

## Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

4 October 2020

*We start with the Sign of the Cross:* In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Penitential Act:**

*Pause for a few moments and ask the Lord for pardon and peace.*

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

### **Opening Prayer:**

Father, your love for us surpasses all our hopes and desires. Forgive our failings, keep us in your peace and lead us in the way of salvation.

### **Gospel Reading:**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (Mt: 21:33-43)

**This is the landlord's heir: come, let us kill him**

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.’

*Observe a short period of silence to reflect on the Gospel.*

### **Suggested Reflection:**

We are called to be fruitful as members of God’s family. However, membership of the Church does not guarantee membership of God’s Kingdom.

1. Are we fruitful members of God’s family?
2. Does “payment of membership dues” in the form of attending Sunday masses suffice? Or are there other “requirements” needed to nurture our faith?
3. When God comes to “collect his produce” are we equipped to “deliver the produce when the season arrives”?

### **The Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name;

Thy kingdom come;

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Amen.

## **Closing Prayer**

May Almighty God bless us and keep us from all harm. Amen.

*We end with the Sign of the Cross:* In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.