

GOSPEL

Jn 15: 1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

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.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



Reproduction of this bulletin in any form prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Fax 02 9394 3444. Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible, published and 1966, by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co. Inc. are used by permission of the publishers. Psalm text from *The Psalms, A New Translation*, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from *The Roman Missal* ©2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2021. No 1876. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / B

02 MAY 2021

REMAINING IN JESUS' LOVE

Today's Gospel presents us with the image of the vine and the challenge to bear fruit in our Christian lives. There are some plants that are best left alone but a vine needs to be pruned, to cut away what is not essential so that it can produce a good and abundant crop. For Christians the implement of pruning is the word of Jesus which enters into our hearts and challenges us to take stock of our lives and values.

In the second reading John shares a simple and profound truth with us, that the business of bearing fruit requires more than good intentions and fine words. The new life of Easter is something we can all share in by our belief in Jesus and our love for one another. The principles are simple, and the difficulty has always been that of living our lives day by day open to the word of Jesus and the demands of love.

Six times the theme of remaining is mentioned in the gospel. It is clearly an important and difficult dimension of our bearing fruit as Christians. Remaining faithful to our promises and allowing Jesus' word to enter deeper into our hearts is a constant challenge but the readings also encourage us not to lose heart. The example of Paul in the first reading shows how the Lord can enter into the hardest heart and can turn a feared persecutor into a fearless preacher of the word. Even gnarled vines can bear abundant fruit.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Acts 9: 26-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM

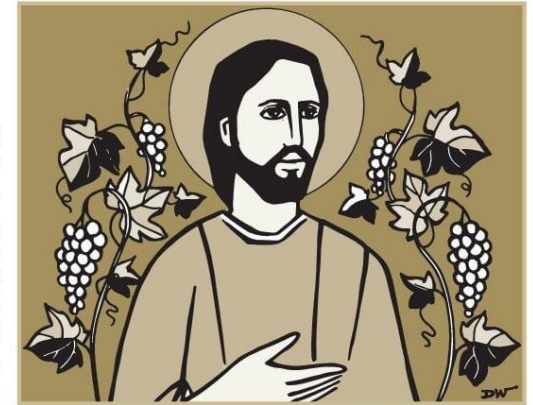
Ps 21: 26-28, 30-32. R. v. 26

R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people. (or Alleluia!)

1. 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.**

2. 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.**

3. 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 Jn 3: 18-24

A reading from the first letter of St John.

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 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.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 15: 4-5

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

Parish Priest: Fr Martin Maunsell

Deacon: Eddie Ho

36 Hillview Rd (PO Box 234) Eastwood NSW 2122

P 9874 2533 F 9874 5739 E parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au

Website: www.stkevinseastwood.org.au

YouTube: www.youtube.com/c/StKevinsParishEastwood

Facebook: www.facebook.com/EastwoodCatholic

Parish Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 10:00am-3:00pm

Catholic Parish of St Kevin Eastwood



Vigil Mass: Saturday at 5:30pm

Sunday Mass Times: 8am, 9:30am, 11:30am (Chinese) & 6pm

Weekday Masses: Mon – Thurs. 7:30am, Fri 5:00pm

Holy Rosary: Mon – Thu after 7:30am Mass

Eucharistic Adoration: Fri 4:00pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 5:00-5:20pm

Cenacle Marian Movement of Laity: Thu 7pm

Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Rosary & Novena: Tue 7-7:30pm

Fifth Sunday of Easter – 2nd May 2021



Recently Deceased: Pat Hart (June), Lorna Hernandez, Siony Sison, Nancy Oliva

Our Deceased: Vinro Simovic, Geoff & Patricia Clarke, Jan Brayan, Arch Stewart, John Casey, Roy & Bessie Landon; O' Connor, Landon, Stewart, Pigott & Casey families

Our Sick: Donald Mees, Agnes, Heru Ie, Robert Lauw, Tenille Moujalli, June Phelan, Anne McIntyre, Adhy Guna S., Daisy Gouw, Nur Gouw

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS:

Saints Philip and James 3rd May

PARISH NEWS:

- **The 2021 National Count of Attendance (Mass Count)** organised by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) will take place over the first four weekends in May, **starting this weekend**. Be counted! Thank you for your cooperation.
- COVID-19 has taken a special toll on the most vulnerable in Sydney – the homeless, single mothers, those struggling with mental health, and our local Aboriginal Communities. **Please support our Charitable Works Fund Appeal**. Donate via envelopes or online at: <https://www.ourfaithourworks.org/cwf/>. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.
- **Sacrament of Confirmation Information Evening** for Parents/Guardians will be on Wed, 5th May, 7pm via Zoom. Candidates must be in Year 6 or above and have completed their First Reconciliation & Holy Communion. For enquiries please contact the parish office at 9874 2533. Visit: <https://www.stkevinseastwood.org.au/confirmation/> for more details.
- **KEVINWOOD AFTERNOON CONCERT this Sunday 2nd May at 2.30pm in Haseler Centre.**
- **Mid-Week Men's Gospel Reflection:** Wed, 5th May at 7pm in the Holy Family Chapel.
- **St Kevin's Men's Choir** will be singing at the 9:30am Mass on Mother's Day, Sun 9th May. New Members welcomed. To join, please call 0400 303 733.
- **HELP KEEP OUR CHURCH COVID-SAFE.** Attendance at all Masses are on a first come, first served basis. We can have up to 260 people at any one time subject to the 2sqm rule. Congregational singing is now permitted. Passing of bulletins & collection plates remains suspended. Sanitise your hands & use disinfectant wipes to clean your seat as you leave.

OTHER NEWS:

- **CATALYST FOR RENEWAL REFLECTION MORNING. Sat 8th May, 9:30am-12:30pm**, in the parish hall of Hunters Hill. Rev Professor Gerard Kelly to lead reflection. Topic: 'The Way of Dialogue in the Future Church'. All welcome. No need to book. Donation appreciated. Tea & coffee available. 'Come and See'. Enquiries: Carole Wilson 9869 1036.
- The World Apostolate of Fatima (Sydney Archdiocesan Committee), invites you to their **May Celebration in honour of Our Lady of Fatima at St. Mary's Cathedral on Sat 15th May from 11.30am**. Program includes: Litany of Loreto, Consecration, Rosary and Mass.

For further enquiries call 9984 8988 or Mob. 0403 478 994.

- **Mount St Benedict COLLEGE TOUR Wed, 5th May 11am–12:30pm.** Bookings essential: www.msb.nsw.edu.au. Families with daughters in Yr5 should apply now for Yr7, 2023. Online Expression of Interest forms should be lodged by the end of Year 4.

FR MARTIN MAUNSELL'S REFLECTION:

SUFFERING-some realities!

I well remember in the early 1990's participating in a parish Lenten discussion group and one of the participants said these very words; "Experience has revealed to me that we don't have to actually go and find suffering in life it will soon come to us. I think that the key here is to see suffering as another opportunity to grow." I thought at the time and still do what a profound statement!

Just recently a young school teacher shared with me how she felt the pain of suffering when she realized that she did not have the ability to connect as well as she would like with every child in her class. For other people suffering is in living with the pain of a broken personal relationship, sadly during these COVID-19 pandemic days the rate of marriage breakdown has grown from what it was before the pandemic struck. While other people suffer invisible physical pain such as arthritis or migraine and many women suffer the regular pain of endometriosis. To admit that suffering is real in life can create an opportunity for people to grow in empathy and compassion with and towards others. When we are deprived of one thing in life it so often provides an opportunity to grow in other life dimensions.

The author of the letter to the Hebrews *nails* this reality so well in these words; "God tests and teaches his faithful people by suffering." (Chapter 12 verse 7)

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY:

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you or anyone you know have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, contact the Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office at safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org or 9390 5810. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support & guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

NEXT WEEK'S ROSTER – 9th May 2021

(AV Projectionist 9:30am Mass – B Leung)

Ministry	Vigil	8:00am	9:30am	6:00pm
Senior Servers	S Dick	B Gibson	M Velasco	A Ho
Junior Servers	W Darmadi S Gibbons		E Velasco K Velasco	R Khalil J Mercurio
Readers	R: L Laybutt C: R Tohme	R: Br J Curry C: M Hill	R: W Elder C: M Young	R: N Williams C: S Khalil
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	M Mizzi L Mizzi	R Harvie D Tan	M Cruz J Cruz	J Gibson D Khoury