

## EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

# VINEYARD

### EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

#### *Reflecting on the Gospel*

##### *Parable of the vineyard (Matthew 21: 33-46)*

In chapter 21 Matthew continues the confrontation between Jesus and the chief priests and elders of the people that followed from Jesus' actions on Palm Sunday and his removal of the money changers from the temple. In this passage Matthew is also anticipating the significance of the crucifixion and he does so through the parable of the vineyard. Through the imagery of the Old Testament, the vineyard had become an established symbol for God's people. This parable spells out how the tenants had killed the owner's son. Then it invites the listeners to pass judgement on the tenants in the story. In so doing the listeners pass judgement on themselves. God will entrust the vineyard to others.

Our image to stimulate reflection on this passage is *vineyard*.

#### *Extracts from the Gospel passage (Matthew 21: 33-35)*

Jesus said, 'Listen to another parable.  
There was a landowner who planted a vineyard,  
put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it,  
and built a watch-tower.  
Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country.  
When the harvest time had come,  
he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce.  
But the tenants seized his slaves  
and beat one, killed another, and stoned another.'

#### *Gospel prayer*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you call us to work in your vineyard.  
Make us worthy of our calling,  
that we may grow good fruit for you;  
now and always.  
Amen.

## **ENGAGING WITH THE THEME AT HOME**

### ***Reflecting and meditating***

Reflect on the context in which the parable of the vineyard is placed and on the reaction of those who were listening (Matthew 21: 33-46):

- what details in the passage catch your attention?
- what big ideas does the passage spark in your mind?
- what most touches your heart in the passage?
- what most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage?

### ***Thinking and talking***

- how does the image of the vineyard work in the Bible and in this parable?
- how does the transition from sending servants to sending his son work in this parable?
- what do you make of the reaction of the landowner in this parable?
- what do you make of the reaction of those who were listening?
- how should we interpret this parable for today?

### ***Using your Bible***

Matthew takes this parable directly from Mark, but he adds to it a verse that presents his own interpretation very powerfully (v. 43) Explore further how Matthew's account compares with Mark and with Luke:

- Mark 12: 1-12
- Luke 20: 9-19

Explore passages in the Old Testament that establish the image of the vineyard:

- Psalm 80: 8-17
- Isaiah 5: 1-7

### ***Exploring online***

- explore images of vineyards in the Bible
- explore interpretations of Matthew 21: 33-46
- explore vineyards close to you

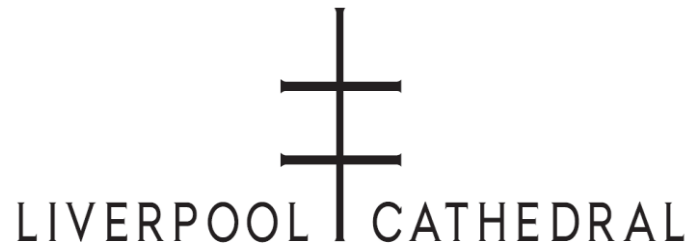
### ***Drawing on experience***

- reflect on your experience of visiting vineyards
- reflect on the care that vineyards need
- reflect on what you know about vineyards and wineries

## PROPER 22 (YEAR A) SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER 2020

### *Creating and making*

- create a collage of pictures of vineyards
- create a poster on Psalm 80: God planted a vineyard
- create a guide to vineyards close to you
- create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of God's vineyard



## **EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME**

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to [Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk](mailto:Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk)

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales and the St Christopher's College Trust.



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