

## Lectio Divina

### October 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year A – Matthew 21:28 - 32

<sup>28</sup> ‘What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, “Son, go and work in the vineyard today.” <sup>29</sup>He answered, “I will not”; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father\* went to the second and said the same; and he answered, “I go, sir”; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?’ They said, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.’

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>Read and re-read</b> – out loud and slowly the Gospel.</li><li>➤ <b>Meditate</b> - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>Pray</b> - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition</li><li>➤ <b>Action</b> – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do</li></ul>
---	---

### October 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year A – Matthew 21:28 - 32

In this week’s gospel we see the very different temperaments of the two sons. The first one comes across as rough and rebellious but he eventually simmers down once he 'thinks the better of it'. The second son answers very positively immediately 'certainly sir' but he does not deliver. We can identify with both. We can feel the passion of Jesus, his frustration and his deep admiration for those who have listened to his call. At all times Jesus remains non violent. We are also reminded today that conversion does not leave our egos intact. It is always a humbling experience. When have we experienced receiving repeated messages that we should change our lives and did not listen? Who are the people that we eventually did listen to and had a real conversion to a better way of living?

#### Prayer:

**Thank you Lord** for those unconventional people who appear to ignore the 'right' way of doing things, and yet they have taught us something about true goodness.

**Forgive us Lord** for the times we did not listen to the often repeated messages given to us that we would be better if we changed our ways. We considered those giving the message to be spiritually inferior or ignore the right way of doing things..

**Help us Lord** to be the presence of Jesus in our modern world trying to develop local communities, recognising each persons giftedness in bringing us all to make our way into the kingdom.

