



SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER, 2026 27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME. YEAR A Reflection on the Gospel (Matthew 21:33-43)

As the 2026 Season of Creation comes to an end, we pledge ourselves to maintain our commitment to the cry of the Earth and the cry of those rendered poor. Among the most abandoned of Earth's "poor" are those who are still enslaved. While the international community has long-since outlawed slavery, we have become increasingly aware of the persistence of a lucrative global industry structured around the sexual and labour enslavement of vulnerable people and exacerbated by the multiple conflicts affecting our globe.

Today's Gospel features a parable about an absentee landowner with slaves to do his bidding. Commentators focus on many aspects of this parable, particularly the judgement on the religious authorities who have rejected God's messengers. Few consider the fate of the slaves *as slaves* in the parable. Our contemporary sensibilities in relation to slavery invite a new reading of such texts, a reading that critiques the power that some in the Earth community exercise over other humans and over the natural world that has for so long been treated as the property of humans to manipulate at will.

The frequent translation of the Greek *doulos* (m.) and *doulē* (f.) as "servant" rather than as "slave" masks the underlying reality that some members of the community, even within the circle of believers gathered at the Eucharistic table, were actually treated as the property of others in the community. The fact is that nobody in the ancient world, not even Jesus of Nazareth, questioned this situation. The injustice was systemic. It is not surprising, therefore, that the slaves in today's parable are considered by the "tenants" to be dispensable. Their role is to collect the fruit from the harvest on behalf of the absentee landowner.

The "tenants" clearly have no intention of parting with any portion of the produce, presumably the tax imposed on them as a condition of their tenancy.

They react violently when confronted by the three slaves who are the landowner's emissaries. They beat one slave, kill another and stone yet another. The slaves represent the landowner whose demands they refuse to meet. The landowner risks the lives of other slaves by sending yet another and bigger delegation. This second group of emissaries meets the same fate as their predecessors. Finally, the landowner sends his own son in the expectation that the tenants will show him the respect they have denied the slaves who are his property. In fact, the son receives the same treatment as the slaves. He too is dispensable from the perspective of those wanting to seize "the inheritance", those wishing to take control of the vineyard for their own purposes.

As we reflect on Gospel stories that take slavery for granted, we might commit ourselves to eliminating all exercise of power over others or over any "vineyard" entrusted to our care and to doing everything possible to address issues of systemic injustice.

There is always a cost in the pursuit of justice. Today's parable invites us to bring our actions into line with what we profess, no matter the cost. That is what it means to take up the challenge of working in the vineyard, in God's workplace.

By Sr. Veronica Lawson, RSM

DEATHS & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for those who died recently
and for all whose anniversaries
occur at this time. May they rest in peace.



SYNODALITY AND FAITHFULNESS

True synodality deepens fidelity to Christ and His Gospel.

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. (R.) Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 79:9, 12-16, 19-20. R. Isaiah 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: 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. (R.) Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: John 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: 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.

(R.) Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

NICENE CREED

**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)*
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.

Communion Antiphon: Lam 3:25

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

KNOX PUBLIC LECTURE 2026

Synodality; Global and Local

By Most Reverend Patrick O'Regan DD, Archbishop
of Adelaide, in conversation with Bishop Martin
Ashe and Ms Cathy Jenkins at **Knox Room, Catholic
Theological College**, 278 Victoria Parade East
Melbourne on **Thursday 22 October 2026: 7.00pm**
RSVP by Thursday 15 October 2026

Enquiries: +613 9412 3333

ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/knox-public-lecture/

FAITH IN ACTION WITH MARTHA HENNESSY

Thursday 8 October, 5.30 – 8pm

An evening of conversation on faith, conscience
and non-violent action at ACU Mercy Lecture
Theatre, Building 404, Ground Floor, Room 9, 115
Victoria Pde Fitzroy. Free. Registration essential.

Martha Hennessy is a peace activist and member of the
Catholic Worker Movement co-founded by her
grandmother Dorothy Day.

PALMS INFORMATION ONLINE WEBINAR

Monday 19 October 2026: 5.30pm – 7.00pm

palms@palms.org.au 02 9560 5333

See palms.org.au/events to register

Learn about our diverse assignments suited to
your qualifications and time of life.

WORLD YOUTH DAY INFORMATION SESSION

Friday 9 October 2026, 7-9pm

at St. Catherine of Sienna Caroline Springs

Join us as we unpack the Archdiocese of
Melbourne's pilgrimage to World Youth Day Seoul
2027. Find out the latest information about the
three pilgrim options along with costs, what to
expect, past pilgrim s' stories. Pilgrimages offered

1. Direct to Seoul before WYD
2. Via Incheon and immerse yourself in the
Diocese before WYD
3. Via Japan, visiting sacred churches and
shrines before WYD

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE **ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION FOR** **PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS**

MONDAY 26 OCTOBER AT 7PM

In this session, participants meet course advisors
and learn about study options including a wide
range online and face-to-face. Register via Google
Forms. Registration essential.

ENGAGING YOUR FAITH ONLINE SERIES

***Session 5: The Gospel according to Matthew:
A Tapestry. Presented by Dr Rosemary Canavan***
Monday 19 October 2026, 7.00pm–8.30pm

In this Liturgical Year of Matthew, come and see the
complexity of this Gospel by picturing it as a
tapestry. We look at the overall thread from
beginning to end: observing the weave back and
forth between Old and New Testaments; noticing
the tension between Jesus and leaders, Judeans,
and Gentiles; picking up threads across the Gospel;
stopping to view a couple of specific scenes; and
stepping back to view the whole picture.

Session 6: Who Answers to Whom?
Clergy Wellbeing in Australia: The Latest Data
Tuesday 20 October 2026, 7.00pm–8.30pm
Presented by Rev. Dr. Jake Mudge

This session explores the recently published
findings from research commissioned by the
Australian Catholic Bishops. Titled "Thriving and
Surviving in Ministry," it suggests that a broad
discussion of these findings is helpful for the wider
Church, not only those groups working directly to
support clergy.

Registrations (essential) close at 5pm
two business days before each session.
Cost: \$25 per session.

SEASON OF CREATION. THE WAY, YOUR WAY

**9 October 2026 at Mary MacKillop
Spirituality Centre, St. Joseph's by the Sea,
16 Esplanade Williamstown. (03) 9397 6012**

Join Mark Walsh for silence, prayer, and reflection
on the spirituality of walking pilgrimage, drawing on
practices pilgrims have used for centuries to find a
fresh perspective on life's direction and the changes
you are facing.

SCHOOL MASS AT ANNUNCIATION

Tuesday 6 October at 11.50am
ALL WELCOME.

PARISH PRIEST:

Rev. Fr. Werner Utri

PARISH SECRETARY: Emilia Balkan

PHONE: 0401 158 113;

(03) 9314 7710

EMAIL: yarraville@cam.org.au

ST. AUGUSTINE'S OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays

9.30am till 2.30pm

PARISH WEBSITE:

www.melbocatholic.org/yarraville

SAFEGUARDING: Pat Mc Laughlin

patmac766@gmail.com

PARISH CHURCHES

ST AUGUSTINE'S

71 Somerville Road Yarraville

CORPUS CHRISTI

376 Geelong Road, Kingsville

ANNUNCIATION

4 Nolan Avenue, Brooklyn

For email copy of **Bulletin**



Click QR Code

LITURGY TIMES

TUESDAY MASS

St Augustine's....6.00 pm

Exposition: 5.30 –6.00pm

WEDNESDAY MASS

Corpus Christi.....9.15 am

THURSDAY MASS

St Augustine's...9.15 am

FRIDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.15 am

SATURDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.30 am

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

St Augustine's...5.00 pm

SUNDAY MASS

Annunciation.....8.00 am

St Augustine's....9.30 am

Corpus Christi...11.00 am

St Augustine's..11.30 am

(Polish)

RECONCILIATION:

SATURDAYS after 9.30am

Mass at Corpus Christi

St. Augustine's...4.15pm

NEXT ITALIAN MASS

On hold until further notice

UPCOMING EVENTS

ONE MILLION CHILDREN PRAYING

THE ROSARY. Join with Pope Leo XIV and Catholics worldwide from 1-7 October prayer campaign, for peace and unity in the world.

MARCH FOR THE BABIES

Saturday, 10th October at 1pm
Treasury Gardens, Cnr. Spring St and Wellington Pde.

HELDER CAMARA LECTURE

'AI, Pope Leo and the future of human dignity' with Kim Daniels.

Thursday 15 October 2026,

5.00pm – 6.30pm at Newman College
887 Swanston Street Parkville.

Registration necessary.

COMMUNITY FAIR

Corpus Christi School 10am to 4pm

Saturday 14th November 2026

FEAST DAYS DURING THE WEEK

- **Monday 5 October -**
St. Faustina Kowaska
- **Tuesday 6 October**
St. Bruno
- **Wednesday 7 October –**
Our Lady of the Rosary
- **Friday 9 October**
St. Denis & Companions, Martyrs
St. John Leonardi

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Thank you to parishioners at Annunciation, Corpus Christi and St. Augustine's for your regular donation of food items placed in the churches each week.

In addition to **non-perishable food**, (cereal, long life milk, tea, coffee, milo, soup, pasta, pasta sauce, baked beans, spaghetti, tins of tuna, tinned fruit, rice, jam, biscuits), items such as **shampoo, soap, deodorant, washing powder/liquid, toothpaste and brushes** are also needed.

ROSTER FOR THIS WEEK

3rd & 4th October 2026

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time A

READERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm Peter Matheson

9.30am Andrea Wilberger

Pina Guzzardi

READERS: **Corpus Christi**

11am Julianna Barr

Edith Fletcher

MINISTERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm.....Paloma Kelly

9.30am..... Agnes Hopmans

MINISTER: **Corpus Christi**

11.00am..... Nathan Lane

COUNTING: Les Vella

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEK

10th & 11th October 2026

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time A

READERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm Greg Buhagiar

9.30am Pat McLaughlin

Sam Polzella

READERS: **Corpus Christi**

11am Natasha Fernandes

Imelda Gibson

MINISTERS: **St. Augustine's**

5.00pm.....Mary Vella

9.30am..... Phillip Marques

MINISTER: **Corpus Christi**

11.00am..... Hong Nguyen

COUNTING: Val Taylor

SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

At Yarraville, Kingsville and Brooklyn, we hold the care, safety and well-being of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our communities. The Parish Statement of Commitment and Reporting Process are on display at the entrance of all the Churches and all Diocesan Policies are available on the website or at the parish office.

www.cam.org.au/Professional-Standards/Statements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY - We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.