



## Gospel Jn 15:1-8

*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.'

## Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

We are too familiar with today's gospel. Christ is the vine and we are the branches, sometimes in need of a good pruning. But God's purpose is not to produce a perfect vineyard. It is to produce a full-bodied wine at the end of history.

There is a foretaste of this at every Mass. The wine we offer – 'fruit of the earth and work of human hands' – becomes the spiritual drink which best serves the purpose of our Heavenly Father. How does this happen?

For the Jewish people observing an animal whose throat is cut, it is obvious that the life drains out with the blood. 'Life' and 'blood' became synonyms. So, when the Jewish Jesus says of the wine in the chalice at the Last Supper: 'This is my blood', amongst other things he is saying: 'This is my life force, this is my very life given unreservedly for you.'

So, when we drink from the chalice at Holy Communion, the life of the Risen Lord courses through our bodies just as the sap of the vine courses through its branches. We share the same ultimate vitality so that our bodily existence builds into the Body of Christ. He becomes truly 'full-bodied' as the Divine Vignerone desires.

We could take a moment to pray that we respond to the pruning and the tending and the pressing by our Heavenly Father so as to contribute our distinctive character to the vintage at the end of history, the spiritual drink of the Kingdom of Heaven.

mtate@bigpond.com

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# The Living Word

**Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year B**

**2 May 2021**

## 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. v.26**

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

or:

**(R.) 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

*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 Jn 15:4-5

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



# HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC PARISH, North Ryde

191 Cox's Road, North Ryde NSW 2113

Under the care of the Congregation of St. Michael the Archangel  
(Michaelite Fathers)



Tel: 9888 2569  
(2May2021)

Fax: 9888 5076

E-mail: [parish@holyspiritnorthyde.org.au](mailto:parish@holyspiritnorthyde.org.au)

Web: [www.holyspiritnorthyde.org.au](http://www.holyspiritnorthyde.org.au)

Michaelite Fr Stan Kluk CSMA PP Fr George Gorzkowski CSMA

Community: Fr Anthony Casamento CSMA

SUNDAY MASS: Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 8:30am, 10:00am & 5:00pm.  
Spanish Speaking Mass 12:30pm

WEEKDAY MASS: Mon 8:30am (Communion Service), Tuesday 7:00pm,  
Wednesday - Saturday 8:30am **Public Holidays 8:30am**

Reconciliation: Saturday after morning Mass or by appointment.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00am to 3:00pm Mon - Fri

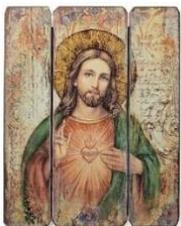
ST VINCENT DE PAUL REGIONAL HELP CENTRE: 9809 2757

Next Week: 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday Easter (B) Acts 10:25-26; 1 John 4:7-10; John 17:11-19.

## Fr Stan writes ...

Today's Gospel reading is taken from middle of the Last Supper discourse. Jesus speaks about his relationship to his disciples. In his metaphor of the vine and the branches, Jesus is referencing the Hebrew Scriptures. In the Hebrew Scriptures, Israel is the vineyard, and Yahweh himself tends the vineyard. One of the primary themes of John's Gospel is to show Jesus to be the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel. Jesus also teaches his disciples about the importance of the words he has taught to them. Just as Jesus will remain in the disciples, so too will his words. We come to know Jesus through the Scriptures, the living Word of God. Our commitment to be Christ's disciples is sustained through God's Word. This commitment is also strengthened by our life of prayer and nourished by the Eucharist. Through the Eucharist, Jesus dwells in us, remains with us, and transforms us so that we might bear fruit in his name.

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*



**First Friday Devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Holy Mass with the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, will be celebrated on**

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 8:00pm - also live-streamed on [www.holyspiritnorthyde.org.au](http://www.holyspiritnorthyde.org.au)**

**INVITATION:** Parishioners are invited to attend the Field of Mars Mother's Day Memorial Mass at [Field of Mars Cemetery, Ryde](http://www.holyspiritnorthyde.org.au), on Saturday 8 May. 10:15am for 10:30am start, with light refreshments to follow. This Service will honour the great mothers (and mother figures) that are no longer with us. We provide this Catholic Mass as a celebration of love, life and family. Places are limited - R.S.V.P. by **Sunday 2 May** via <https://nmclm.com.au/events/>. Any questions, please contact the Parish Office.



**AUXILIARY MEMBERS of the LEGION of MARY** are invited to attend the anniversary Mass for Venerable Edel Quinn on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May in our Holy Spirit Parish, North Ryde.** Rosary at 10:00am followed by Mass at 10:30am. Enquiries Mariola 0490 040 185

## CHARITABLE WORKS FUND (CWF) APPEAL THIS WEEKEND - 1/2 May 2021



We welcome into our Christian community through the  
Sacrament of Baptism  
Samuel Guevara & Harrison Michael van der Walt  
and congratulate their families.



## Bicentenary Mass to honour arrival of first priests in Australia

Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP is celebrating a Mass at St Mary's Cathedral on **Sunday, 9 May 2021 at 10.30am** to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the arrival of the first official Priests to Australia, Fr John Joseph Therry and Fr Philip Conolly.



Holy Spirit Primary School is enrolling now for Kindergarten to Year 6 for 2022. Please contact the school office on **9878 2848** to enquire about a school tour and enrolment packs.

## Vocations Weekend with the MGL Sisters: 14-16 May

The Missionaries of God's Love Sisters invite young women (18-35) to a vocations weekend of prayer, input, sisterhood and sharing. This weekend is aimed at helping you discern your direction in life. RSVP to Therese on 0432 228 250.

**THANK YOU!** Your donation to Caritas Project Compassion amounted to \$6,272.80 and the Good Friday Holy Places Appeal amounted to \$3,020. **THANK YOU!**

**PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF:** Stephen Livy, Pablo Casasbuenas, Darren Ha, Marie Brunton recently deceased.

Also, the Escalante & Venal families, Frank & Edgar Falzon, Ignazio (Jim) Torrasi, Walter Gaspari, Charlie & Melina Bietola, Dr Raphael Panetta, Rosina & Michele Panetta, Rosa & Raffaele Fazzolari, Vincenzo & Caterina Cincotta, Mary & Sam Bietola, Frank Ientile, Maria Ientile, John, Annarita, Antonio Ientile, Natale Papandrea, Papandrea, Ientile, Cessario families, Angelo Fazzolari & Fazzolari family, Fortunato & Rosa Galluzzo & Galluzzo family, Rosina, Giuseppe, Salvatore & Bruno Panetta, Luigi, Rosina, Pasquale & Santa Genova, Mario & Dirce Gualdi, Antonino & Tindara Caravello, Alberto Tanzini, Angelina & Antonino Rando, Giuseppe & Maria Caterina Pupo, Baby Cove Rose Pupo, Emmanuela Delia, Peter & Frank Connell and the deceased members of the Di Tano, Smith, Shewan, Holland families.