



AMDG
27TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
YEAR A
8TH OCTOBER 2017



**God is the master of all creation
and the giver of all gifts**

OPENING PRAYER

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.

The *First Reading*, from the prophet Isaiah, likens the house of Israel to the Lord's vineyard which he loves.

The *Psalms* show how the Lord protects this vineyard planted by his own hand.

The apostle Paul, in the *Second Reading*, takes up this theme. He encourages those at Philippi to be confident that their security can only be found in the Lord's nurturing care of them.

The parable of the wicked tenants (*Gospel*) shows that even when the Lord's plans are seemingly thwarted, God can turn all to good.

This week, we are encouraged, despite our worries, concerns and troubles, to remain in the peace of God, which is so much greater than we could ever understand. It will guard our hearts and minds.

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 4: 6–9

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, sisters and 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.

As always, I begin my time of prayer slowly.

It may help to note how I am feeling. Perhaps I am coming to prayer with particular worries or concerns. My heart and mind may be restless.

However I feel, I simply take note and hand over everything, for the moment, into the Lord's care.

Having become as still as I can, I read the text gently.

I pay attention to anything that seems to touch me in some way.

There are some lovely words here:

peace, true, noble, good, pure, love, honour, worthy, praise.

What strikes me, as I try to rest in the God of peace?

I read a second time ... noting, again, where I am moved.

Is the Lord wishing to say something to me ...? reveal a new insight ...?

or perhaps confirm something I have felt before?

What is this peace that is so much greater than anything I can understand? I pause, and ponder.

I may wish, after a while, to look at any worries I brought to prayer.

I think on Paul's words 'there is no need to worry'. I may feel I need something at this moment ... or perhaps I need to let go of something.

I speak to the Lord about this in a spirit of thanksgiving.

When ready, I close my prayer by making a slow sign of the cross, as I renew my trust in God's promise of peace.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21: 33–43

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 that will produce its fruit.”

I read the text prayerfully, asking the Lord to help me listen to God’s word through this passage of Scripture.

Where, or to whom, in the reading, do I find myself drawn? I ponder...

Am I receptive to God’s voice through the messengers he sends?

There may have been occasions when I have not been open to others ... or, conversely, I may remember times when I have felt able to welcome others, even when it has cost me in some way ...

Perhaps I can recall a time, when, like the landowner, I put my heart into something, only to see it rejected.

I talk about all this with the Lord who, even now, asks me to tend his vineyard. I listen to him. How do I feel?

In time, I take my leave, and with thanks I end by praying, *Our Father* ...

Here's a text if you've only got a minute ...

Let me sing the song of his love for his vineyard. *First Reading*

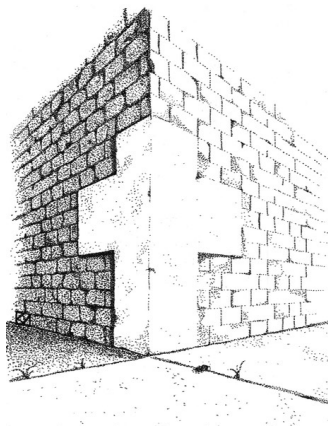
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. *Responsorial Psalm*

There is no need to worry. *Second Reading*

This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see. *Gospel*

This week's texts if you'd like to reflect further:

Isaiah 5: 1–7; Psalm 79 (80); Philippians 4: 6–9; Matthew 21: 33–43



How does this image speak to me in my prayer?



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JESUIT
Ministries



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