

04th OCTOBER 2026

TWENTY SEVENTH WEEK ORDINARY TIME

REFLECTION

The parable of the Wicked Tenants is an allegory - every detail of the story corresponds to a reality in our world: the owner of the vineyard is God, the vineyard is the people of Israel, the servants are the prophets, the son killed outside the walls of Jerusalem is Jesus, the tenants in the vineyard are the Israelites who closed themselves to the voice of the prophets, and the other nation that will produce fruit represents the Gentiles. The story is a bird's-eye view of Israel's history and the role of Jesus within it - the cornerstone of the new building, the church, rejected by Israel. However, we would be mistaken if we limited the meaning of this allegory to a summary of Jesus' relationship with the Chosen People. The point of using an allegory is to help us realize that what took place in the past holds universal value.

Although the story's primary reference is to the relationship between Israel and God, this history continues to play out in endless variations. Indeed, every relationship between a community or an individual and God, can find the story a light of its own. What is it that goes wrong in this encounter between Israel and God? The story leaves no room for doubt. When vintage time drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to obtain his produce. The tenants do not want to give the fruit of the harvest, they want to claim full ownership of the vineyard that was merely leased to them. Further on, we read that when they saw the son, they wanted to kill him and get his inheritance. It seems that the tenants were not driven by greed alone. Killing the son did not solve the problem of taking over the vineyard, after all, the owner remained alive. Murdering the heir was thus also an expression of resentment. The urge to strike back at the one who has more.

If we examine our sin, our rejection of God, in light of this parable, two primary motives emerge. First a greed, the desire to appropriate that which does not belong to us. Our sins of weakness are a vivid example of this attitude. We chase after created things that seem good to us in a way that ultimately obscures God. A second element is also highlighted in the Gospel, unfortunately far more toxic and deadly. It is demonstrated not by sins of weakness, but by sins of pride. The second element is the desire for dominance, which ultimately expresses itself as resentment. Greed and the desire for dominance are the two roots of our sinfulness according to this parable.

What remedy is there for us in all this? The remedy has a name, Jesus Christ. The remedy is He who "did not regard equality with God something to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave" (cf. Phil 2:6-7). The self-emptying of Jesus, to express the primacy of God, along with taking on the posture of a servant by washing the disciples feet opens the path of a new world for us a world without greed and dominance. The rejection of God's Son became the starting point, the cornerstone, of all our returns to God. Let us pray that we may always have the courage to stand on the side of the owner of the vineyard and his Son, rather than the side of the usurping tenants.

exerts from the writings of Fr. Michal Paluch

PRAYER RETREAT FOR WOMEN

9 Oct. 6pm to 11 Oct. 3pm

"Prayer for the Interior Life" please register at www.stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2026/7

The programme will start again on the 1st November 2026. Parents are asked to book an interview before the classes start. Interview times ARE AVAILABLE NOW AND WILL CLOSE ON 10TH OCTOBER. Don't delay and miss out! email the parish office NOW office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz to make an appointment time.

There will also be compulsory parent-only sessions before each of the classes begin. The dates will be shared with parents during the interview. The cost of the programme is \$50, this covers the cost of the resources, the books, and the party. We will also need to sight the children's baptismal certificates, please have them and your donation available for the interview or the first parent-only sessions in October.

VOLUNTEERS LUNCH AFTER THE 10.30AM MASS 18 OCTOBER

If you are in any volunteer ministry and help in the church in any way you are invited to join us for a light lunch in the parish hall in appreciation of your help. For catering purposes it is essential we know numbers so if you are coming please let us know by Wednesday

15th October email:

office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz

REMEMBERING OUR DECEASED LOVED ONES - WEEKEND OF 31 OCTOBER/1 NOVEMBER

If you have lost a family member or close friend during the past twelve months (i.e. November 2025 to September 2026) and you would like them to be remembered with a candle, and have a photo added to our photo collage then please let the office know as soon as possible but no later than Thursday 22nd October. We will need a photo of the person and their year of birth and death. If your relative/friend was farewelled from St Mary's then you will receive a personal invitation, via email and we will have a copy of the funeral leaflet and a photo. Next weekend there will be a basket, pens and paper for you to write the names of your loved ones whom you would like to be remembered at all Masses during November and a box to 'post' the paper with their names. As usual, everyone will be invited to light a t/light candle at which ever Mass they attend on the weekend of 31 October/1 November. Large named candles will be provided for the recently deceased who are advised to us.

Please pray:

for all families who are struggling at this time.

INVITATION TO - ANNUAL PARISH DAY RETREAT 21 NOVEMBER 2026

If you are involved in any of the Church Ministries, such as Minister of Holy Communion, the Word, Communion to the sick/elderly, Music, Projection, Care of Church linen, Hospitality, Catechist, Faith formation etc. etc. this is the day for you, we would love to see you there. Local venue,

To cover all costs including morning & afternoon tea and Lunch \$40 pp. Please register by emailing the parish office office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz

CAN YOU HELP DE PAUL HOUSE?

You can get some good bargains at The Warehouse or Briscoes! De Paul House needs your help to restock their warm bedding and towel banks. You will be helping homeless and low-income families and senior citizens stay warm this winter. De Paul House has had a huge increase in calls for help both with housing and support services. Please share the message with friends, family and work colleagues. Matthew 25:40 The King will reply "Truly I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

ON GOING REQUEST FOR FOOD/CARE PRODUCTS FOR DE PAUL HOUSE!

First a BIG Thank You to those who regularly bring something along every weekend - everything helps!

De Paul House needs an ongoing supply of food and especially personal and household care products. Shampoo, soap, hand-wash, deodorant, dish wash, clothes wash, etc. Basics like crackers, biscuits, pasta sauce, tinned fish & meat, coconut milk & cream jam, vegemite, milk powder, longlife milk. Every contribution makes a difference.

If you want to run a food drive, contact Lesley Farmerlesley@depaulhouse.org.nz

GIRL TIME

An invitation is extended to all women for our "Girl Time" meeting, a group for friendship, laughter, and inspiration. Join us for morning tea, as we explore topics that resonate with our lives and faith.

A light luncheon will be provided.

10.15am Monday 05 October, in the Foley Centre, next to the church.

we look forward to welcoming you!



ST MARY'S NORTHCOTE PARISH AUCKLAND

To register, Pledge for your Planned Giving, get our newsletter online, or update your address and contact details: Please go to our Web site!

Don't hesitate to contact us if you need help office@stmarysnorthcote.org.nz

BISHOPS' ELECTION STATEMENT

The New Zealand Bishops have published their statement for the 2026 General Election. Titled *Discerning our nation's future through a Gospel Lens*, the document encourages Catholics and people of good will to consider voting as a moral and civic responsibility, not just a matter of personal preference. The bishops invite people to consider how they cast their votes by reviewing candidates' and parties' positions across a range of key issues, and they also encourage people to pray for the country. Access the election statement at;
<https://bit.ly/NZCBCElections26>

LET'S GET TOGETHER! AN EVENING TO SUPPORT BEACHHAVEN YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

2 course meal, BYO drinks on Friday 30 October at Rate Payers Hall, 336 Rangatira Road, Beachhaven. Doors open 5pm formalities start 6pm Cosy \$50 pp. Music & performances payments by 16 October to 02-0108-078609-002 enq. Lolesio 021 0844 9900 or Christiana 022 646 9689

LONG TERM VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AUSTRALIA-PACIFIC REGION - THE CAGLIERO PROJECT SALESIANS OF DON BOSCO

We are seeking long term (6-12 month) volunteers for departure from January 2027 to work with young people in our Salesian community in Samoa, Cambodia, Timor Leste, Solomon Islands and Mongolia. Applications close October 31st 2026. Send us an enquiry.
www.cagliero.org.au OR ihichaabaa@salesians.org.au

CHURCH CLEANING - 10 Oct. Choy Family - 17 Oct. Malia & Tofu O
ALTAR LINEN - 04 Oct. Jan S - 11 Oct. Fleur B

MASS INTENTIONS

Sun. 8.30am Yousif Batta RIP; **Sun. 10.30am** Antonio de Ornelas RIP;
Tues. 9.15am Gasper Joseph Pereira RIP, **Fri. 9.15am** Maria Ornelas RIP.

Please pray: For the elderly and frail & the sick in our parish, especially, Philip, Yohann, Linda F, John McC, Megan S, Peter D, Peter C, John W, Mary L. Shannon, Owen B, Susan C, Serge, Katya, S Perry, Kathy M, Matthew S, Ronald B, Syrel C, Billy G, M. Angus C, Keira, Max W, David P, Yvonne S, Lauren S, Fe T, Jamie S-W, Adam S, James F, Lu P, Caroline C, Emily D, Sebastian C, Lucia, Anselmo S, Victoria R, Hilda P, David K, Alice C, Najla, Petros A, Jocell D-V, Luca M, Maselino L, Yvonne P, Helen McBride, Aesop N, Patricia W, Elizabeth S, M O'S, Jason P, Maria & Andre T, Emily G, June B, John R, Patricia M, Cath S, Anne J, Patrick C, Cath S, Mike L, Aria J, Neil M, Ray & Noelene O, Sue M, Celine S, Kathleen F, Dorothy & Francis, Mary G, Rachel W

DAILY READINGS

MONDAY				
READING	GALATIONS	1: 6-12	PS.	111
GOSPEL	LUKE	10:25-37		
TUESDAY				
READING	GALATIONS	1:13-24	PS.	139
GOSPEL	LUKE	10:38-42		
WEDNESDAY OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY				
READING	GALATIONS	2: 1- 2,7-14	PS.	117
GOSPEL	LUKE	11: 1- 4		
THURSDAY				
READING	GALATIONS	3: 1- 5	CANT.	BENEDICTUS
GOSPEL	LUKE	11: 5-13		
FRIDAY				
READING	GALATIONS	3: 7-14	PS.	111
GOSPEL	LUKE	11:15-26		
SATURDAY				
READING	GALATIONS	3:22-29	PS.	105
GOSPEL	LUKE	11:27-28		
SUNDAY 28TH ORDINARY TIME				
1 ST READING	ISAIAH	25: 6-10	PS.	23
2 ND READING	PHILIPPIANS	4:12-14.19-20		
GOSPEL	MATTHEW	22: 1-14		

NOTICES FROM THE DIOCESE

Local Youth Ministers Wanted! The Catholic Diocese of Auckland is looking for self-motivated relationship-builders to become part-time local Youth Ministers, working in a secondary school and/or parish. This is a unique opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young people! To Learn more and to apply, please visit:

www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/

Mission Sunday 100th Celebration on Sunday 18th October a day set aside to pray for the Church's mission and support those who carry the Gospel. Support can be financial & through prayer Bishop's Letter on noticeboard.

The Square Gift Shop With grateful hearts and trust in God's providence, we are delighted to announce that the Square Gift Shop has now moved to a new location. Suite 2, level 1, 9 Teed Street Newmarket. We look forward to welcoming everyone to our new home.

Manager - Ministries to Young People, Auckland Diocese Are you a Catholic leader with a heart for young people? We are looking for someone who answers "Yes" to serve as a full-time manager. You'll lead a multidisciplinary team, oversee major diocesan initiatives and shape of youth and young adult ministry in NZ's largest diocese. go to www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies

Property Manager - Education (Secondary Schools) Join the diocese and help shape safe, future-focused learning environments across our secondary schools. The role involves leading property projects, managing maintenance & compliance programmes. to view full advert and position description visit www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/

Property Manager - Education (Secondary Schools) Join the Diocese and help shape safe, future-focused learning environments across our secondary schools. This role involves leading property projects, managing maintenance and compliance programmes, and partnering with school leaders to support Catholic education throughout Auckland and Northland. Relevant tertiary qualifications or significant industry experience required. To view full advert and position description visit <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/staff-vacancies/>
NZ Catholic the latest edition of the monthly diocesan newsletter NZ Catholic now available on the Diocesan Website.

Marriage and Family Life - Alpha for Couples Married, engaged or dating, Alpha for Couples is a welcoming and practical course designed to help strengthen your faith and relationship. Through videos and guided conversations. Register today and invest in your relationship, join us on Oct. 8, 15, 22, 29.
https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/alpha_couples/

"the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing the fruit of it." Matthew 21:33-43

What might God be inviting me to change so that my faith can bear more fruit?

**PRAY MASS
SUNDAYS @ 2PM
SHINE TV
free to air TV Chanel 25
SKY TV Chanel 201**

PROLIFE FACTS

Just weeks before the Victorian state election on 28 November, a significant pro-life event will be taking place in Melbourne. Victoria's March for the Babies 2026 rally will be held on Saturday 10 October 2026, at Treasury Gardens in East Melbourne, beginning at 1 pm. Organisers are urging Australian supporters to gather in large numbers to voice their opposition to abortion and to highlight ongoing concerns about legislative developments in the state. Current concerns include the government's announcement of \$480,000 in funding for ultrasounds across twenty "reproductive health" hubs, intended to facilitate access to early medical abortion. While attendance is not practical for most New Zealanders, we can support this important witness across the Tasman through prayer and sharing these details with family, friends, and contacts in Australia.

for more prolife facts visit: rightforlife.org.nz