



# THE LORD'S VINEYARD

(MATTHEW 21:33-43)

Once again, we come across the symbol of the vineyard. In the Hebrew Bible, this image is often used in relation to Israel, and we found it in the parable of the generous owner who paid all his workers at the same rate.

Jesus tells this parable we hear today to the chief priests and elders, who have a position of authority among the people, and therefore one of responsibility for their wellbeing and care. The thrust of the parable concerns the Jewish leaders' plot to have Jesus killed: Matthew thus presents their treatment of Jesus as being in line with previous leaders' conduct towards the earlier prophets (although there is no evidence of any biblical prophets being murdered). We might remember that Matthew's community has a good proportion of Jewish members, so the rejection he speaks of is of the Jewish leaders, and not Israel as a whole. It is the tenants who are replaced, not the vineyard itself. Perhaps the better understanding of the expression that the kingdom of God will be "given to a people who will produce its fruit" is that it applies to the leaders of the Jewish-Christian community of which Matthew is a member. ■

## REFLECT

A worrying phenomenon in recent times has been the rise of prejudice against all sorts of people. Suspicion of "foreigners", immigrants, people seeking asylum and refuge has become commonplace throughout the northern hemisphere. The return of antisemitism especially has been noticeable in many quarters. In the past, this has been fuelled especially by texts from the Gospels according to Matthew and John, which have been interpreted as laying the blame for the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus squarely at the feet of the Jewish people as a whole. The Christian Church was portrayed as the true Israel, replacing God's covenant with Israel.

Critical scholarship of the New Testament has called into question this blanket blaming of the entire Jewish people: the leaders, chiefly concerned with the political implications of Jesus' teaching being a threat to their social position, were the ones who brought about Jesus' death, and had him executed, not as the Son of God, but on the political charge of claiming to be "the King of the Jews". Given the fact that the early Church existed in the Roman Empire, it was diplomatic to shift the responsibility for the crucifixion away from the Roman authorities and onto the Jewish leaders.

We might remember that one of the ingredients which went into the writing of the Gospels was the situation of the community in which the evangelist, in this case, Matthew, was at work. So the hostility between Jesus and the leaders of his time reflects the later difficulties between the Church and the synagogue. Jesus was a Jew, and many of his teachings are in harmony with those of rabbis whose sayings have come down to us through the writings of their disciples. Pope Francis has shown by his actions the importance of respect for people of other faiths, especially Jews and Muslims, out of which genuine friendship can grow. ■

## SAY

**Jesus is the true vine:  
we are his branches.  
(see John 15:5)**

## LEARN

The vineyard is a symbol frequently used in the Bible to represent Israel.

The chief priests and elders were essentially political figures: their power base was the Jerusalem Temple.

Jesus was put to death on a political charge, which was published on the inscription on the cross: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews".

## DO

Find out if there is an ecumenical or interfaith group in your local area: consider going to a meeting to discover what members of other denominations or religions actually are like, and what they really believe.



**ST. ANNE'S CHURCH  
PILLORY STREET  
NANTWICH. CW5 5SS  
Tel: 01270 625494**

Email [stannesnantwich@btinternet.com](mailto:stannesnantwich@btinternet.com) Website [www.stannesnantwich.org.uk](http://www.stannesnantwich.org.uk)

Parish Twitter Feed @stannesnantwich

Parish Priest: Fr. Tony Grace

Permanent Deacon: Rev. Peter Mascarenhas

Fr Michael Ryan OMI

4<sup>th</sup> October 2020 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time A

Saturday	3	6.30pm	Vigil Mass Cafod Collection	The Parishioners of St Anne's Brian Glynn RIP Anniversary Ian Millard RIP Recently Deceased Attracta Flanagan RIP Recently Deceased
Sunday	4	9.30am	Mass 27 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Cafod Collection	Marek Kotlar RIP Recently Deceased Marjory Jacobson RIP 2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Raymond Davies RIP Recently Deceased Ian Millard RIP Recently Deceased Sheila Wilson RIP Recently Deceased
Monday	5		St Thomas of Hereford	
Tuesday	6	10.00am	Mass St Bruno	John Proctor RIP Peter Callaghan RIP Recently Deceased
Wednesday	7		Our Lady of the Rosary	
Thursday	8	10.00am 11.30am	Mass Funeral Service for Ian Stewart Millard RIP	Susan Washington RIP Recently Deceased Attracta Flanagan RIP Recently Deceased Sheila Wilson RIP Recently Deceased
Friday	9		St John Henry Newman, St John Leonardi St Denis and Companion	
Saturday	10	6.30pm	Vigil Mass St Paulinus of York	The Carmichael Family Alice Alcock RIP Anniversary The Parishioners of St Anne's
Sunday	11	9.30am	Mass 28 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Special Day of Prayer for Prisoners and their dependents	Karine Mooney RIP Recently Deceased Natalie Proctor RIP Ian Millard RIP Recently Deceased

**IN NEED OF A PRIEST** Please contact Fr Grace at St Gabriel's 01270 877736

Prayer and Mass Intentions can be sent by email to us at [stannesnantwich@btinternet.com](mailto:stannesnantwich@btinternet.com)

**The wearing of a face covering is compulsory inside church as we are now socially-distancing at 1 metre + in seating areas. Please provide your own face covering where possible but these are also available in church.**

**Funeral Service** for Ian Stewart Millard RIP 8<sup>th</sup> October at 11.30am followed by burial at Aston Cemetery at 12.45pm. Please pray for the repose of his soul and keep Ian's family in your prayers.

**Requiem Mass** for Sheila Wilson RIP 13<sup>th</sup> October at 11.20am followed by burial at Nantwich Cemetery at 12.45pm. Please pray for the repose of her soul and keep Sheila's family in your prayers.

***On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, our parish marked CAFOD's Family Fast Day to help people facing the worst of the coronavirus crisis. We've all felt the impact of this terrible disease -let's come together to help the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world survive, rebuild and heal. Please pray for all those affected and donate online at [cafod.org.uk/give](http://cafod.org.uk/give) or by using one of the envelopes provided. There will be a second collection next weekend (3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>) for Cafod Family Fast Day and we will leave the 'buckets' out for those attending on the following Tuesday and Thursday. You can also give easily via text. Text CAFOD to 70085 to donate £10. Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text CAFODNOINFO to 70085. For more information, please go to [Cafod.org.uk](http://Cafod.org.uk)***

**Cafod is launching a series of on-line events from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> October including a Fast Day Live Talk, Global Family Food Event, Harvest Quiz and Children's Liturgy. To register for these events go to <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Family-Fast-Day>**



Last week's collection  
£301.20  
Thank you

**Community Hub** Understandably things have been quiet whilst we have been under Covid lockdown however we still need to reach our target before we can take the next step to approach the council for planning. Please do help by making donations via this link <https://app.thegoodexchange.com/project/17726/st-annes-church-nantwich/st-annes-community-hub> or to the presbytery.

**Diocese of Shrewsbury Liturgy Reflection Sheet** For October: <http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Prayer-Resource-for-October.pdf> For 27th Sunday in OT <http://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Reflection-Sheet-27-Sunday.pdf>

**Missio** World Mission Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October [https://missio.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/WMS20\\_Leaflet.pdf](https://missio.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/WMS20_Leaflet.pdf)

**Pope Francis' prayer for September: Respect for the Planet's resources** <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-08/pope-francis-video-prayer-intention-september-respect-planet.html>

**Subject: Autumn talks on Spirituality** You might be interested in a series of eight, roughly fortnightly talks about Spiritual Masters, given by distinguished speakers, which all look very worthwhile. They are free to view live-streamed, although there will be a fee to view recordings Saints, Scholars and Spiritual Masters. A series of online talks on Thursday evenings at 7.30 pm, starting on 3 September organised by the Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst. For details and to register: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/event/saints-scholars-spiritual-masters/>. While you're planning your autumn viewing, you might also be interested in choosing selectively from a new Centre for Applied Carmelite Spirituality series of lectures. This features the five great Teresa's of the Carmelite tradition - Teresa of Avila, Teresa Margaret Redi, Therese of Lisieux, Teresa of the Andes and Teresa Benedicta (Edith Stein). For Teresa of Avila and Therese of Lisieux the paid-for talks in this series overlap with the free talks in the Christian Heritage centre series (given by the same or an equally distinguished lecturer), but it would be a chance to learn about the other Carmelite spiritual masters. The talks in this series will be given on selected Sundays at 8.00 pm between 20 September and 15 November. The cost is £20 for each lecture. For details and to register: <https://mailchi.mp/oxcacs.org/new-spirituality-series-of-lectures-from-cacs?e=1f35f1f3f8>

## Feast and Memorial Days

**St Thomas of Hereford** Mention a medieval St Thomas today, and most people will think of St Thomas Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury murdered in 1170 by soldiers of King Henry II. But St Thomas of Hereford – also known as St Thomas Cantilupe – was another major medieval saint, and his shrine was a very important pilgrimage destination in medieval Britain. The surviving collection of miracle records for St Thomas of Hereford is second only to that of Thomas Becket. St Thomas of Hereford had a varied and colourful career, including training in the law, serving as Chancellor of Oxford University, and involvement in high-level politics as Lord Chancellor of England. He was Bishop of Hereford from 1275 until his death in 1282.

St Thomas's life included a number of colourful disputes and conflicts. At the time of his death, he was involved in an argument with John Peckham, Archbishop of Canterbury – who had excommunicated him. Thomas died on his way to Rome to protest against the excommunication. So, technically he died excommunicate – a tricky challenge for those who later campaigned for his canonisation.

Some years after Thomas's death, the Pope sent a team of investigators to compile and assess the case for making him a saint. It's these detailed records which reveal so much about medieval life – including the story of William Cragh, Swansea's 'hanged man', and his pilgrimage to Hereford.

**John Henry Newman** (21 February 1801 – 11 August 1890) was an English theologian and poet, first an Anglican priest and later a Catholic priest and cardinal, who was an important and controversial figure in the religious history of England in the 19th century. He was known nationally by the mid-1830s, and was canonised as a saint in the Catholic Church in 2019.

Originally an evangelical Oxford University academic and priest in the Church of England, Newman became drawn to the high-church tradition of Anglicanism. He became one of the more notable leaders of the Oxford Movement, an influential and controversial grouping of Anglicans who wished to return to the Church of England many Catholic beliefs and liturgical rituals from before the English Reformation. In this, the movement had some success. After publishing his controversial "Tract 90" in 1841, Newman later wrote, "I was on my death-bed, as regards my membership with the Anglican Church". In 1845 Newman, joined by some but not all of his followers, officially left the Church of England and his teaching post at Oxford University and was received into the Catholic Church. He was quickly ordained as a priest and continued as an influential religious leader, based in Birmingham. In 1879, he was created a cardinal by Pope Leo XIII in recognition of his services to the cause of the Catholic Church in England. He was instrumental in the founding of the Catholic University of Ireland (CUI) in 1854, although he had left Dublin by 1859. CUI in time evolved into University College Dublin.

Newman was also a literary figure: his major writings include the *Tracts for the Times* (1833–1841), his autobiography *Apologia Pro Vita Sua* (1865–1866), the *Grammar of Assent* (1870), and the poem "The Dream of Gerontius" (1865), which was set to music in 1900 by Edward Elgar. He wrote the popular hymns "Lead, Kindly Light", "Firmly I believe, and truly" (taken from *Gerontius*), and "Praise to the Holiest in the Height" (taken from *Gerontius*).

Newman's beatification was officially proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI on 19 September 2010 during his visit to the United Kingdom. His canonisation was officially approved by Pope Francis on 12 February 2019, and took place on 13 October 2019.

He is the fifth saint of the City of London, behind Thomas Becket (born in Cheapside), Thomas More (born on Milk Street), Edmund Campion (son of a London book seller) and Polydore Plasden (of Fleet Street).

Source: Wikipedia

**Sanctuaries, shrines Catholics can 'visit' virtually in Europe, Mideast.** <https://catholicsentinel.org/Content/Arts/Arts-and-Entertainment/Article/Sanctuaries-shrines-Catholics-can-visit-virtually-in-Europe-Mideast/6/31/40431>

**Journeying Together** <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/journeying-together/>

**Shrewsbury Youth Mission.** <https://www.symt.org.uk/>

**The National Shrine for Our Lady of Walsingham** [www.walsingham.org.uk/livestream](http://www.walsingham.org.uk/livestream)

**Laudato Tree** <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/world/news/2020-05/laudato-tree-sahel-pope-francis-laudato-si-year.html>

**Watch a Mass from home. Live-streaming of Masses** Shrewsbury Diocese:

<http://www.churchservices.tv/shrewsburycathedral/embed#tab-player> Church Services TV: <https://www.churchservices.tv/timetable/>

Prayer resources at: <http://pathwaystogod.org/>. <https://www.sacredspace.ie/> <http://ln54.blogspot.com>

<http://prayasyougo.org/>

**Catholic Bishops Conference** <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/> and latest news <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/news-and-media/news/>

Prayer for times of Flu or Illness <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/03/prayer-flu-viruses.pdf>

**Stream Father Denis McBride's Mass for the Dead** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pY1bOyrcDbw>

**Life** Helplines and Information can be found at <http://www.dayforlife.org/article/helplines-and-information-2020/>

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Please continue to pray for our sisters and brothers overseas and all missionaries who share God's love - they tell us the love and strength they receive from us keeps them going.

Money given through the Red Box goes to support both the work of Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries:

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Today. Tomorrow. Together

At Missio, we are committed to supporting our sisters and brothers around the world, through any challenges, struggles and hardships. We will continue to work as best we can during this coronavirus pandemic.

<https://missio.org.uk>

We recently held 'Mission Under the Shadow of Covid-19' online sessions and have put together a brief summary of the sessions, together with edited videos of the contributions of our guest speakers, which can be viewed on this page of Missio's website: <https://missio.org.uk/1s/shadow/>

Faith in Action Reflection <https://missio.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Faith-in-Action-Reflection-Session-Solidarity.pdf>

Mary, the mother of God, was a loving mother and a model for missionaries. That's why we've created this series of Marian resources. Each resource helps children to deepen their appreciation of Mary and learn how she can help us to become missionaries of God's love too.

<https://missiontogether.org.uk/calendar/marian-and-mission-rosary/>

**Missio** World Mission Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October  
[https://missio.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/WMS20\\_Leaflet.pdf](https://missio.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/WMS20_Leaflet.pdf)

### **New Guidelines for attending Mass at St Anne's during Covid 19 Restrictions**

The Masses will be celebrated at the following times:

**Saturday 6.30 pm**  
**Sunday 9.30 am**  
**Tuesday 10.00 am**  
**Thursday 10.00 am**

Numbers inside the church will be limited to approximately 52 people or maybe a few more depending on "household" attendees who can sit together. We urge you to please come to a weekday Mass, if you can, so that those who are working during the week can attend on Saturday or Sunday. Once the capacity of the church has been reached, people will be invited to stand outside or sit outside on chairs which they have brought with them. The doors and windows will be open. Please maintain 2 m apart wherever possible.

- **The wearing of a face covering is compulsory inside church as we are now socially-distancing at 1 metre plus in seating areas. Please provide your own face covering where possible but these are also available in church.**
- **Please sanitise your hands on entry - bring your own if you can but hand sanitiser is available in church..**
- **The church doors will not open until 15 minutes before Mass is due to start. Mass may start a little late if entry to church takes longer than we anticipate. Please do not enter the sacristy for any reason.**
- **Toilets are closed**
- **There is a one-way system inside church and not all benches and chairs are in use so please follow the signs and instructions from the stewards.**
- **Signed Mass cards are available near the entrance. Votive candles will not be in use at weekend Masses. Please do not bring food or drink to church. If necessary, a non-twist top bottle of water may be used. All Newsletters and other items collected in church must be taken away and not left behind.**
- **Please make your weekly offering as you enter church, collection points will be signposted. There will also be collection points at the exits.**
- **Holy Communion will be distributed by one minister: either the celebrant or an extraordinary minister of Communion from a single point. This will be after the Dismissal. Instructions for receiving Holy Communion will be given and the stewards will direct you. Although the celebration of Mass will be slightly shorter than usual, it will take longer to exit the church so please be patient. Those who have been outside will be invited to receive Holy Communion after those in church. Anybody with mobility difficulties should remain in their seats and Holy Communion will be brought to them once the church is empty. Please also sanitise your hands as you leave.**

At the conclusion of the Eucharist Prayer the priest recites the doxology, Per Ipsum, "Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever" words we can look forward to inspiring us once more before joining in responding the great Amen. *Deo gratia.*

**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.

**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.

**COLLECT**

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, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**FIRST READING**

Isaiah 51-7

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  
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.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Psalm 78

Response:

**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 6:8-9

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.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I call you friends, says the Lord,  
because I have made known to you  
everything I have learnt from my Father.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Matthew 21:33-41

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 who will produce its fruit."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

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 during the next 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.  
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.

**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. Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

The Lord is good to those who hope in him,  
to the soul that seeks him.

**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. Amen.