

St Therese's Parish Essendon

3 & 4 October – Season of Creation – St Francis of Assisi
Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A



First Reading Is 5: 1-7 A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The vineyard of the Lord God of hosts is the House of Israel.

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?

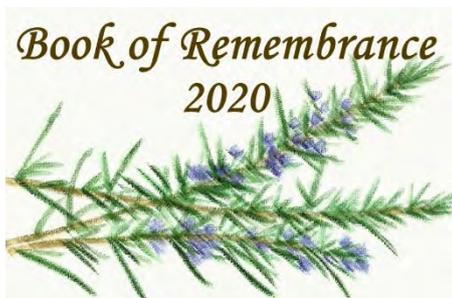
Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on, and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on. I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn. I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it. Yes, the vineyard 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.

Gospel Mt 21:33-43 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

He leased his vineyard to other farmers.

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.'



This year our perpetual Book of Remembrance will be published online on our website. To submit new names to the book, please follow this link: <https://forms.gle/26pCK8E5ovgFbDpv9> which will be active until 5pm on Wednesday 28 October. The book will be up on our website from Sunday 1 November. **PLEASE NOTE: If you have submitted names in previous years there is no need to do it again as all names remain in the Book of Remembrance.**

Brothers and sisters, let us turn to the Lord with confidence, for God is ready to hear our prayer for those in need.

That the Church will watch over the vineyard of the Lord with tenderness and care.

Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.

We pray for the Pope and all our bishops: that they may continue to teach us to be sensitive to the needs of the world.

Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.

We pray for the single people in our parish and beyond who have been missing support throughout the Covid Restrictions. May they receive the physical and spiritual support that they deserve.

Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.

We pray for the children at our school as they start the final term for the year: may they receive the care and support they need to become happy, healthy, community-minded citizens.

Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.

We pray for Marie and Steve McKenna who are celebrating 50 years of marriage this weekend. May God bless their union for many more years.

Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.

Lord, help us share Your love for all creatures and we thank you for giving us our pets who are our loving companions and who bring so much joy to our lives.

Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.

We pray for our own special intentions: **Lord, hear us - Lord, hear our prayer**

We pray for those who are ill, especially Jorge Arenivar, Marty O'Donnell, Lolita Fajardo, Jane Phelan, Joan Kennedy, and Gerard O'Brien

For those who have died recently, Pat Torr, Vincenzina Placanica, Eddie Gauci and Marg Kovacs

And those whom we remember at this time especially Norma Whelan, Joan Woods, Norma Barnes, Emilio Baldi, Fr Peter James, Brian Hodgson and John Edward Sweeney

Lord, hear us - Lord hear our prayer

*Loving God, your Son was the stone rejected by the builders. Hear our prayers and help us to acclaim Christ with thanksgiving and praise. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen***



Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
 where there is injury, pardon;
 where there is doubt, faith;
 where there is despair, hope;
 where there is darkness, light;
 where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be
 consoled as to console;
 to be understood as to understand;
 to be loved as to love;
 For it is in giving that we receive;
 it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
 it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.

SEASON OF CREATION

Blessing of the Animals - St Francis Sunday

"We are faced not by two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both environmental and social. Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature." Laudato si', #139

As we come to the close of this year's Season of Creation, we can recall its messages simply through the last weeks:

God has given us a mission to pass on truthfully the prophetic word given us about care of Earth.

We need to communicate that prophetic word without anger or vengeance, but with a forgiving heart, as we have been forgiven.

It involves a call to all of us to pay attention to God's ways for us to live, Jubilee ways, in all dimensions of life.

Each person is ultimately responsible for his or her own ecological conversion, a conversion which leads to transformed ways of acting in creation.

Our scriptures today warn us that if the human community and its political leaders fail in this mission to care for Earth through the transformation of our cultures and political structures and policies, Earth will be taken away from our care. St. Paul urges us to accept this call and challenge with utmost seriousness but without anxiety, praying with gratitude, and opening our hearts to receive the gift of God's peace.

In Isaiah's parable, the vineyard, although carefully prepared and cultivated by God, produces wild grapes. God promises to destroy the vineyard. The House of Israel must expect destruction and ruin because God came to this "cherished plant" looking for judgment and justice and found only bloodshed and the outcry of those suffering from injustice.

In Laudato Sí, Pope Francis refers extensively to the role of individuals and cultures in the destruction of Earth. He calls us to critique the "myths" on which our cultures grow and guide the lifestyles and actions of people around the world: myths of individualism, the possibility of unlimited progress and economic growth, competition, consumerism, and the unregulated market system [L.S. #210]. He notes that they support the kind of short-term thinking that has led to the current destructive patterns of overconsumption, inequality, pollution, climate change and social unrest.

(LISTEN: Laudato si' International Scholars Tertiary Education Network)

A PRAYER FOR OUR PETS

In your infinite wisdom, Lord God, when you created the universe you blessed us with all living creatures.

We especially thank you for giving us our pets who are our friends and who bring us so much joy in life.

Their presence very often helps us get through trying times.

Kindly bless our pets.

May our pets continue giving us joy and remind us of your power.

May we realise that as our pets trust us to take care of them,

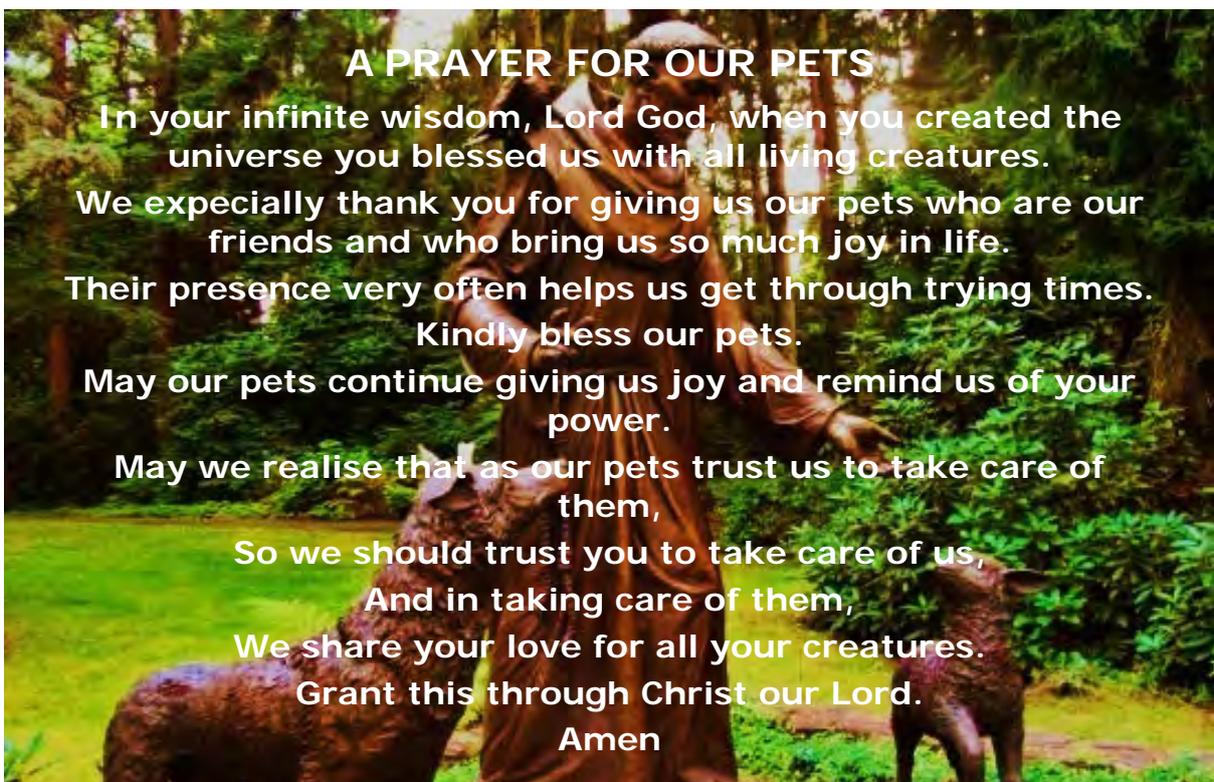
So we should trust you to take care of us,

And in taking care of them,

We share your love for all your creatures.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

Amen



PARISH LIFE IN ISO

This past week we celebrated the feast day of our Patron Saint Therèsè of Lisieux. Sadly, this year we were unable to celebrate together and with our school community. Instead we can perhaps find some time to reacquaint ourselves with our 'Little Flower'.

"I have always wanted to be a saint," she wrote, "Unfortunately when I have compared myself with the saints, I have always found that there is the same difference between the saints and me as there is between a mountain whose summit is lost in the clouds and a humble grain of sand trodden underfoot by passers-by. Instead of being discouraged, I told myself: God would not make me wish for something impossible and so, in spite of my littleness, I can aim at being a saint. It is impossible for me to grow bigger, so I put up with myself as I am, with all my countless faults. But I will look for some means of going to heaven by a little way which is very short and very straight, a little way that is quite new."



What a wonderful parish patroness for us to have on our personal and communal journeys of growth, healing and transformation. What a realistic saint for Australia to have during a time when we seem to prefer the cult of the celebrity and pseudo glamour to things/people of substance. Therèsè was someone whose very ordinariness, her 'interpersonal non-violence' makes her so generously lovable "MY VOCATION IS LOVE".

Therèsè saw herself as a child of God. She liked to keep things simple and focused as a child does. Trust, especially trust in God, is a childlike virtue. Some spiritualities have stressed complicated practices and extraordinary journeys of the soul as it responds to God's grace and love. Therèsè's spirituality is simple and she calls it her "little way". She believed and teaches

us that life presents enough challenges and opportunities for grace. She teaches us that God is everywhere – in every situation and person – and in the ordinary, simple details of life.

"Everything is grace" is probably the theme song of her spirituality. Her "Little Way" teaches us to do the ordinary things of life with extraordinary love. A smile, a note of encouragement, a phone call, suffering in silence, always having a positive word, a simple unnoticed task to brighten the life of another, and so many other simple deeds, done with love – these are the examples of her spirituality. The smallest action, done with love, is more important than great deeds done for personal glory, gratification or simply out of obedience. Therèsè teaches us that Jesus is everywhere and is the power for love and goodness operating within us. Such is the power and presence of grace. Therèsè's life was hidden. To many even in the convent, she seemed like such an average, ordinary person. Her greatness showed in the constancy of her love for others in the most simple ways.

Even in prayer, Therèsè teaches simplicity – talking to God and Jesus in direct, personal and heartfelt ways. She did not like long prayers. She fell asleep during community prayer. Because she had such great devotion to Our Lady, she was ashamed and frustrated that she did not like praying the Rosary.

She prayed from her heart as a child speaks honestly and trustingly to a parent they love. God calls us to respond to Divine Love in a childlike relationship of love, trust and bold confidence to "Abba" (which literally means 'Dad'), and by doing the simple things for others, well and with love.

LET US PRAY

Lord, You have said: "Unless you become as little children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven"; grant us, we ask You, that we may follow in humility and simplicity of heart in the footsteps of our patron St Therèsè, and that we may obtain her assistance through life.

AMEN

To read the full article visit our website <https://www.stthereses.org.au/our-parish/our-patron-saint/>

We'd love to hear what you've been up to in ISO. Email jac.radcliffe@cam.org.au to contribute to Parish Life in ISO

CELEBRATING WORLD MISSION MONTH

October is recognised in the Catholic Church as World Mission Month, a time when Catholics all over the world join to support and celebrate global missionary work. Catholic Mission, as the Australian arm of the Pontifical Mission Societies, plays a vital role.

'What Catholic Mission and the international network of Pontifical Mission Societies can do, is to help some of the most vulnerable people in the world', says Catholic Mission Victorian Director, Kevin Meese. 'This year we focus on the essential work of priests, religious and lay missionaries in Cambodia, supporting people with disability and their families.'



In north-west Cambodia, The Arrupe Centre and Outreach Program is providing learning and growth opportunities for the community, still affected by landmine incidents and associated illnesses. This centre is managed by Bishop Enrique "Kike" Figaredo Alvargonzalez in the Apostolic Prefecture of Battambang.

For over 20 years, Bishop 'Kike' and his team have been working to advocate for people with disability. This program is just one of the many examples of the global work supported by Catholic Mission.

Started in 2001 by Bishop 'Kike', the Centre provides education, healthcare and support for children and young adults with disabilities due to landmine incidents or other illnesses such as polio or cancer.

'Thanks to the generosity of our donors, this support can be life-changing', Kevin said.

An 11-year-old boy, Dara, is an amazing example of how this support can be lifechanging. When he was 11, Dara lost his right hand and most of his sight following a landmine accident. Unexploded landmines still litter the countryside where he lives, in the rural village of Koh Kralar.

For the past two years, Dara has been living at the Arrupe Centre. He has learned Braille, continued his schooling and made many friends.

Chen, also a landmine survivor, lost both his legs when he was 16. Unable to help his parents on the family farm, his prospects were low. The accident caused Chen to face the reality that his life will never be the same. His parents, who already struggled for money, suddenly faced new challenges in caring for their son.

'But thanks to the Arrupe Centre and Outreach program, Dara and Chen can lead a fulfilling and dignified life,' said Kevin.

'World Mission Month in October provides an impetus for the work of mission, for our supporters, parishioners, teachers, students and parents. It promotes the awareness of the rights of people with a disability and empowering those in need.'

This year Catholic Mission's Socktober program encourages schools to support the Arrupe Centre through learning about mission and social justice.

Soccer, the world game, is used to encourage students to learn more about the reality of living in other parts of the world. The six-week Socktober Challenge ties in with the core values of the Catholic curriculum: of mission and social justice.

'Over 200 schools have already signed up for Socktober, kicking goals for people in need like Dara and Chen,' Mark Clarke said, Catholic Mission's Community Engagement Officer.

'One of the most important things to do when we look to support people in need around the world is to first learn their reality.

Socktober helps students and their families to do that while having fun and making a difference.'

To help Catholic Mission support people with disability and their families. Visit www.catholicmission.org.au/

For more information about Socktober, visit the www.socktober.org.au.

PARISH GIVING DURING COVID19 If you usually support the parish with envelopes at Masses and would like to continue your payments, you can deposit your PSP donations directly to the parish accounts. Note there are separate accounts for church and clergy.

Contributions to the church account:

Name: St Therese's Church, BSB: 083 347, Account number: 67640 1701

Contributions towards supporting the clergy:

Account Name: St Therese's Church, BSB: 083 347, A/C number: 67616 4988

Any deposit should be referenced with your FIRST INITIAL and SURNAME so that we know that the money is a PSP payment attributed to you.



MELBOURNE STEP 2 RESTRICTIONS AT ST THERESE'S

Our church remains closed except for permitted ceremonies.

RELIGIOUS GATHERINGS: permitted with a limit of five people, plus one faith leader. Must be adjacent to the place of worship with only one group permitted at a time. You can only travel up to 5km from your home to attend a gathering and only for 2 hours.

FUNERALS: will be limited to 10 mourners (infants under 12 months of age not included in this number). A separate grouping of mourners may not come in to remove the coffin from the church. You can travel to a funeral outside of metropolitan Melbourne.

WEDDINGS: permitted in outdoor public spaces with a maximum of 5 attendees, including the couple and two witnesses, but not including the celebrant. Children under 12 months are exempted from the number. Do not need to occur proximate to a place of worship.

BAPTISMS: may be celebrated under the outdoor gathering limits. This allows for 5 people including the faith leader outdoors (a child under 12 months not included), meeting all hygiene and distancing precautions and recording names and contact details of all present.

REQUESTS FOR OUTDOOR RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES WILL BE CONSIDERED ON A CASE-BY-CASE, PASTORAL BASIS.

VISITATIONS: Homes: Faith leaders may visit someone in their home on request to share spiritual ministry (or equivalent religious services) to provide care and support to a person who is at the end of their life. It is critical measures like face coverings and physical distancing are observed, and that the travel to the person's home and the visit are limited to what is reasonably required and necessary (e.g. only required attendees should visit and just for the service).

Hospitals or Care Facilities: Faith leaders may visit someone in a hospital or care facility to share spiritual ministry (or equivalent religious services) to those who are at the end of their life, or if it would support a patient or resident with their emotional or mental wellbeing, in line with other visiting restrictions and if this support cannot be provided remotely. It is important to note that strict limits on 3 visitors apply in these circumstances. It is critical measures like face coverings and physical distancing are observed and these visits are limited to what is reasonably required and necessary (e.g. a visit has been requested by a patient).

Mass online is celebrated Wednesday to Friday along with our weekend Mass.

PACE REMAINS CLOSED

PARISH OFFICE OPERATES REMOTELY You can call us weekdays 9am until 3pm or send us an email. For those needing to speak to Fr John, appointments can be made over the phone or via email. Onsite meetings are not permitted.

EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS contact number for Fr John: 0490 956 610

For the full details of Step 1 restrictions you should visit the [DHHS website](#).

THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE provides regular pastoral updates on the COVID-19 situation on the CAM website: www.cam.org.au

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest: John Hannon john.hannon@cam.org.au

Baptism – Pastoral Outreach: Leanne Torr leanne.torr@cam.org.au

Business Manager: Kathy Gilmour kathy.gilmour@cam.org.au

Function Manager: Jac Radcliffe jac.radcliffe@cam.org.au

Bookkeeper: Irene Fritsche irene.fritsche@cam.org.au

Parish Leadership Team: essendon.plt@cam.org.au

Child Safety Officer: Olivia Metcalf essendon.safeguarding@cam.org.au

Office opening hours - Monday to Friday 9.00am – 3.30pm

Office Telephone: 9401 6330 – after hours Fr John: 0490 956 610

Office email: essendon@cam.org.au Website: www.stthereses.org.au

School email: principal@stessendon.catholic.edu.au

St Vincent de Paul helpline: 1800 305 330 WEEKDAYS 10am–3pm

Tiny T's Playgroup: stthereses.tinyts@gmail.com



Friday 25 September 2020

The Premier, The Hon Daniel Andrews
Office of the Premier
1 Treasury Place
Melbourne VIC 3002
By email: daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PREMIER FROM THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF VICTORIA

Dear Premier,

It has been very encouraging to see COVID-19 numbers dropping so dramatically in recent weeks. We are grateful for the efforts and commitment of the government and health officials in containing the second wave of the pandemic, and for the clear leadership you have provided personally in your daily communication updates for all Victorians.

Throughout the various changes in restrictions over the last six months, the Catholic dioceses of Victoria have shown themselves to be resilient, well-managed and safe, carefully communicating each set of restrictions and ensuring their implementation, even when this caused much hardship.

However, people of faith across regional and metropolitan Victoria have raised serious concerns about the unfairness and inconsistency in the numbers allowed for religious gatherings by comparison with other sectors in the current 'third step'. We are being asked what the reason is for this dramatic difference, and we are unable to provide an answer, even after several meetings with DHHS in which we have sought explanations.

Over the last two weeks, we have worked cooperatively with members of the government and health authorities, and have resolved a number of inconsistencies and communication difficulties. However, a pressing need remains to address the unfairness of the disparity in numbers.

In the most simple of measures, the current restrictions in regional Victoria literally fail the 'pub test': if people of faith can gather in a restaurant or bar catering for a particular number of patrons (and remove their face covering), they ought to be able to put on

their mask, cross the road and worship in their faith community with the same numbers, provided equivalent COVID-safe practices are in place.

We ask that this disparity be rectified urgently and that the principle of fairness be applied for each subsequent step on the roadmap to reopening. Catholic communities have shown their commitment to acting responsibly and cooperatively throughout the pandemic, and they will be greatly encouraged in this if they can see that people of faith are being given the same consideration as other sectors of the community.

You remain in our prayers and we look forward to finding a constructive solution to this issue, which is causing unnecessary pain and distress for people of faith across Victoria.

Yours sincerely,



Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE



Most Rev Paul Bernard Bird CSsR
BISHOP OF BALLARAT



Most Rev Shane Mackinlay
BISHOP OF SANDHURST



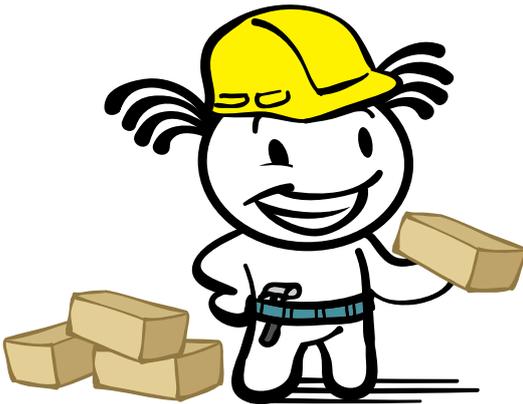
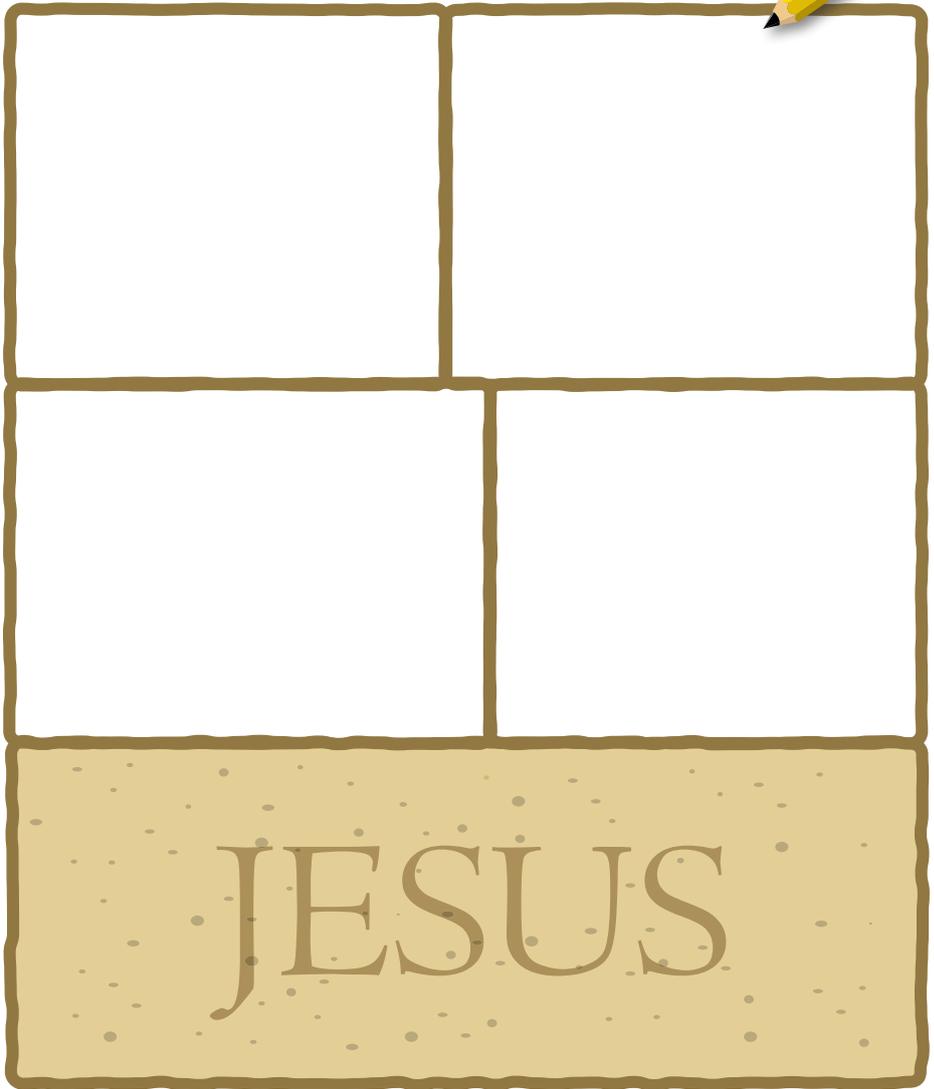
Rev Peter Slater
DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATOR, SALE

God's kingdom will be given to those who do right

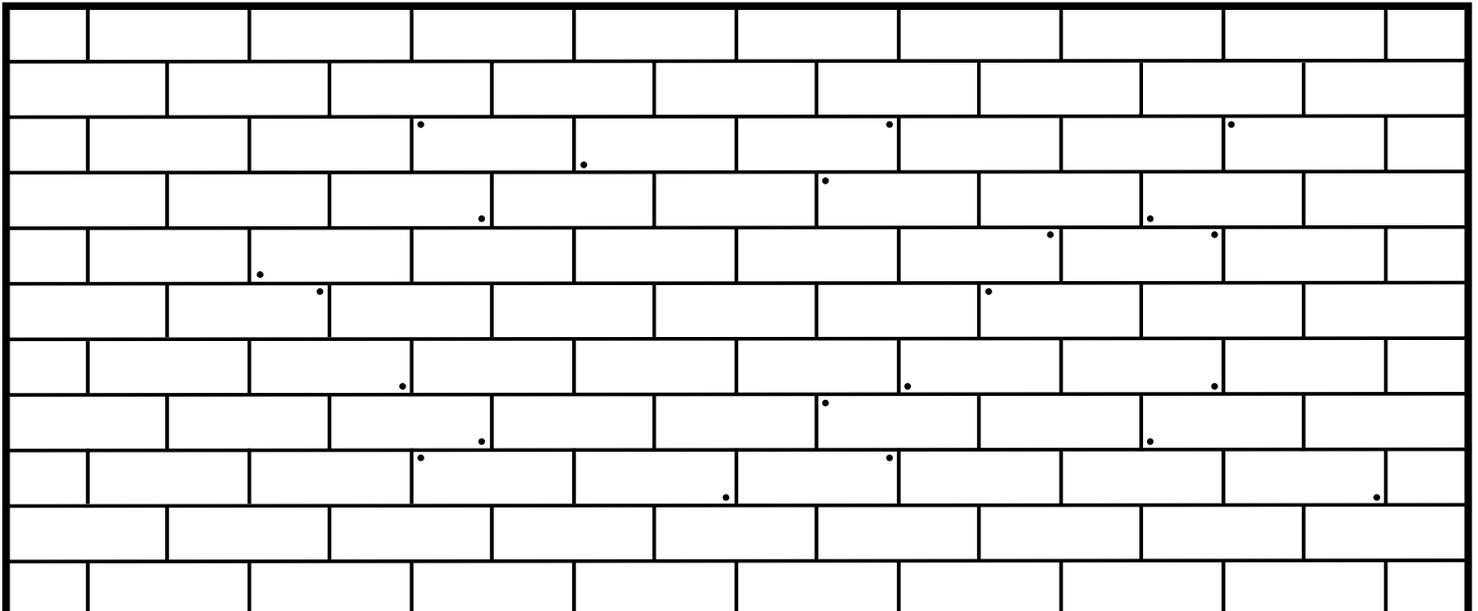


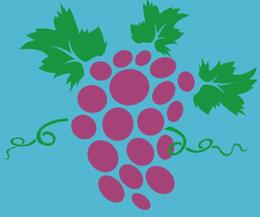
Jesus says that we shall be given God's kingdom if we work hard to do what is right.

With Jesus as the cornerstone of our faith, fill in the other stones with pictures of yourself doing things that make you a good worker for God.



Colour in the bricks that contain a dot • to reveal a special symbol. Do you know what it stands for?





God's kingdom will be given to those who do right

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A



Working for God

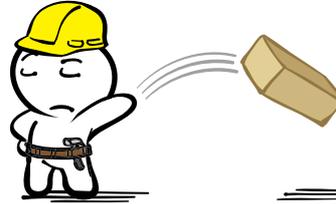
Jesus says that we shall be given God's kingdom if we work hard to do right. How can we be good workers for God?

I can be a good worker for God by...

I can be a good worker for God by...

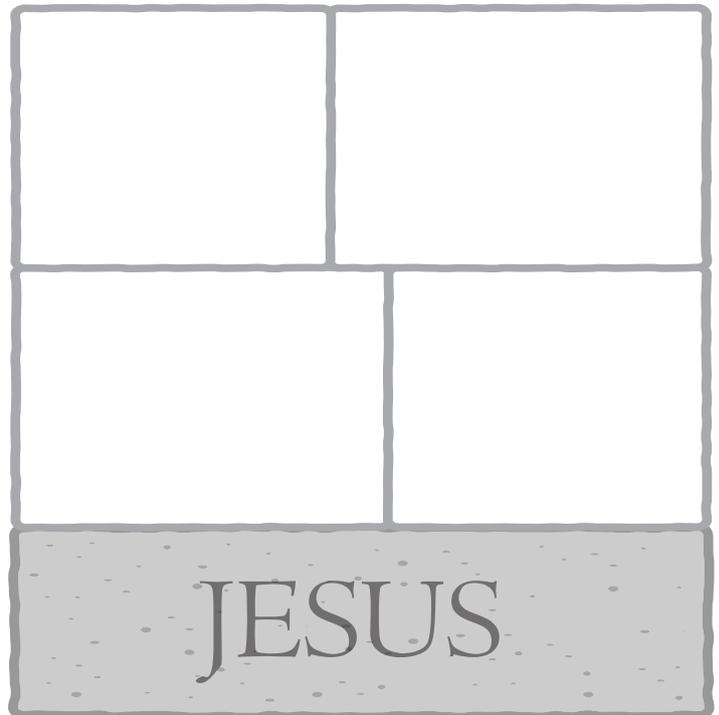
I can be a good worker for God by...

I can be a good worker for God by...



THE STONE REJECTED BY THE BUILDERS HAS NOW BECOME THE MOST IMPORTANT STONE OF ALL.

With Jesus as the cornerstone of our faith, fill in the other stones with pictures of the people in our world who are rejected and outcast.



Gospel Mt 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 who will produce its fruit.'