

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



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / B

28 APRIL 2024

'MAKE YOUR HOME IN ME'

The juxtaposition of the story of Saul (Paul) in the first reading from Acts with the image of Jesus as the vine in the Gospel speaks to the formation of disciples of Jesus. In Acts we have a glimpse into the beginnings of Saul's (not yet called Paul) ministry who, with all the zeal of his experience of the risen Christ, joins the believers. Barnabas takes him under his wing. Trouble erupts with the Hellenists and Paul is whisked away from Jerusalem to his hometown to where he contemplates his call.

When we then hear the Gospel's beautifully elegant description of the vine and the branches we can connect with the formation of the disciples and discern our own call. The clear instruction is 'to make your home in me', to make our home in Jesus. It is a symbiotic relationship just like the vine and its branches. We need to remain/abide in Jesus to bear fruit. No matter our zeal, our life of faith and ministry grows and flows from Jesus. This is further enriched by the words of the second reading from the First Letter of John where we hear that 'our love is not to be just words or mere talk but something real and active'. We are to live the life God wants, to love one another and live in God.

Vines and their fruit are no stranger to us here in Australia, so we take time to reflect on this image to see how closely we abide in Jesus the vine.

Dr Rosemary Canavan

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

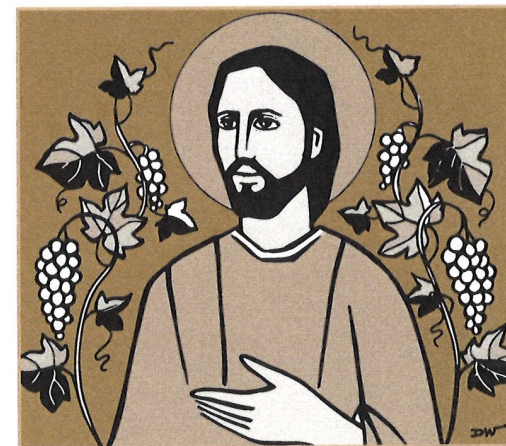
Ps 21: 26-28, 30-32. R. v. 26

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!



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www.youtube.com/c/StKevinsParishEastwood

www.facebook.com/EastwoodCatholic

MASS TIMES, RECONCILIATION AND DEVOTION

Weekday Mass: Monday - 7:30am (Communion Service, except on Feast Days);

Tuesday to Thursday - 7:30am (followed by Holy Rosary); Friday - 5pm

Weekend Mass: Saturday Vigil - 5:30pm (livestreamed); Sunday - 8am, 9:30am, 6pm

CCC Mass: Sunday at 12noon (English/Cantonese)

Eucharistic Adoration: Friday 4pm-5pm

First Friday Devotion: Monthly at 4pm

First Saturday Mass and Devotion: Monthly at 9am

Exposition and Benediction: First weekend of the month at all Masses

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Friday 4pm-4:45pm and Saturday 4:30pm-5:15pm

SCAN OUR
PARISH
QR CODE TO
DONATE
ONLINE



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER/Year B

28 Apr 2024

PRAYER REQUESTS:



Recently Deceased: Irene le Metta, Serge Robert Niclasse, Jade Young, Lorraine Ring

Death Anniversary: Roy Schiavone, William (Bill) Kunde, Cecilia Kah, Coral Whalan, Ellen Broderick, Simon K.H. Cho

Deceased: Patrick Whalan, Wayne Whalan, Joyce Polson, Doris Walton, Connie & Giuseppe Luciano, Joseph & Marion Yamin, Mehsen Moujalli, Tony & Rose Isaac,

Mary Jacobs, Mary & Joseph Maher, Jessica Hanna, Peter McNamara; Milly Farrell; Casey, Landon, O'Connor, Pigott and Stewart families; Geoff and Patricia Clarke; Ron & Jan Brayan

Sick: Myunghye Jung, Rita Baird, Marian Arendarczyk, Xiao Yi Chen, Sheriden Nemecek, Paul Celler, Dave Isaacs, Terence Cahill, Barbara Hall, Elizabeth Uy Tan, Graham Rumble, Sam Wong, Robert Lauw, June Phelan, Anne McIntyre, Adhy Guna S., Daisy Gouw, Nur Gouw

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS AND MEMORIALS:

Saints Philip and James, 3rd May

PARISH NEWS:

• **We dedicate this month of May to honour our Blessed Mother Mary.** We invite you to pray the rosary individually or join us in the church after the Monday Communion Service or after the 7:30am Mass from Tuesday - Thursday. Thank you.

• **Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Appeal will held be on May 4 & 5.** Envelopes now available. Please take one and return it the following week. This is also the **last CWF appeal before the end of the Financial year.** Donate now. Your tax deductible donation changes lives.

• **On May 3, we will have our First Friday Devotion at 4pm. All are invited to attend.**

• **On May 4, we will have our First Saturday Mass and Devotion at 9am. All welcome.**

• **Monthly Men's Prayer Breakfast - The next gathering is scheduled for 7am on Sat 4th May in the Parish Hall (Haseler Centre). All men welcomed. Enquiries 0400 303 733.**

• **FOSK (Friends of St Kevin's) will be serving Morning Tea** outside the Church next Sun 5th May after the 9:30am Mass. All welcome.

• **Next Infant Baptism Info Session will be on Wed, 8th May at 8pm in the parish office.**

- **SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION PROGRAM INFO EVENING FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS** will be held on Wed, 1st May at 7pm in the church. Child must be in Year 6 or above and have received the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. For info visit: <https://www.stkevinseastwood.org.au/confirmation/>. Online enrolment starts on May 2 at 12noon.
- For families living within the parish boundaries and/or with children attending St Kevin's school or our local public schools, **we will be running a BAPTISM FOR OLDER CHILDREN PROGRAM starting on Sat 11th May, 4:30pm-5:30pm.** If you would like your child (7-12yo) to receive the sacrament of Baptism contact the parish office on 9874 2533 or Email: parish@stkevinseastwood.org.au for more information.
- **Next Didasko Adult Faith Formation course will be on Mon, Apr 29, from 7:30-8:45pm in the Haseler Centre.** TOPIC: 'Christ Purgative, Illuminative, and Perfect Way, an Introduction to Christology,' presented by Br Benjamin Johnson. All welcome. Cost: Free
- **Queen of the Most Holy Rosary (QMHR) Jamaican Appeal: Last day for donations: May 12**

Our parish will have another **BAKE SALE ON SUN 5TH MAY AFTER THE 8AM AND 9:30AM MASS!!!** If you wish to donate your 'pre-packed' baked goodies, please bring them along on the day (before Mass starts), together with a list of ingredients. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards future parish projects and events. We will also sell raffle tickets for a chance to win a fabulous **MOTHER'S DAY CAKE!** Winner to be drawn on Sat, 11th May at the 5:30pm Vigil Mass. Thank you for your support!



NEW DONATION POINT TAP DEVICES NOW AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH FOYER. These two new donation points have user-friendly touchscreen interface that offers multiple preset donation amounts. The old 3G tap devices will be phased out soon. Thank you.



Curious to know more about Jesus? Do you wonder if there is more to life than this? Then ALPHA is for YOU! A SEAT AT THE TABLE HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR YOU. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS COME! Mondays, 7pm-9pm, May 6 - July 22. Scan the QR code or complete a form in the church foyer to register.



Did you know that STAMPS can transform lives? Help Mary Mackillop Today by collecting your stamps, new or used, & send them to: Mary Mackillop Today Reply Paid 88663 North Sydney NSW 2059. See poster in the foyer or visit: <https://www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/stamps>

OTHER NEWS:

• The Sydney Archdiocese Committee of the World Apostolate of Fatima invites you to the **'May Celebration in Honour of our Lady to intercede for Peace in the World and the welfare of Australia' on Sat 4th May** at St. Mary's Cathedral commencing at 11.30am.** See poster in the church foyer or contact 0403 578 994 for details.

**Erratum: Previously published as 'Sat 13th May' on last week's issue of the parish bulletin.

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 Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office E:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org or (02) 9390 5810. You may also speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support & guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to police.



PRAYER TO ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL:



St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray and do you, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.