

FIRST READING

Isaiah 5:1-7

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: **The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.**

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| 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. | 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 had planted. |
| 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. | 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. |

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, 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.

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

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 wine-press 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."

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Holy Family Church

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Priests: Fr. Peter Draper, Fr. John Moriarty (Tel: 725193)

Sunday Mass: 11.00 am.

Weekday Mass: Thur: 9.15am. (Other weekdays: 9.15am at St. Anthony's)

Sacrament of Reconciliation: on request

Holy Family Primary school: 727471 Covenant Books: 735993

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What is our cornerstone?

In relation to architecture, a cornerstone is traditionally the first stone laid for a structure, with all other stones laid in reference to this stone. A cornerstone marks the geographical location by orienting a building in a specific direction. Some cornerstones include time capsules from, or engravings commemorating, the time a particular building was built.

Today's gospel asks us to look at the cornerstone which determines the direction of our lives. "This gospel is an allegory about negative energy, the spirit of rejection. The tenants are antagonistic and oppositional about everything. They beat or stoned or killed everyone. Oppositional energy just knows what it is against. It is sort of a sad substitute for vision, yet negative people feed on it. It knows what it is against but it doesn't know what it is for, what it is in love with. What we reject and hate says much more about ourselves than about the people we hate or reject. If we want to know what or who our real God is we need to look at what we reject: if we reject poor people, our god is riches, money and success; if we reject foreigners, it is because we have made a god of our own country; if we reject anybody different from us then we have idolised ourselves, we've made a god of ourselves. What we fear or reject tells us what we really worship." (Richard Rohr)

What are we for? Are we in love with anything or are we just against 'bad people'? When fear and rejection is our starting point, we are subconsciously creating a foundation stone which consists of our own self-centred priorities. However, when love becomes the cornerstone which determines the direction of our lives, we will see what we need to renounce and yet "we won't need to renounce it we will just need to understand its true value and it will just drop from our hands." (Anthony De Mello).

In the second reading St Paul gives us an alternative to the spirit of rejection. "Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things and the God of peace will be with you." These 'things' – and many others – are already placed in the timeless capsule of our Christ-centred cornerstone.

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

4th October 2020

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DIARY AND MASS INTENTIONS

for the week beginning Saturday 3rd October 2020

Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	For our parish	
Sun 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Patrick Murphy	<i>27th Sunday of the Year</i>
11.00am	<i>H. Family</i>	Lawrence Cartmel	
5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	for our parish	<i>Harvest Fast envelopes return</i>
Mon 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Baby Gerard John	
Tue 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Private intention	
Wed 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Francis Kellett	
Thur 9.15am	<i>H. Family</i>	Private intention	
Fri 9.15am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Joseph Thompson	
Sat 6.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	Dec. members Rogers/Duffy fams	
Sun 9.30am	<i>St. Ant</i>	Lena Bradley	<i>28th Sunday of the Year</i>
11.00am	<i>H. Family</i>	for our parish	
5.00pm	<i>St. Ant</i>	for our parish	

Last Weekend: Offertory 105; Attendance 46. Thank you for all your generosity.

Masses received this week: Lena Bradley;

Covenant Books: The book shop at Holy Family has re-opened Thurs & Fri. 10am-4pm; Sat 10.00-12.30pm.

Please remember in your prayers

Mildred and Harold Slack, Bill O'Shaughnessy, Malaya, Ray Mannion, Bill York, Lawrence Dunnagan, Trevor Hughes, Claire.

Also the isolated and lonely, all medical staff and carers and those in research, the Government and all world leaders, all who are assisting the public in any way.

those who have died recently: Celia Park, Marie Milne, Lena Bradley, baby Gerard John;

and those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Lilly Clitherow, Margaret Foster, Edward Oastler, May Britton, 5th 6th Maria May Aspinwall, William Latus, George Roe, Sylvia Jones, Mary Rita Billington, Mgr Pyke, Mary Foye, Jackie Gallagher, John Croft, Bert Rogers, Francis Shaw, Ann Robinson, May they rest in peace.

First holy Communions

We are hoping to help the children complete their preparation for their first holy Communion very soon. We may well not be able to have first Holy Communions during an 11am Mass on Sundays because we are currently at full capacity. We'll make other arrangements.

September Faith & Justice E-Bulletin

This can be downloaded from <https://tinyurl.com/yyq84etu> Reports and newsletters are available at <http://www.lancasterfaithandjustice.co.uk/newsletter/>

NEW NHS 'TEST & TRACE' PHONE APP – Many buildings, including our Church and Pastoral Centre now display the QR code which can be read by smart phones (with Bluetooth enabled) to record your attendance. The phone app will notify you if you have spent fifteen minutes or more near anyone who has subsequently tested positive for coronavirus. We still take phone numbers manually for anyone not using the technology.

Masses received this week: Lena Bradley.

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day - This year, when the Coronavirus pandemic has affected the whole world, CAFOD is appealing to us on behalf of the global family. We are being asked to pray for and donate to help the poorest and most vulnerable people to survive, rebuild and heal, which is the theme of this year's CAFOD Appeal. Your donations help to provide items such as family hygiene packs, emergency food parcels for city dwellers unable to go out and work, community handwashing stations, books and pencils for children to study at home while schools are closed. Envelopes can be returned today or during this week. Or you can donate online at cafod.org.uk/give or text CAFOD to 70085 to donate £10 (texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear about CAFOD's work and fundraising via phone and SMS message)

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Living 'Laudato Si' Your parish and your planet.

You are warmly invited to join on Zoom on the weekend of October 16 -19th for talks and discussions on living the message of Laudato Si in and through your parish. It is being led from Boarbank Hall, Cumbria. Anyone is free to join. For more information please contact Sister Margaret Atkins: margaret@boarbankhall.co.uk.

'The Post-Lockdown Parish'

Although our churches have now reopened, we don't know when we shall be able to gather in the way we used to. What different ways do we have to come together for prayer, conversation and Mass? What new opportunities have opened up for us? In order to answer some of these questions, there are a series of webinars with Bishop David Oakley of Northampton. Book a place on the webinars, or watch the videos and see the resources afterwards: <http://formationpathways.co.uk/exploring-the-post-lockdown-church-webinar-series>

Baptisms We are now limited to 6 people and masks have to be worn. There are other restrictions also.

Weddings are similarly restricted though people are naturally being cautious about arranging weddings because of the uncertainty about how the situation might change.