

Weekly Bulletin

Holy Name of Mary Catholic Parish

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Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year B

Sunday, 28 April 2024

"You abiding in Christ is a truth, not a command for you to keep up your end of some bargain". (1 John 4:13)

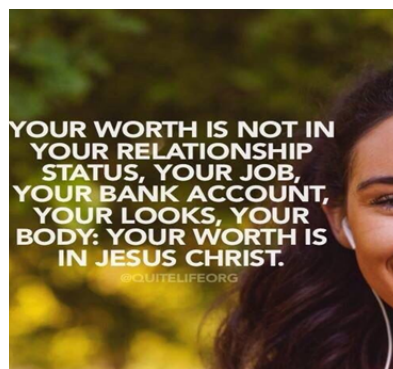


The story is about a priest who accompanied a man sentenced to die by electric chair to the death chamber. Once seated, the prisoner said: "Father, I have one last request." The priest said: "Anything, my son." Then the prisoner said: "Father, I am so scared. Please remain here, stay with me, and hold my hand till the end."

In today's gospel, Jesus uses the familiar image of the vine and the branches to teach us lessons about our Christian life. First of all, the image reminds us that God is the real owner of everything that we have and who we are. He is the vine grower. He does to us what he thinks is good and right.

We belong fully to God. We should not allow our selfishness and pride to make us think that we have absolute control over our lives. Rather, we always have to be open to God's action, confident that he knows fully what is good for us.

Second, the image teaches us that Jesus is the source of our life and the point which connects us with one another. Using the image of vine and branches, Jesus reminds his disciples of every time and place that, in his love, we are "grafted" to one another in ways we do not completely realize or understand. As branches of Christ the vine, we are part of something greater than ourselves, something which transforms and transcends the fragility of our lives. A branch cut off from the vine will wither and die. And so, it is with our life as disciples – we live fully and become fruitful only by remaining in Christ. In the gospel of John, the word "abide" appears at least thirty-seven times: "Abiding in God", "abiding in Christ", and "abiding in his Word". We need to remain in Christ because apart from him, we can do nothing.



And finally, the image tells us that in order to stay healthy and fruitful we need pruning. Vine growers know that the act of pruning is good for the branch. If the branch is not pruned for a long time, it becomes wild and produces no good grapes.



Sometimes in our lives, God intervenes with the cross in order to challenge and make us grow. To take away our pride, sometimes God allows us to fail. To make us grow stronger in faith, sometimes God allows us trials and difficulties.

Pruning is a process not one of event. God does prune the unwanted branches of our lives through the Scriptures; through relationships and the signs of the times. **How do we react to God's act of pruning our lives?** Pruning whether it is physical, spiritual or relational, emotional is unpleasant. But it is necessary for growth and our wellbeing.

Let us not be alarmed or be afraid of being pruned because as long as we are seriously grounded and connected with God, there is something good.

The way to ground our lives in God is through our deep faith, by obedience of His commandments and cutting off the unwanted and unhealthy and harmful elements of our lives - This involves a lot of self-denial, detachment and sacrifices on our part.

Let us allow God to prune our lives so that we can live a fruitful, faithful and meaningful life...not merely a successful life. May our families, communities and parishes become extended branches for all of us who struggle to realize our own harvests of joy and discovery, of grace and faithfulness. (Sources duly acknowledged)

God's blessings

Fr. Vince

This Sunday's Readings



Entrance Antiphon:

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, Alleluia.

First Reading: Acts 9:26-31

He explained how the Lord appeared to Saul and spoke to him on his journey.

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 21:26-28, 30-32

R: I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

My vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him
May their hearts live for ever and ever! **R**

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,
all families of the nations worship before him.
They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. **R**

And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.
They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,
declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:
'These things the Lord has done. **R**

Second Reading: 1 John 3:18-24

His commandments are these: that we believe and that we love one another.

My children,
our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything.

My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: John 15:1-18

All who live in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine,

and my Father is the vinedresser.

Every branch in me that bears no fruit
he cuts away,

and every branch that does bear fruit
he prunes to make it bear even more.

You are pruned already,

by means of the word that I have spoken to you.

Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.

As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself,
but must remain part of the vine,

neither can you unless you remain in me.

I am the vine,

you are the branches.

Whoever remains in me, with me in him,
bears fruit in plenty;

for cut off from me you can do nothing.

Anyone who does not remain in me

is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers;
these branches are collected and thrown on the fire,
and they are burnt.

If you remain in me

and my words remain in you,

you may ask what you will

and you shall get it.

It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear
much fruit,

and then you will be my disciples.'

Communion Antiphon:

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty. Alleluia

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

A Parish Pastoral Council is a consultative group, the council assists the Parish Priest in his pastoral ministry by providing advice and recommendations on a variety of parish matters, such as engaging youth and young families, worship and evangelisation, service, or fundraising. "Parish pastoral councils will play a key role in discerning the present opportunities and challenges for the parish in growing and sharing its faith, and selecting those actions of the Pastoral Plan which will best equip the parish to respond to local needs and potential"

The Ex - officio members of this council are the Chairperson of the finance committee, the principal, or his representative from St Mary's Primary School.

We need six more members representing all ages (from adolescence to elderly) to constitute a council in our parish. Those who are willing to be a part of this council may nominate themselves with a few basic details. Kindly, get in touch with the parish office!

Fr Vince



Dear Parishioners

This comes to thank each of you for volunteering/helping at the set up and clean up and for those who brought food and helped in any way to make Fr Vincent's Installation & fellowship celebration last Sunday a great success.

A job well done and this could not have been achieved without every one who pitched in and helped in every way. Thank you again and God bless you all .

Lynn & Nancy



On behalf of the HNM Parish community I would like to congratulate **Elaine & Les Gade** on their **64th Wedding Anniversary.**

May God bless the couple with happiness and peace.

Fr. Vince

Let us pray for ...

Sick

Maree Buttenshaw,
Robert Power

Recently Deceased

Kevin Holden, Alojz Žnidarsic,
John Romanous,
Cecile Modesto, Kang Ho Mui,

Anniversaries

Gertrude D'Souza
Thomas, Roman Tigas
Jeff McMauch

PARISH ROSTERS

4/5 May 2024

	Computer Operators	Lectors	Altar Servers	EMHC	Counters	Cleaning Ministry	Altar Society
Sat Vigil 5.30pm	Thomas Russo	Sr Maureen Leah Garcia		Kathy Saad Susan Boulos	Patrick Edouard-Betsy Tyrone Wiratunga	Anton & Anne Fernando	Lily Hon O.Ham Maria Greenfield
Sun 8.00am	Pamela McKay	Jodie MacGregor Rozz Morris		Barbara Rosario Lina Flores			
Sun 10.00am	Glenys Oxlee	Lynette Rodrigues Julia Tapiador		Evelyn Artiaga Elaine Gade			

11/12 May 2024

	Computer Operators	Lectors	Altar Servers	EMHC	Counters	Cleaning Ministry	Altar Society
Sat Vigil 5.30pm	Lynette Rodrigues	Romeo & Yolanda Urqueza		Sr Maureen Sue Farrar	David & Sue Boulous Sheila Tapiador	Sue Galletto Robert Saad	Therese Ball Lesley Long
Sun 8.00am	Christopher Younis	Helen Wong Gail Dick		Helen Wong Barbara Rosario			
Sun 10.00am	Anne Marie Lyons	Samantha Winders Astrid Kossim		Elaine Gade Sheila Tapiador			

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



Novena to our Lady of Perpetual Succour

Every Wednesday 7pm

Join the Novena and let us pray to our Mother Mary for the welfare of human beings, especially those who seek her intercession.

MAY - Month dedicated to Our MOTHER MARY

Please join us at **7pm every night** in the month of May to recite the Rosary and honour our Mother Mary.



COMPUTER OPERATORS

We are desperately short of people to operate the computer at weekend Masses. Please seriously consider volunteering for this role. The Power point slides are prepared for you, all you need to do is press Enter for the next slide. Training will be given as well as support for your first few turns. Please contact **Glenys Oxlee** on **M) 0488 228 633** by **Friday 17th May** if you can help.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE LAWN AND CO-ORDINATING RYDALMEN.

Please call or email the Parish Office if you can assist.

If you wish to place any material / pamphlets or objects in the Church foyer or on the noticeboards, you **MUST** get permission from the Parish Office first.

ALL UNAUTHORISED MATERIAL WILL BE REMOVED.

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

APRIL

Monday 29 - St Catherine of Siena, virgin, doctor
Tuesday 30 - Pius V, pope.

MAY

Wednesday 1 - St Joseph the Worker
Thursday 2 - St Athanasius, bishop, doctor.
Friday 3 - Sts Philip and James, apostles.

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Ask for for guidance, for love. For your faith to be made perfect.

Believe He will answer you, that He is there for you, that He loves you.

Invest more time in reading God's Word and meditating on it.

Direct your attention to Him when ever you feel confused or afraid.

Enjoy Him in the beauty around you, in music, in loving others.

SEAOFGLASSREFLECTIONS.COM

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tue - Wed - Thu - Fri - Sat 9:15 am

*Novena to our Lady of Perpetual Succour
Every Wednesday 7:00pm*

First Friday of the Month

7:00pm - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Mass

SUNDAY MASSES

**Saturday (Vigil) 5:30 pm
Sunday 8:00 am & 10:00 am**

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 8:30 am - 9:00 am

ADORATION (EXPOSITION)

Saturday 8:30 am

BAPTISM

1st & 3rd Sunday of the Month 11:30 am

PARISH TEAM

Fr. Vincent Savarimuthu
Parish Priest

Cheryl Percan
Parish Secretary
Tue / Wed / Fri
9am to 4pm

Deacon Leon
Finance Secretary
Thur
10am to 2pm

Sacramental Coordinator
Childrens Liturgy Coordinator
Lectors Coordinator
Senior Server Coordinator
Finance Chairman
St Vincent De Paul President
Rydalmen Coordinator

Diane O'Shea
Allison Markarian
Glenys Oxlee
Anton Massillamany
Ron Della Vedova
Ron Della Vedova

PARISH SCHOOLS

St. Mary's Primary School
1 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere NSW 2116
Ph: (02) 8844 5700
Email: StMarysRydal@parra.catholic.edu.au
Principal: Mr. Richard Blissenden

St. Patrick's Marist College
171 Kirby Street, Dundas NSW 2117
Ph: (02) 8841 7900
Email: stpatsdundas@parra.catholic.edu.au
Principal: Mr. Paul Ryan