

Liturgy of the Word

Lectio Divina – Holy Listening

Lectio Divina, or Holy Listening is promoted as a way of hearing God's Word. It is listening with the heart.

1. Listen attentively as the Word is read, or as you read it.
2. Notice any word or phrase that seems to stand out or makes you think or feel something. Hold on to it mentally.
3. When the reading is finished, repeat that word or phrase in your mind, almost as if you are taking it for a walk.
4. When that time of prayer is ended, just let the words go.

*In this prayer, we come to meet our God who walks with us. When we encounter the Word of God, we are changed..
Spend a little time in Lectio Divina – Holy Listening at the end of the readings.*

SONG: I am the vine and you are the branches, John Michael Talbot

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHr7Z7ZS3GE>

SIGN OF THE CROSS: Ki te ingoa... Tēnā Koutou Katoa – Good morning and welcome. Today is the 27th Sunday of Ordinary Time and in Aotearoa New Zealand we are asked today by our Bishops, to celebrate the life of Suzanne Aubert. It is also the Feast of St Francis and the final Sunday of the Season of Creation. We are called together this morning as the 'vineyard of the Lord,' who looks to this vineyard for 'a yield of grapes,' the fruit of charity among us.

READER: Let us pray – ka inoi tatou.

You plant the vineyard of the house of Israel, Lord have mercy

You tend the vine and make it grow, Christ have mercy

You lead us in the ways of charity and justice, Lord have mercy

(All) Lord have mercy

(All) Christ have mercy

(All) Lord have mercy

READER: We are asked today to celebrate the life of Suzanne Aubert.

Jesus said: 'First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye.' Matt 7:5

Suzanne Aubert said: 'Do not be scandalized. Do not throw your own work upon the shoulders of your companions. Close your eyes on the mistakes and faults of others. Be broadminded.' (Directory 28,

page 43)

DISCUSS: What wisdom is offered to us here and where do I, or would I like to, bear the fruit of this wisdom in my life?



Photo pexel – Rodolpho Zanardo

COLLECT/OPENING PRAYER: Thank you for your thoughts. Let's take a few moments now to bring to mind our personal intentions. *(Allow silence - 1 minute)*

Almighty and 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, forever and ever.

All: Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me now sing of my friend,
my friend's song concerning his vineyard.
My friend had a vineyard
on a fertile hillside;
he spaded it, cleared it of stones,
and planted the choicest vines;
within it he built a watchtower,
and hewed out a wine press.

Then he looked for the crop of grapes,
but what it yielded was wild grapes.
Now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard:
What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I had not done?
Why, when I looked for the crop of grapes,
did it bring forth wild grapes?
Now, I will let you know
what I mean to do with my vineyard:
take away its hedge, give it to grazing,
break through its wall, let it be trampled!
Yes, I will make it a ruin:
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
but overgrown with thorns and briars;
I will command the clouds
not to send rain upon it.
The vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah are his cherished plant;
he looked for judgment, but see, bloodshed!
for justice, but hark, the outcry!

The Word of the Lord – **Ko te kupu a te Ariki**

ALL: Thanks be to God - **Whakamoemiti ki te Atua**

Silence: Consider: what is the cause of the anger that this story alludes to?

PSALM: 80 – The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TOFGZLUVbEI>

SECOND READING: **Philippians 4:6-9**

Brothers and sisters:

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding
will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters,
whatever is true, whatever is honourable,
whatever is just, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious,
if there is any excellence

and if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things.

Keep on doing what you have learned and received
and heard and seen in me.

Then the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord – **Ko te kupu a te Ariki**

ALL: Thanks be to God – **Whakamoemiti ki te Atua**

Silence: Consider: Where do we see or find things that are true, honourable, just pure, lovely, gracious, excellent, worthy of praise?

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-43

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people:

"Hear another parable.

There was a landowner who planted a vineyard,
put a hedge around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a tower.

Then he leased it to tenants and went on a journey.

When vintage time drew near,
 he sent his servants to the tenants to obtain his produce.
 But the tenants seized the servants and one they beat,
 another they killed, and a third they stoned.
 Again he sent other servants, more numerous than the first ones,
 but they treated them in the same way.
 Finally, he sent his son to them, thinking,
 'They will respect my son.'
 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to one another,
 'This is the heir.
 Come, let us kill him and acquire his inheritance.'
 They seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.
 What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants when he comes?"
 They answered him,
 "He will put those wretched men to a wretched death
 and lease his vineyard to other tenants
 who will give him the produce at the proper times."
 Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures:
*The stone that the builders rejected
 has become the cornerstone;
 by the Lord has this been done,
 and it is wonderful in our eyes?*
 Therefore, I say to you,
 the kingdom of God will be taken away from you
 and given to a people that will produce its fruit."
 The Gospel of the Lord - ***Ko te rongopai a te Ariki***

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ - ***Kia whakanuia rā koe e Hēhu Karaiti.***

SILENT REFLECTION: Recall a few words from the readings that seemed to stand out as you read or listened. Sit quietly and let these words go over and over in your mind – *Lectio Divina*. (3 minutes)

Consider or Discuss: *What is the fruit of the kingdom of God?*

READER: *This video is 'The Life and Times of Suzanne Aubert.'* <https://www.suzanneaubert.co.nz/home/resources/videos/>
 The information below comes from the Sisters of Compassion website.



On Christmas Day 1885, Bishop Redwood blessed St Joseph's Church. When it was burnt down three years later, Suzanne set off on a collecting tour of New Zealand, returning in 1893 with £1000 – enough to build a new church and convent. In 1892 Archbishop Redwood appointed Suzanne as Mother Superior of the newly established Daughters of Our Lady of Compassion. During her tour, Suzanne had become acutely aware of the challenges faced by poor and unmarried mothers and their babies. She took 74 babies and children into their care but Hiruhārama (Jerusalem, Whanganui River) was too isolated from medical services. So Suzanne set her sights on Wellington, arriving unannounced in the city in 1899 with two Sisters. The Sisters immediately started work with Wellington's suffering and destitute planning a much-needed home. They set up a soup kitchen (that still operates today) and a crèche for children of working parents. Land was bought in Island Bay and, in 1907, the Our Lady's Home of Compassion was opened.

DISCUSS: From these brief notes, what interests me? How can we support the cause for canonisation?

Prayer of the Faithful – we pray for the needs of the Church and the world.

Prayer of the Faithful

For the Church – that the people of God bear fruit fitting of the kingdom of God; compassion, kindness, care for the poor and care for the earth.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

In thanksgiving for the life of venerable Suzanne Aubert – that her faith, her courage and her unconditional love will live on in us and she will one day be recognised as a Saint.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For nations struggling with civil unrest – that they listen to the cries of the poor, the marginalized, the overlooked and seek justice for all their citizens.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For an end to the Covid-19 pandemic – that as people struggle under the strain of long periods of lockdown, communities of encouragement will arise and offer support to the downhearted.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For Aotearoa New Zealand in this election year – that politicians conduct their campaigns with dignity and maintain respect for others whose views differ to their own.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For people who are well off – that all who are in a sound financial position do not take their situation for granted but instead act with gratitude and look to support those who are in vulnerable situations.

For we who are gathered here now – that we continue to become more conscious of the web of life, of our part, of how the way we live effects ecosystems, and that we strive to live more simply.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

A Prayer This is a prayer for the beatification of Suzanne Aubert. Together we pray

Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us that as often as we show compassion to the least of your brothers and sisters, we show it to you. Hear our prayers that Venerable Suzanne Aubert, who loved the Māori people and devoted her life to the poor, the sick and the underprivileged, and whom the Church has declared to be one of your true and humble followers, may soon be recognised as a saint.

Concluding Prayer

God of hosts we ask you to look upon us and have regard for our needs and the needs of all. We ask this through ... *AMEN*

The Lord's Prayer – Our Father

COLLECTION: *Part of our commitment as Christian is to give to those in need.*

Discuss – what needs attract our attention now? How could we respond?

Thank you for your kindness. Thank you for your participation. Let us go in peace to love and serve God. Kia tau te rangimārie ki a koutou – Peace be with you.

All: Thanks be to God.

SONG: The Servant song – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EOaOErUUjm8>

.....
For more information on Suzanne Aubert, visit the website; <https://www.suzanneaubert.co.nz/> OR <https://compassion.org.nz/our-places/our-ladys-home-of-compassion/>