

PARABLES OF MERCY

Jesus the True Vine

John 15 : 1 - 17

*I am the vine,
you are the branches.*



Year of Mercy

Pope Francis has initiated this Year of Mercy as an opportunity for pilgrimage, reflection and commitment to action that will enable Mercy to be made concrete and practical in our own local communities.

Thank you for your willingness to enter into this time of prayer and reflection. May it be an experience of Mercy which will enable you to further respond with Mercy and compassion in your local community.

Lectio / Visio Divina

Lectio Divina is a Latin term meaning “Reading with God”.

Visio Davina is a Latin term meaning “seeing or looking with God”.

We hope that the parable windows will be a Lectio / Visio Divina for the community of pilgrims in the Year of Mercy so that we may also “See with God”.

The practice of sacred reading has been practiced in the church for centuries, and has its origin in the monastic life as a pathway for prayer with scripture. It leads us gently into a deeper relationship with Christ as we open ourselves to him. It is the ultimate DIY spiritual project.

Brendan Lodge Photography

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There are four steps in the traditional practice of Lectio Divina.
But they do not need to be followed in this particular sequence.

1. Lectio Visio (reading-looking)

Look at the window slowly,
read the scripture ...become aware of a particular
word - phrase - colour - object or character.
(There is a page for your jottings inside the back cover.)

2. Meditatio (reflection)

Let the significant word / object / colour / character fill your
mind without straining to analyse them.
You are in God's presence,
let the Holy Spirit lead your understanding.

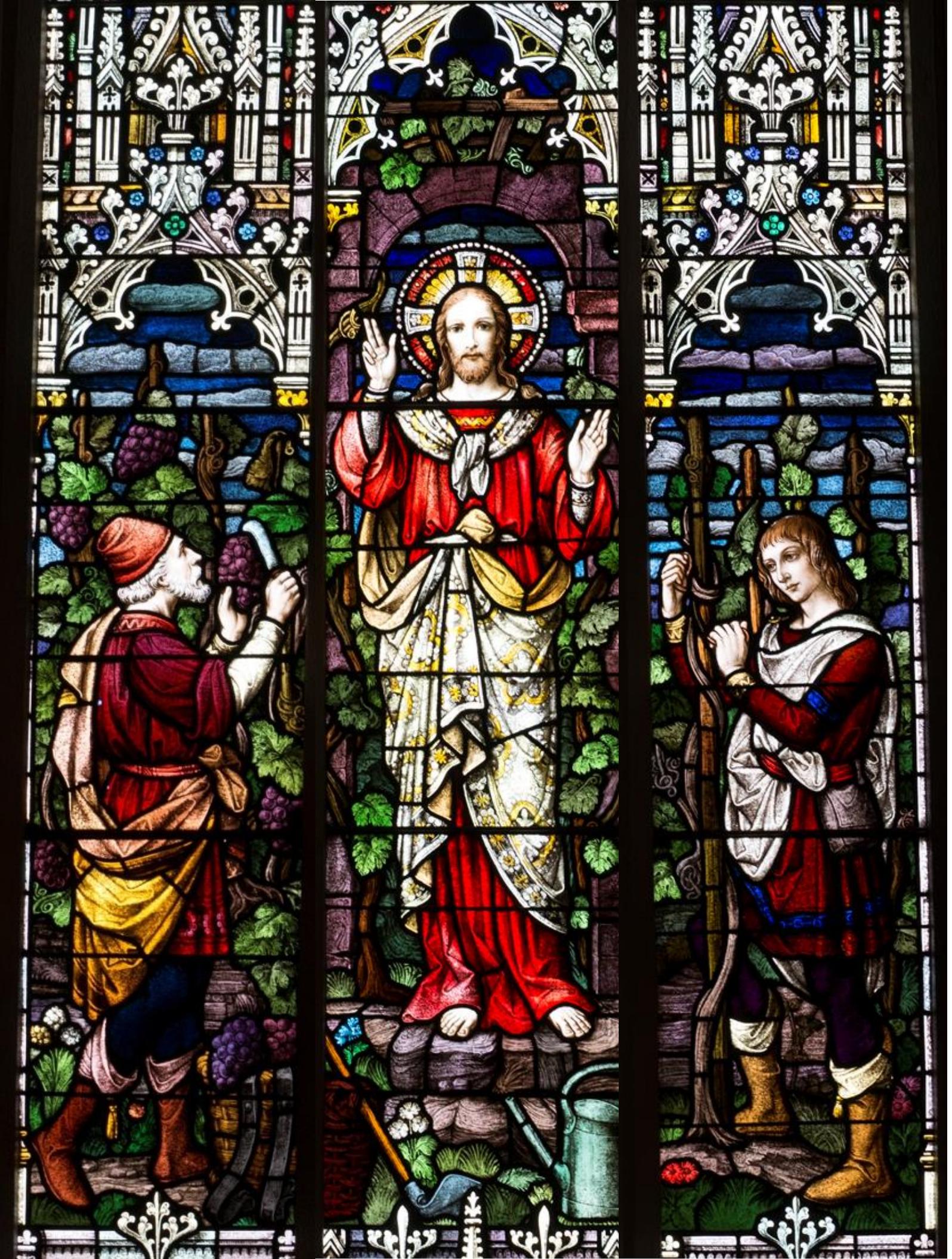
3. Oratio (prayer)

Allow your heart to speak to God,
in words or emotions inspired by the parable
or the thoughts that have come to you while reflecting.

4. Contemplatio (rest)

Let go of ideas and words and allow yourself to rest in the
presence of God in simple wordless contemplation.

(Adapted from the
Lectio Divina pamphlet - NZ Catholic Bishops Conference 2011)



Jesus the True Vine - John 15 : 1 - 17

He prunes every branch that bears fruit,
to make it bear more.

A branch cannot bear fruit by itself

Abide in me

1. Look and be open to the parable window
Look for a particular colour, character, object,
concept or word that may seem significant...
2. Let that which is significant fill your mind
without analysing, you are in God's presence...
let the Holy Spirit lead your understanding ...
3. Allow your heart to speak to God as you
are inspired by the parable...
4. How am I called to respond? Allow
yourself to rest in the presence of God...

At each of the parable windows, there are three basic questions:

- What do I notice as I look at the parable window?
Why does it move me?
- Where do I see love, or mercy or faithfulness, compassion or forgiveness in this parable?
- How am I called to respond in my life?

A space for journaling:

(Please jot down your thoughts and insights for further reflection)

You may like to enter the parable window through your imagination, as a character or an object ... actually allowing yourself to experience the Mercy and Love of God.



“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes, to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed, by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither

can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.”

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

This window was donated by the Aisher family whose son Frank died in Belgium 12 October 1917 at the age of 21.