



The Parish of

St Anne & St Bede

**Parish Office:** 1 Severn St, Balwyn North

**Office Hours:** Closed during Stage 4 Restrictions.

**Phone:** 9401 6355  
in case of emergency 9401 6368

**E-mail:** [balwynnorthkeweast@cam.org.au](mailto:balwynnorthkeweast@cam.org.au)

**Website:** [parishofstanneandstbede.org.au](http://parishofstanneandstbede.org.au)

**For those wishing to contribute to Stewardship or Priests' collection, the Parish account details are listed below for electronic funds transfer.**

1<sup>st</sup> Collection

**Account name: St Bede's Presbytery Account  
Presbytery Account BSB: 083 347 Account no.  
666017079**

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection

**Account name: St Bede's Church Account Church  
Account BSB: 083 347 Account no. 458706734**

**Please click on the link below from 5pm on Saturday, 3 October, to watch Mass Online, celebrated by our priests: <https://youtu.be/9zBTxUx2gno>**

### **First Reading - Isaiah 5:1-7**

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.

*The word of the Lord.*

### **Responsorial Psalm – 79(80):9,12-16,19-20**

**R. The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.**

You brought a vine out of Egypt;  
to plant it you drove out the nations.  
It stretched out its branches to the sea,  
to the Great River it stretched out its shoots. **R.**

Then why have you broken down its walls?  
It is plucked by all who pass by.  
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,  
devoured by the beasts of the field. **R.**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine you right hand has planted. **R.**

And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name.  
God of hosts, bring us back;  
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved. **R.**

### **Second Reading – Philippians 4:6-9**

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

*The word of the Lord.*



## **Gospel – Matthew 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.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*



## *REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL*

In our daily lives, we usually expect to get a good return for any investment we might make. Those who have money to spare will often invest it in property or shares or in a business on the understanding that the value will increase over time and they'll give a good return.

When we invest time and energy in some project or other we expect that we will see good results for our efforts. Those who study hard expect to do well in exams. Parents who invest themselves generously in their children hope that they will do well in life. Spouses invest themselves in each other and for each other in love looking to create a mutually fulfilling life. Young people invest themselves in their friends, to share life experiences.

Yet, we know from our own experience that we do not always get a return that is proportionate to what we have invested. Markets can collapse unexpectedly and the money we have invested does not give us a good return. People in whom we invest a great deal will sometimes disappoint us. It is that kind of experience of a poor return for a good investment that is reflected in today's 1st Reading.

The image of the vineyard tells of God's relationship with God's people. God had invested greatly in the people and, yet, the return for God's loving investment was disappointing. But, the disappointing return on God's investment in God's people did not lead God to reject them. Instead, God invested more heavily in them, by giving them the son, as the parable of Jesus in today's Gospel makes clear. Even when that investment was met with violence and rejection, God did not take back that investment. Rather, in the words of the Gospel, the rejected stone became the corner-stone of a new community, to which all people were invited to belong.

Brothers and sisters, every time we celebrate the Eucharist, God puts before us the gift of God's Son anew, holding him out to us as the bread of life. The Eucharist is, in a sense, the sacrament of God's persistent love. Nevertheless, God does expect some return for this investment of love. That is why we look towards God to keep on investing in us.

I'm sometimes in awe of what God has invested in me, so sometime this weekend, especially in this difficult time of Covid19, let us reflect on what God has invested in us, and ask what return would God look for from each of us for that investment.

*Fr Toan Nguyen*

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

**Celebrant:** St. Paul tells us to make our requests known to God who will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Confident in his merciful love, we now pray.

We pray for Pope Francis and all Bishops of our Church. May the Lord strengthen and encourage them in their ministry of caring for his vineyard.

*Lord hear us.*

We pray for all women and men called to work in God's vineyard. May they be supported in their endeavours and may they see the fruits of their labours.

*Lord hear us.*

We pray for those who work with families. May they be guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit in their work and may their efforts bring peace and happiness to the families who seek their assistance.

*Lord hear us.*

We pray for each of us in our faith community, especially all married people. May we grow sensitive to each other's needs to strengthen the bond that unites us in God's love.

*Lord hear us.*

We pray for the sick and lonely of our parish, especially **Shaun Cunningham** and all who have asked for our prayers. We remember especially all those residents in our nursing homes and for all people affected by the coronavirus pandemic throughout our world and for those who care for them.

*Lord hear us*

We pray for those who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially **Mary and Ned Coulson, Lena Despard, Sr Majella, Caterina D'Amico, Brian Meikle, Leo Prichard, and Percy Worsnop**. May God welcome them into the Eternal Kingdom.

*Lord hear us*

**Celebrant:** Hear the prayers of your people, O God. Thankful for the love and compassion bestowed on us in the past, we ask that you continue to bless us with your abundant grace, through Christ our Lord. Amen

### AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,  
I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament.  
I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least  
spiritually into my heart.  
As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself  
entirely to You;  
never permit me to be separated from You.  
Amen.

## PARISH NEWS



### To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the canonisation of Saint Mary MacKillop

We invite you to order your free copy of  
*Encountering St Mary MacKillop in Prayer*

The Sisters of Saint Joseph have created a commemorative prayer booklet to inspire us all to “**take fresh courage...**” as Mary did so often. These prayers share details of her personal journey, highlighting Mary’s values and spirit, and offering prayers and blessings for our modern world.

To order your exclusive copy please go to:  
[www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/prayer-book](http://www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/prayer-book)  
or call us on Ph: 02 8912 2777

MARY MACKILLOP  
*today*

### SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL VULNERABLE PEOPLE

We hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our parish. The Parish Statement of Commitment and Reporting Process are on display in all churches and all Parish Policies are available on the website or at the parish office.