, especially those in our local community

RECENTLY DECEASED

Rosemary Cini, Antonietta Castelluccio
ANNIVERSARIES
Michelle Mojzes, Souls of the Wee, Chai & Chua families

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

Next meeting will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday, 6th October.

BAPTISMS AT ST PETER'S

4th October 2026 at 12noon

Angus Malcolm Toy

Please pray for this child and his family.

PARISH SUPPORT

Thank you all for your continued support. For those who prefer to, online donations can be made as follows:-

Presbytery Collection – 1st Collection

Account Name: St Peter's Presbytery A/C
BSB: 083 347 Account No. 665417521
Reference as your first initial then surname, or you may remain anonymous

Church Collection – 2nd Collection

Account Name: St Peter's Church Account
BSB: 083 347 A/C No. 535304676.
Reference as your first initial then surname and if known, your giving number e-g. ASmith T/G 500

NFC Tags can be found on pews if you would like to give electronically.

St Vincent de Paul Society



good works

Do you need a helping hand? St Vincent de Paul Society volunteers are committed to providing people with access to the resources and support they need to overcome personal hardship. If you require assistance, please phone our Welfare Assistance Line on free call 1800 305 330 Monday to Friday (except for public holidays). This service is free and confidential.

PARISH NEWS



MONTH OF OCTOBER – ROSARY

What is the Rosary?

The rosary is a Christ-centered prayer, rooted in Sacred Scripture, that helps us meditate on the lives of Jesus and Mary. The rosary is a Catholic devotion in which we ask for the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God, in drawing closer to her divine Son, Jesus. When praying the rosary, you use a string of beads to keep track of your progress through the prayers.

Why Pray the Rosary?

We pray the Rosary to grow closer to God and praying the Rosary is not just for challenges or difficulties. Praying the Rosary helps us to fortify our Catholic beliefs and strengthen our bond with Jesus Christ.

As part of our devotions to Our Lady, during the month of October we will continue to pray the Rosary on weekdays from Tuesday-Friday, and on Saturday mornings. Rosary commences at 8.55am, prior to the 9.15am Morning Mass.

MINISTERS' ROSTER – 31/10/26-28/2/27
Please contact the Parish Office with your 'away' dates from 1/11/26-28/2/27, by **Tuesday, 6th October.**

ORDERS FOR ANNUAL PUBLICATIONS

Break Open the Word - Contains readings and psalms for each Sunday. Suitable for Parish Groups, Readers of God's Word etc.
Daily Mass Book - This Mass book contains all the texts for Sunday and weekday mass and begins in Advent 2026.

Please contact the Parish Office if you would like us to order a copy of either publication for you, by **6th October – \$33.00 each.**

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC DIGEST – OUT NOW

We have a limited number of printed copies Melbourne Catholic Digest available in the narthex. Or read online at: <https://melbournecatholic.org/melbourne-catholic-digest-archive>

Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi

Feast Day 4 October

Lord, make me an instrument of your

peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that

we are born to eternal life.

INVITATION: NEW LIFE IN GOD'S SPIRIT

St Monica's Catholic Church, Symons Centre, 822 Mt Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds. Program runs Thursdays: 7.30-9.00pm. October 1-November 19. Contact: Gerald – 0415 275 446.

INVITATION: VICTORIA POLICE-MOONEE VALLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING FORUM Date: Wednesday 7th

October Time: 6.00pm-8.00pm Location: Moonee Valley City Council, 9 Kellaway Avenue, Moonee Ponds. Local services and community members are invited to talk with police about what issues are important in our community. The forum will explore topics including: • Current crime trends & crime prevention • Young people • Family violence • Road policing • Drugs and drug related crime. The Neighbourhood Policing Forum will be run by a Victoria Police panel. Questions will be taken from the audience throughout the event. Registration is a must at: MOONEEPONDS-UNI-OIC@police.vic.gov.au or scan the QR code. Please see flyers in the narthex.

ST PETER'S PARISH, KEILOR EAST

2a Parkside Avenue

Keilor East Vic 3033

Parish Priest: Rev. Anil Mascarenhas

Parish Secretary: Helena Meredith

Phone: 03 9337 4141

Parish Office Hours: 8.30am-4.00pm

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

Email: keiloreast@cam.org.au

Website:

<https://www.melb.catholic.org/keiloreast>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Peters-Parish-Keilor-East-248965765799277>

ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Acting Principal: Anne Tadinac

Phone: 03 9337 4111

Email:

principal@spkeiloreast.catholic.edu.au

Administration: Siobhan Thompson

MASS TIMES

Weekend Mass Times:

9.15am Saturday Morning Mass

6.00pm Saturday Vigil Mass

8.30am, 10.30am & 5.00pm Sunday Masses

Weekday Mass Times

9.15am Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Friday (followed by Benediction)

RECONCILIATION

9.45am Saturday after 9.15am Mass (or upon request of Parish Priest)

ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Term 4 commences Monday, 5th October

2026 PARISH THANKSGIVING PROGRAM

We are grateful for the school families who are supporting the Parish Thanksgiving Program (2026 family contribution), which continues to sustain the life and mission of our parish. May God bless your families with peace and joy.

The Parish of St Peter's, Keilor East and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community.