

Religious Education Department
Twenty Seventh Sunday of the Year A
Week Beginning 4th October 2026

Listen to God's Message

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts in Christ Jesus'

The Season of Creation draws to a close today on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. It is fitting that throughout this Sunday's readings, the vineyard is used as a way of illustrating our relationship with God.

First Reading: Isaiah 5: 1-7: Uses a song of love to describe how God cares and protects us, his precious vines. Although we remain rooted in that love, we may not always produce the fruit of God's love.

Responsorial Psalm: 80: 9, 12, 13-14: Uses the same vineyard imagery. It is a song of repentance and longing to return to God's protection.

Second Reading: Philippians 4: 6-9: Paul's letter to the Philippians assures us that through prayer and thanksgiving we need not be afraid, because our hearts and minds are guarded in Christ Jesus. We will bear good fruit when we set our hearts on what is true, honourable, just, pure and lovely in the Lord.

Gospel Matthew 21: 33-43: Jesus uses the image of the vineyard to illustrate how God's radical message of love, professed by ancient prophets and by himself, has been ignored and rejected. Despite this, Jesus can confidently proclaim the truth: that what people have ignored will become the foundation of a new covenant of love.

May Christ Jesus, who forever guards our hearts and sustains us in his love, give us the courage and strength to lead lives centred on truth, justice, peace and compassion for all.

Introduction:

Jesus came to share the Good News and to bring God's message to all people. He wanted them to learn how to live in the love of God and one's neighbour, and to know what mattered most in life. Many people did not listen, and so Jesus told them that he would give his message to others.

Sign of the Cross

The path to our heavenly Father is like the rising sun, getting brighter and brighter as we draw closer to God. Those who turn away from his love, follow a path as dark as the night, and they stumble and fall because they cannot see the way.

Gospel Reading: (Matthew 21: 33-43)

Jesus told another parable to the people. 'There was once a farmer who owned a vineyard. He had to go away on business, and so he put some farm workers in charge of the vineyard. When it was time to harvest the grapes, the farmer sent some servants to collect his share. But the farm workers beat his servants and chased them away. The farmer did not give up, and sent more servants to collect what belonged to him.

Again, they were beaten and chased off. Finally, the farmer sent his own son. 'I am sure that they will treat him better,' he said. Instead, the farm workers seized the son and killed him.'

Then Jesus asked, 'What will the farmer do when he arrives at the vineyard?' The people who had been listening answered, 'He will punish the farm workers and put other people in charge of his vineyard!'

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Prayer:

Loving God, open our ears to hear your message,
open our hearts to receive your love,
and open our eyes to see where we can serve others.
Help us to use the gifts you have given us wisely
and to produce the good fruits of kindness,
respect, forgiveness and love.
May our words and actions always lead others closer to you.
Amen.

Gospel Reflection: Matthew 21:33–43:

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us about a farmer who owned a vineyard. He trusted other people to look after it while he was away. When the farmer sent his servants to collect what belonged to him, the workers refused to listen. Eventually, he sent his own son, believing that they would respect him, but sadly they rejected him too.

Jesus uses this story to make us think about **how we respond when God speaks to us.**

The vineyard can remind us of the world and the life that God has entrusted to us. God has given each of us gifts, talents, opportunities and people to care for. But having these gifts also brings responsibility. God asks us to use what we have wisely and lovingly.

Sometimes God speaks to us through the Gospel, through our families and teachers, through our conscience, and through people who need our help. The important question is: **Are we listening?**

It is easy to hear God's message without allowing it to change us. Jesus challenges us not simply to say that we are Christians, but to **show our faith through the way we live.**

This week, let us ask ourselves:

Am I listening to God's message?

Do my choices show God's love to others?

How can I use the gifts God has given me to make a difference?

Our challenge is simple: **listen to God, recognise the gifts he has given us, and use them to produce good fruit through kindness, forgiveness, service and love.**

CREST link:

I would particularly link this Gospel to **Service**. God entrusts his vineyard to others, and we too are entrusted with opportunities to serve God by serving one another. It also links beautifully with **Respect**, because listening to God's message means recognising the dignity and value of others.

The God Who Speaks:

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (**Isaiah 41:10**).

However, they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. (**Isaiah 40:31**).

October: A Month of Prayer, Reflection and Celebration

October is a special month in the life of our Catholic school community. Traditionally, the Church dedicates October to the **Holy Rosary**, inviting us to spend time with Mary as we reflect on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Throughout October, we encourage members of our school community to take a few moments away from the busyness of everyday life for prayer and reflection. **The school chapel is open to anyone who would like to pray the Rosary**, either individually or with others. Whether you pray a full Rosary, a

decade, or simply spend a few quiet moments in prayer, everyone is warmly welcome.

October is also **Black History Month in the UK**, providing an important opportunity to recognise, celebrate and learn more about the history, achievements and contributions of Black people and communities.

As a Catholic community, this month also reminds us of our belief that **every person is created in the image and likeness of God**. We are therefore called to treat one another with dignity, respect and love, to challenge prejudice and discrimination, and to work together for a community in which everyone knows that they are valued and belongs.

As we journey through October, may we follow Mary's example of faith and courage, celebrate the richness and diversity of our community, and continue to pray and work for a world of **justice, peace, equality and hope**.

Prayer for October

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of this new month.

Through the prayers of Mary, our Mother,
help us to grow closer to Jesus.

Teach us to recognise your image in every person
and to celebrate the gifts, cultures and stories
that enrich our community.

Give us the courage to challenge injustice,
the compassion to stand alongside others,
and the wisdom to build a community of love, dignity and peace.

Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us. Amen.

