

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

Isaiah 5.1-7 ; Philippiens 4, 6-9 ; Mattieu 21, 33-43

Translation from French

by Father Charles Fillion

04 October 2026

Brothers and sisters, since this Sunday is October 4, and since we are celebrating the eighth centenary of Francis of Assisi, the entire Church is celebrating the day of his birth into heaven. Pope Leo has proclaimed a Jubilee Year from January 10, 2026, to January 10, 2027. Pope Francis had launched the Jubilee of Hope in January 2025. And so Pope Leo decided to continue the tradition without interruption.

Why honour Saint Francis of Assisi? It is because Cardinal Bergoglio took the name Francis following the example of the saint of Assisi. During his pontificate, Pope Francis has celebrated two jubilees: the first was dedicated on God's mercy, and the second on hope. And now we are looking forward to another jubilee. This is an exceptional jubilee year marking the 800th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi. As Pope Leo so appropriately puts it, "No one better than Saint Francis responds to our need to be united in this turbulent time for the world."

Through his life, Francis brings us back to the essence of the Gospel: true joy is found in surrender to God and humble service to others. Originally, Francis was a young man shaped by the aspirations of his time, such as the desire for success and the quest for recognition. It was through trials—and especially through his encounters with the poorest and his acceptance of his own limitations—that he discovered the joy of serving God in humility and trust.

As his journey of conversion unfolded, he came to understand that following Christ does not mean fleeing the world, but living in it differently: not through possession or domination, but through relationship and service. His poverty is not a rejection of life, but a way to make it more harmonious, more free, and more fraternal.

Even today, at the heart of our lives marked by the search for security and recognition, this call still resonates. In our families, our workplaces, and our commitments, do we know how to recognize what has been given to us and to share it? By accepting that we do not own everything and by allowing God to act within us, true freedom opens up. The Lord is the master and we are his servants, called to help the kingdom grow, one shoot at a time. This is the invitation the Lord extended to Saint Francis of Assisi. He invited him to "repair the house."

The Franciscan Year 2026 is not meant to be a mere commemoration. It is intended as a time of conversion, inspiration, and dialogue with the contemporary world. The legacy of St. Francis extends far beyond the Church: it inspires environmentalists, peacemakers, believers of other traditions, and many people seeking a more just way of life.

His call to “repair the house” resonates today in the face of the planet’s wounds and human frailties. This is not primarily a calendar of events, but a spiritual journey to be undertaken together. Celebrating the 800th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi means allowing ourselves to be moved by his evangelical radicalism. Eight centuries later, his voice still invites us to choose simplicity over materialism, brotherhood over fear, and peace as a possible future for our world.

This Sunday’s readings invite us to open ourselves to a reality that transcends us. They remind us that the Christian life is, above all, a *gift from God*. In the first reading, “The Beloved’s Song to His Vineyard,” we are reminded of how God cares for His people. Like a gardener, He prepares, protects, and hopes. The fruits he expects are not primarily success or achievement, but righteousness and justice. This text reminds us, however, that the vineyard can disappoint, producing only injustice and suffering. Those who cultivate the land know its difficulties, but also its bountiful harvests.

The Gospel shows what happens when we forget that everything comes from God. The vineyard workers want to keep for themselves alone the vineyard entrusted to them. Despite everything, the Lord remains present and faithful. Even when we pledge allegiance to the gods of power and profit, and turn our backs on the Kingdom of Heaven, he shows himself to be patient and merciful. He does not shut His door to us and seeks to restore His relationship with us. God is a Father who deeply respects human freedom, while remaining faithful to His plan.

In this Eucharist, let us ask God the Father, the gardener, to water our lives with peace and light and to make us faithful builders of His Kingdom.