



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, PARNELL  
NEWSLETTER  
TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
4 OCTOBER 2020

**Pastor's Note**

Most people would agree that the telling of stories is a good way to get a message across, in fact most stories including children's stories have a deeper message as the back bone of the plot. One story that springs to mind is the story of "The boy who cried wolf", this story clearly teaches that it is always best to tell the truth otherwise, if we do not then the time we need people to believe us they will think that we are just telling tales again. The Gospel parable for this Sunday fits into this category of being a story with a much deeper message. The message that Jesus is teaching is that we need to be prepared align ourselves with God in order to receive God's will in our life, rather than fighting against it and trying to impose our own ideas on how things should unfold.

The parable that Jesus tells the people this Sunday has many elements that are like a good moral story. However, there are many more layers to the parable than just the moral dimension. In this particular parable of the "landlord's heir" we hear a recounting of what has historically taken place. The people that were sent to the tenants (the people of Israel) to collect the produce were the prophets sent to put God's chosen people back on track. Yet the people refused to be corrected and as history tells us the prophets were rejected, abused, and killed by the very people that they were sent to help. Finally, Jesus introduces himself into the story prophesying that some of the chosen people would reject him, and desire to kill him. Jesus refers to himself as a keystone which will be rejected by the people, who do not understand how God wishes to lead them.

In the ancient near east a keystone was not the stone that held up an arch as we see in European stone masonry. Instead Jesus is referring a very large stone which would have been placed at the corner of the building and from which every other stone would take its placement from. We have this honour and challenge placed before us each day as Christians, we are called to face up to the keystone and take our life from his. Jesus prophesies that all of the peoples of the world will be called to take their cue from him in order to bear the fruit that the people of Israel were reluctant to produce.

Jesus calls us into this new extended family and in a special way is calling us to always turn towards him, to always get our reference point from him. To ask God what he wants us to do with our life? This can be one of the hardest things we can do. Yet, we don't have to start at the hardest question we can always start with today, asking God in prayer, what we can do to help build up the kingdom of God, what we can do to be that person that produces the fruit that God desires of us. When we place ourselves before God in prayer, we are facing ourselves toward the keystone, where we receive the guidance we need to be the people we are created to be.

*Blessings ~ Fr Tony King-Archer  
Assistant Priest, Cathedral St Patrick & St Joseph*

**Liturgy of the Word**

~ **Isaiah 5:1-7** Israel is compared to a well cared for vineyard which fails to produce fruit.

~ **Psalm 80** The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

~ **Philippians 4:6-9** St Paul warns the converts at Philippi against anxiety, and advises them as to how they should live in order to enjoy the peace of God

~ **Gospel Matthew 21:33-43** The parable of the wicked vine-dressers tells of God's goodness to his people, and their failure to respond in kind.

**Next Week's readings: Isaiah 25:6-10; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:12-14.19-20; Matthew 22:1-14**

For Sunday and weekday readings see: [mobilegabriel.com](http://mobilegabriel.com) AND [www.livingtheword.org.nz](http://www.livingtheword.org.nz)

*Please pray for those who are sick, recovering from surgery or needing our prayers, especially:*

John Lee, Teresa Gudex, Ana Laura Robles, Ana Denisse Manjarrez, Brian Murphy, Christopher Hughes, Alberto Olarte, Sue Bedford, Graeme Owens, Joe Raymond, Ben Hunt, Ambi Joseph, Ivy Hi, AS, Fr Martin Bugler, Royston Beckham, Sepi Fe'ao, Margaret Everett, John & Rosa Williams, Ann Sayegh, Terry Hodge, Marie Mole, Linda Mole, Fr Andrei Centeno, Elizabeth Beckham, Dolly P, Alana North, Chris Dwyer, Maurice Robinson, Kanawhat (Pui) Cheevachit, Alice Swann, Yaroslav Khmel, Linus Broughton, BC, Emy Calma, Sue Wynne Davis, Michael Wong, Patricia Wright, Luigi & Dawn Rocca, Kirei Tua, Maree C, Rosily Chacko, Bonifacio Sanches, Michael Swann, Gavin Alexander, Mary Bratton, Julie Nicholls, Joy Agon, Chonusi William, Buntly Hart, Eric & Rachel Smith, Maria Martho, Rosa Santos, Francisco Billinilanz, Benny Clynes, Tom Keane, Lynn Barnett Welsh, Thilsi Vern, Neira, Christopher Browne, Barry Spooner, Jon Manson, Anne Telles, Bronwyn Ryan, Nicholas James, Judy Hanna, Pamela Vincent, Sheila Birnie, Shane McGruddy, Michelle Bergin, Rosita Galarg, J. Harrington, Rodolfo Paragas, Serena Coughy, Frank Van Nieukerk, John Kainuku, Noline Levick, Jane Ireland, Jin Shu Qin, Ann Gordon, Jill Hopgood-Luyers, Teana Jones, Martin Harriman, Virgilia Velasquez, Wilfred Mansoor, Adelaida Sison, Baden McPherson, Shannon Kavanagh, John & Gloria Gillespie.

*We remember those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur at this time . . .*

Fr Phillip Handforth, Luming Derado, Connie Garcia, Maurice Aldridge, Jocelyn Franklin, Stephen Nobilo, Fidel Dionisio, Albert Smits, Sr Moira Feeney rsm, Sr Lorraine Challis OP, Jill Perry, Tony Brown, Sr Margaret Maher RSCJ, Mary Ashton, Margaret Foster, Teresa Fisher, Florence Neven, Hugh Laracy, Neville Williams, Conchita Benitez, Msgr Vincent Hunt, Fr Lawrie Sakey, Ken Giblin, Brian Fitzpatrick, Mark Fitzpatrick, Mary McDiarmid, Matija Selak, Ruru Hotene Karnuth, Emmanuel Santos, Ann Melendes Tuazon, Senia Auva'a, Karen Cipriano, John Rountree, Donna Carreon, Walter Homan, Sue Neal, Cameron Murphy, Pat Hendry, Delfino Labay, Patrick Early Snr, Kaz Wisniewski, Maria Lette, Phyllis Revel, Kathleen Wiles-Pickard, Fr Peter Kay, Zita Kean, Kathleen Vanniselroy, Anna Mlekusch, Pamela Muffty, Marie Wratt, Anne Mayall, Rosemary Eller, Joan Little, Edward Waldron, Bobby Gee, Jim Walsh, Irene Roca, Austin Donegan, Joan Gillies, Kalala Fuimaono, Benjamin Mendoza, Josefina Abellana, Fr Leo Downey, Fr Philip Catcheside IC

*. . . Eternal rest grant to them.*

## ALERT LEVEL 2 at ST JOHN

### **Reminders for those coming to ANY of the Public Masses here at St John:**

- Scan and check-in when you arrive or alternatively, write down your details on the Visitor's logbook provided on the church foyer.
- Wear a face mask when possible.
- Stay home if you are unwell.

Visit our website - [www.parnellcatholic.org.nz](http://www.parnellcatholic.org.nz) or connect with us on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnTheBaptistParnell> for the latest updates.

### Weekday Mass & Reconciliation Under Level 2

Monday to Friday: 12.10pm

Saturday & Public Holidays: 9am

Reconciliation: Saturday 9.30am

We also ask that those coming to reconciliation wear a face mask or some form of facial covering.

### Priests Presiding this Weekend

Saturday vigil, 5pm—Fr Chris Denham

Sunday 7am—Fr Chris Denham

Sunday 9.30am—Fr Chris Denham

### Parnell Parish Office Hours - Under Alert Level 2

Tuesday & Wednesday 9.15am-3.15pm

Thursday 9.30am-5.30pm.

**\*Please email [office@parnellcatholic.org.nz](mailto:office@parnellcatholic.org.nz) ahead of time if you need to come and visit the office.**

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**Sunday Mass on TV**—Sunday Mass continues to be broadcast at 2 pm on Shine TV channel 25 or Sky channel 201.

It will also available to download from 6pm Saturday on the diocesan website <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/>.



### Accommodation Wanted

Mr Hilary Grant, a parishioner of St John's is looking to find a granny flat or to house share nearby from 30<sup>th</sup> October. This will be for approximately 2-3 months (or longer). Please contact Felina via email [office@parnellcatholic.org.nz](mailto:office@parnellcatholic.org.nz) or phone Hilary directly at 52903455(phone until 6 October) or 0212200306.

**Online Session (Retreat Day): Who am I?**— Reflecting on our Identity in God with Eamon Butler. Saturday, 28 November, 10.30am-4pm. Fee: \$60. (Please note new Date!)  
For more information and registration: [info@studyjoy.nz](mailto:info@studyjoy.nz)  
<https://www.studyjoy.nz/events/virtual-retreat-day-with-eamon-butler-who-am-i/>

**Liturgy, Prayer, Pastoral Care and Pandemics**—is a free online Zoom lecture by Sr Prof Julia Upton Provost Emerita and retired Distinguished Professor in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at St. John's University NY. Monday October 12 10-11.30am (AEDT). Register by 7 October at [www.acu.edu.au/LectureUpton](http://www.acu.edu.au/LectureUpton). Email for more information [centreforliturgy@acu.edu.au](mailto:centreforliturgy@acu.edu.au)

## Season of Creation - 1 September to 4 October

Today with the Feast of St Francis, we mark the end of the Season of Creation. As Pope Francis says that it is Francis of Assisi who "*reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us*". (Laudato Si' #1).

**Liturgy Conference** - Although the Liturgy Conference has been postponed until October 2021 on Friday & Saturday a number of digital presentations from Conference presenters were uploaded to [wuss.org.nz](http://wuss.org.nz) They can also be found at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLYVVDAh6gEBGsLd5gUCCuoJADbvRgC-9k>

**Jubilee Bursary**—APPLICATIONS INVITED for Semester 1, 2021. Applicants must be Catholic and contributing to the mission of the Catholic Church in the Auckland Diocese. The bursary is a contribution toward fees for Theology and RE courses at degree and post graduate level.

Applications close Thursday, 12 November 2020.

For information and an application pack please contact: Michelle Jarvis [michellej@cda.org.nz](mailto:michellej@cda.org.nz) Ph:(09)360-3091.

**Beginning Experience**- ALONE AGAIN? A weekend away to help those suffering the heartache of Separation, Divorce, or Widowhood 6-8 November. The Beginning Experience is a non-profit organization that provides support for the grieving single again and offers an opportunity to turn the pain of loss into an experience of positive growth. The total cost for 2 nights' accommodation, meals, and materials, plus a follow up event is \$350. For further information please phone Kelly 0276864416 or Bev 09 298 9943 & 0272481631

[www.beginningexperience.org.nz](http://www.beginningexperience.org.nz)

### The NZ Catholic Bishops' 2020 Election Statement- Whakapuaki Pōti

A commentator noted that the 2020 General Election with its accompanying referendum is one of the most interesting and challenging. In order to assist people in their discernment the New Zealand Bishops' Conference has produced their *2020 Election Statement*.

This is available digitally [www.catholic.org.nz/assets/Uploads/Catholic-Bishops-Election-Statement-2020.pdf](http://www.catholic.org.nz/assets/Uploads/Catholic-Bishops-Election-Statement-2020.pdf).

### Be informed about the End of Life Choice Act Referendum:

- The End of Life Choice Act provides access to an assisted death for those with less than 6 months to live. Yet any prognosis, especially as long as 6 months, is a guess. Overseas research shows that the choice of euthanasia is not driven by pain but by a range of personal reasons, including the fear of being a burden to their families or society.
- The End of Life Choice Act has no mandatory stand-down or cooling off period (as in other countries) - under the End of Life Choice Act, a person could be dead less than 4 days after diagnosis, and be under no obligation to inform their families or carers of their decision. The process does not even require the presence of an independent witness.

Whatever one's views about the idea of euthanasia, it is not 'compassion' to vote for a dangerous law.

See [www.riskylaw.nz](http://www.riskylaw.nz) or [www.votesafe.nz](http://www.votesafe.nz) or

[www.carealliance.org.nz](http://www.carealliance.org.nz) or [www.nathaniel.org.nz](http://www.nathaniel.org.nz)

Authorised by John Kleinsman, 15 Guildford Terrace, Thorndon, Wellington

**The Nathaniel Report**-published by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Nathaniel Centre for Bioethics. The issue is available at [www.catholic.org.nz/assets/Uploads/Nathaniel-Report-61-FINAL.pdf](http://www.catholic.org.nz/assets/Uploads/Nathaniel-Report-61-FINAL.pdf)

**NZ Catholic** - the latest free digital edition is now available for everyone at: <https://indd.adobe.com/view/698d4346-8ba8-465b-9b90-c612e4d57a8c>