

**READINGS AND REFLECTION
FOR THE 27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

<http://cms.usccb.org/bible/readings/092720.cfm>

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH 5:1-7

Let me now sing of my friend, my friend's song concerning his vineyard.
My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside;
he spaded it, cleared it of stones and planted the choicest vines.
Within it he built a watchtower and hewed out a wine press.
Then he looked for the crop of grapes,
but what it yielded was wild grapes.

Now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard:
What more was there to do for my vineyard that I had not done?
Why, when I looked for the crop of grapes, did it bring forth wild grapes?

I will let you know what I mean to do with my vineyard:
take away its hedge, give it to grazing, break through its wall,
let it be trampled! Yes, I will make it a ruin.
It shall not be pruned or hoed
but overgrown with thorns and briers;
I will command the clouds not to send rain upon it.

The vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah are his cherished plant.
He looked for judgment, but see, bloodshed!
for justice, but hark, the outcry!



The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM PS 80: 9, 12-20

A vine from Egypt you transplanted;
you drove away the nations and planted it.
It put forth its foliage to the Sea,
its shoots as far as the River.

THE VINEYARD OF THE LORD IS THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL.

Why have you broken down its walls,
so that every passer-by plucks its fruit,
The boar from the forest lays it waste,
and the beasts of the field feed upon it?

THE VINEYARD OF THE LORD IS THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL.

Once again, O LORD of hosts,
look down from heaven, and see;
take care of this vine and protect what your right hand has planted,
the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

THE VINEYARD OF THE LORD IS THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL.

Then we will no more withdraw from you;
give us new life, and we will call upon your name.

O LORD, God of hosts, restore us;

if your face shine upon us, then we shall be saved.

THE VINEYARD OF THE LORD IS THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL.

A READING FROM THE letter of St Paul to the Philippians 4:6-9

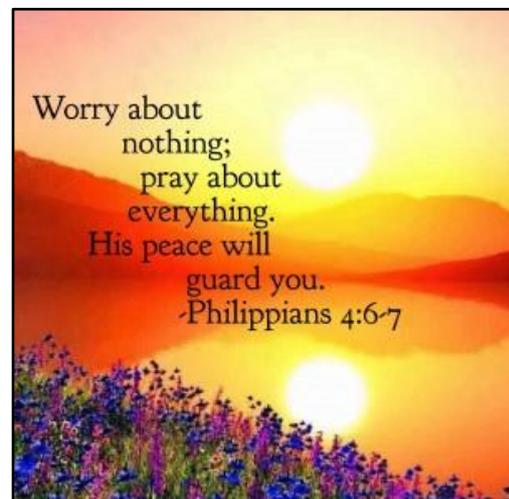
Brothers and sisters:

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding
will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters,
whatever is true, whatever is honourable,
whatever is just, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious,
if there is any excellence
and if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things.
Keep on doing what you have learned and received
and heard and seen in me.
Then the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord.



Jn 15:15: I call you friends, says the Lord,
because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 21:33-43

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people:

"Hear another parable.

There was a landowner who planted a vineyard,
put a hedge around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a tower.

Then he leased it to tenants and went on a journey.

When vintage time drew near,

he sent his servants to the tenants to obtain his produce.

But the tenants seized the servants and one they beat,
another they killed, and a third they stoned.

Again he sent other servants, more numerous than the first ones,
but they treated them in the same way.

Finally, he sent his son to them, thinking, 'They will respect my son.'

But when the tenants saw the son, they said to one another,
'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and acquire his inheritance.'

They seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.

What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants when he comes?"

They answered him, "He will put those wretched men to a wretched death
and lease his vineyard to other tenants
who will give him the produce at the proper times."

Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures:

*The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
by the Lord has this been done,
and it is wonderful in our eyes?*

Therefore, I say to you,
the kingdom of God will be taken away from you
and given to a people that will produce its fruit."



The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION

Google Social Justice Statement Aust. Bishops 2020 **MENTAL HEALTH IN AUSTRALIA TODAY**
Key ideas from Part B of **THE MENTAL HEALTH OF OUR PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES:**

A real cost of mental illness is the stigma and discrimination felt by the most vulnerable – being labelled, shunned and denied support, their human dignity and their right to live to the full. Tragically, they internalise negative stereotypes and ‘self-stigmatise’.

Negative stereotyping in the workplace means people are avoided, excluded, judged incompetent or denied opportunities.

Economically, people with mental ill-health face discrimination when seeking employment, renting and purchasing insurance. The poor are over-represented amongst those with high levels of psychological distress.

In our culture, patients have been mocked and portrayed as violent yet they are no more violent than others. They are more likely to be victims of violence and crime.

Mentally-ill people are no less members of the Body of Christ than anyone else yet they and their families can feel isolated from their faith communities which need to be places of acceptance, care and healing. Pope Francis urges us to go to those on the edges; let’s not wait for them to come to us seeking welcome. **With and through our limitations, all of us give glory to God and share in Jesus’ mission.**

The Bishops’ document, *Do Not Be Afraid (2019)* describes very practical steps for us to take. Let’s learn from members of our community who have experienced mental ill-health.

*Could this be
your Ministry?*

