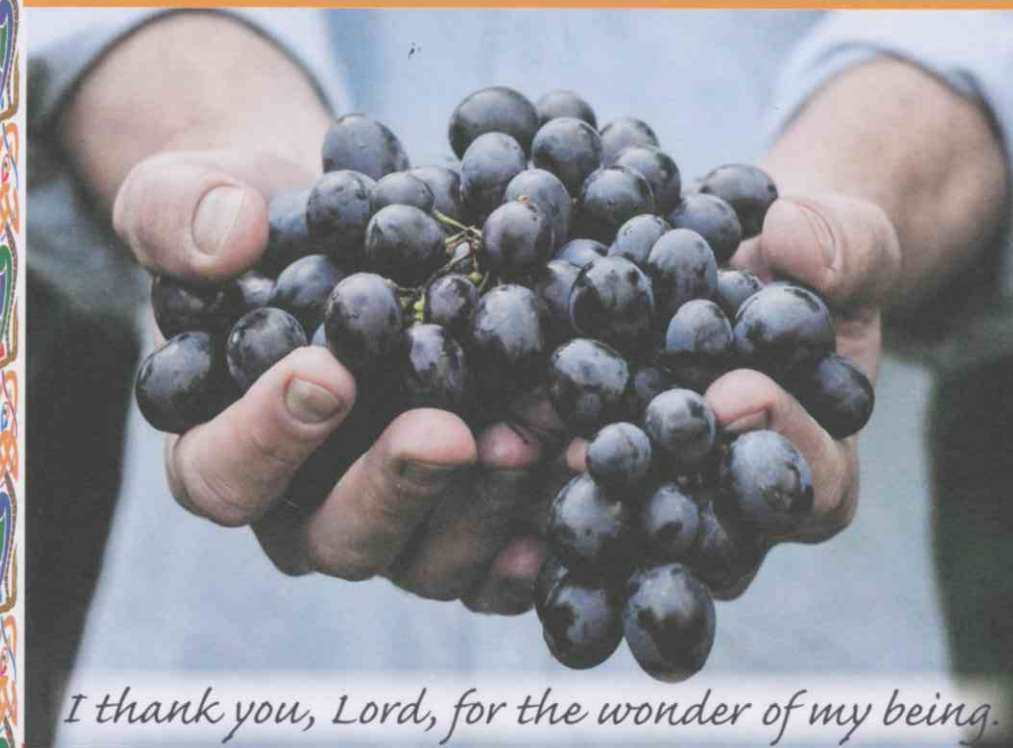


focus on sunday

Day for Life

The graces and gifts which God gives to us are both signs to us of his love and his care, and also his expectation that they will bear fruit in our lives.



I thank you, Lord, for the wonder of my being.



The gospel today depicts a lot of violence and downplaying of the value of life. The landowner like God is looking for the produce from his people and they want to keep it for themselves and so murder anyone coming for it, including the son, a hint here of what would happen Jesus.

Many lessons come out of this parable and for this Day for Life we can let it remind us of the value of life. All human life from natural beginning to end is sacred, the most precious gift of God. We know this deep down as we care for our own health and the health of our families. We know the value of life when we find carelessness in treatment of our sick, especially the elderly. We know this care for life in our care for the unborn. Our Day for Life reminds us of the value of every human life, created by God.

Today we recall the violence in our cities which has resulted in the brutal killing of many men and women, often in family situations. We try to support as best we can people, who in many ways support life, often in dangerous situations, like the Gardaí, social workers and our military in UN missions. As we think of the son being killed in the parable today we think of Jesus the Son of God killed in our name, and allow the life of the risen Lord keep us strong in our love for life and the valuing of all life.

Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger

Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey

Jesus liked vine trees. He drank wine at parties, and told us that God Our Father gave the whole world to us to be shared, and on loan, not to be owned. A little boy sat begging on the street. He asked "Give me some help and God bless you." A man said to him "God didn't bless you much." The boy said "God did bless me Sir. God gave money to others for me, but they forgot to share." We share the world too in the way we care for Nature, the green grass, the trees, the flowers, our pets, and we try not to litter God's gifts.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
I chose you from the world to go out and bear fruit,
fruit that will last, says the Lord.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 21: 33 - 43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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 that will produce its fruit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

All bow for following three lines:

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

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 on Judah that chosen plant.

He expected justice, but found bloodshed, integrity, but only a cry of distress.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps. 79:9, 12-16, 19-20

R. The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

1. 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]

2. 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]

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

4. 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
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

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.

Thanks be to God.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

GREETING

In the name of the Father, **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Have mercy on us, O Lord.

For we have sinned against you.

Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

And grant us your salvation.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;

you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God, who in the abundance of your kindness surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat you, pour out your mercy upon us to pardon what conscience dreads and to give what prayer does not dare to ask.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 5: 1 - 7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard. My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.

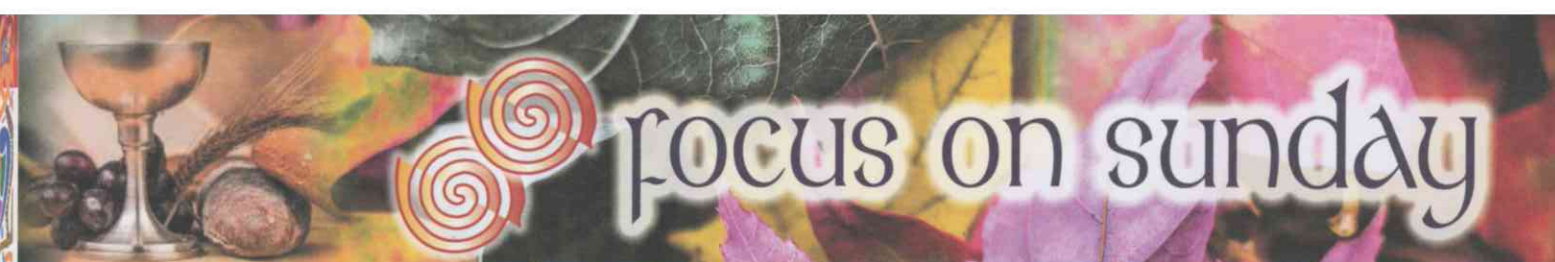
He dug the soil, cleared it of stones, and planted choice vines in it.

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



He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters,

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, we pray, the sacrifices instituted by your commands and, through the sacred mysteries, which we celebrate with dutiful service, graciously complete the sanctifying work by which you are pleased to redeem us. Through Christ our Lord.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Though many, we are one bread, one body, for we all partake of the one Bread and one Chalice.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant us, almighty God, that we may be refreshed and nourished by the Sacrament which we have received, so as to be transformed into what we consume.

Through Christ our Lord.