

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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Reflections on the Gospel

IN UNION WITH THE TRUE VINE

The Old Testament frequently pictures Israel as a 'vine' God brought out of Egypt for cultivation in a new land (see Ps 80:8-11). Taking up this image, Jesus speaks of himself as the 'true vine' for the messianic era. Just as God 'cultivated' Israel, so Jesus pictures the Father as the vinegrower of this new vine, with the disciples as the 'branches' expected to bear its fruit.

The passage refers allegorically to two vinedressing procedures: branches bearing no fruit are cut away; branches that do bear fruit are 'pruned' so that next season they may bear even more.

What makes a branch yield fruit is the depth of its union with the vine. Hence the need for believers to maintain the closest possible union with Christ. The 'fruit' that they will bear will then be acts of love, extending from the love they have themselves received from Jesus.

Believers are 'pruned already' by Christ's word (v. 3). They have 'come to the truth', about God and about themselves, which he has imparted, bringing the healing and transforming light of God to the previous darkness of their lives (3:19-21).

The mention of the withered branches being collected and thrown on the fire does not refer to Hell. Within the image, it affirms the uselessness of such branches and hence the need to remain united with Christ.

Believers will be truly *his* disciples when their lives manifest the love displayed in his. This will be to the Father's 'glory' in that it will reveal to the world that God is love.

Brendan Byrne, SJ



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / B

29 APRIL 2018

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

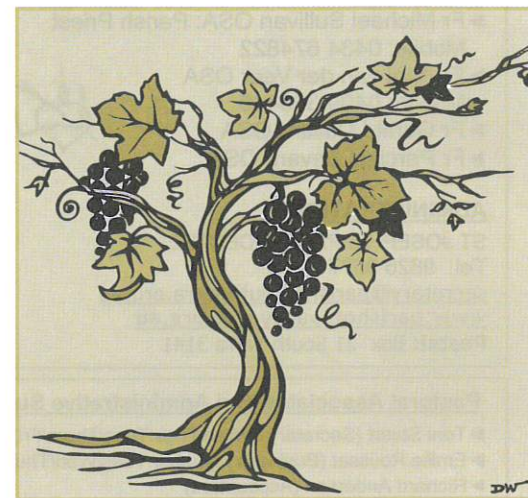
Ps 21: 26-28, 30-32. R. v. 26

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.

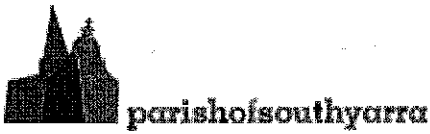
My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience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



St Joseph's Church, 30 Fitzgerald Street
 St Thomas Aquinas' Church, 43 Bromby Street
 est. 1887

Under the Pastoral Care of AUGUSTINIANS

- ▶ Fr Michael Sullivan OSA: Parish Priest
 Mobile: 0434 674822
- ▶ Fr Abel van der Veer OSA
 Mobile: 0409 368449
- ▶ Fr Gerald Dullard OSA
- ▶ Fr Percival Severe OSA



ADMINISTRATION

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Pastoral Associates and Administrative Support

- ▶ Toni Stuart (Secretary & Weddings: Tues/Thurs/Fri)
- ▶ Yvonne Bolland (Weddings: Tues 10am-12noon)
- ▶ Emilie Rousset (Business Manager: Tues/Wed/Thurs)
- ▶ Diane Brebner (Alfred Hospital Liaison)
- ▶ Richard Anderson (Accountant)

Parish Mass Times for the week commencing weekend 29th April 2018

DAY	ST JOSEPH'S	ST THOMAS AQUINAS'
	TIME	TIME
Sunday 29 th April Fifth Sunday of Easter	(Saturday- Vigil 6.00pm) 10.30am Mass	9.00am Mass
Monday 30 th April		
Tuesday 1 st May St Joseph the Worker	10.00am Mass	12.45pm Communion Service
Wednesday 2 nd May St Athanasius	10.00am Mass	12.45pm Mass
Thursday 3 rd May Sts Philip & James	10.00am Mass	12.45pm Communion Service
Friday 4 th May	10.00am Mass 10.30am Christian Meditation	12.45pm Mass
Saturday 5 th May	9.00am Mass 6.00pm Mass	

FAITH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (RCIA) - JOURNEY TO EASTER

Open to anyone wishing to learn more about what we Catholics believe and practice.
 Sunday 29th April 5pm: Topic: Forum: Ecumenism, Care of the Environment, The Last Things.
 For more information please contact Fr Abel 0409 368449

CHILDRENS' LITURGY

St. Joseph's • 10.30am Mass
 First & third Sundays of the month
 (except school holidays and long weekends)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St. Joseph's • Sat: 5.15pm – 5.45pm
 (or by request)

ANointing / HEALING MASS

First Tuesday of the month 10am at
 St Joseph's Church
 (Senior parishioners, those with ongoing
 sickness, those with mental illness, may all
 receive the Sacrament of the Sick)

EVENTS AND MEETINGS

- ▶ Christian Meditation: Fridays 10.30am
- ▶ RCIA: Sundays 5pm
- ▶ Praise & Worship: Sunday 6 May 6.30pm



PRAYER REFLECTION FROM ST AUGUSTINE

"Instead of being like a rootless branch that is blown away in a storm, hold on to Christ like a branch that clings to the trunk of the vine in strong and stormy winds."

SJOS/COMBINED PARISHES RAFFLE

Your chance to win a Suzuki Baleno car or Coles/Myer Gift Cards. \$2 per ticket/books of 10. Tickets will be available after mass or from the parish office or email info@sjos.org.au

PARISH BAPTISMS

We welcome the family and friends of Archie Gould & Annabel Gould who are to be baptised at St Joseph's this Sunday.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Baptism preparation for parents of children to be baptised in our parish will be held on Sunday 13th May at 3pm in the parish centre.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR CHILDREN 2018

Our parish will celebrate First Communion on 3rd June at St Joseph's 10.30am mass. Sacramental preparation classes begin this Sunday 29th April 11.45am-12.45pm. If you wish your child to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, Eucharist or Reconciliation for the first time please enquire at the Parish Office or email: percivalsevere@gmail.com

BEREAVED MOTHERS' MASS

On Saturday 19th May at 10am in St Joseph's church, we will celebrate a special Mass for mothers and families who have suffered the grief of the death of a child. We remember them and believe we will be re-united with them in heaven.

IN LOVING MEMORY



Recently Deceased Anniversaries

- ✦ Sr. Jane Oldman PBVM
- ✦ Coletto Edillor Snr. ✦ Antonio Tancredi
- ✦ Constanca & Manuel Edillor
- ✦ Jeanette Wheatcroft ✦ Primula Tancredi
- ✦ Michael Grant ✦ Neville Flanagan
- ✦ Mary Holbeach ✦ Peter Burrowes
- ✦ Teresa & Susano Baluyos Snr.
- ✦ Lucy Choa ✦ Mary O'Toole
- ✦ Maria Grazia Bonizzi ✦ Paddy Morgan
- ✦ Sandra Gabrielle ✦ Mike Dillon
- ✦ Fr John O'Sullivan OSA ✦ Beverlie Hicks
- ✦ Karel & Elfrida Kral

MASS COUNT

Over the next four weekends the number of parishioners attending Mass will be counted in order to maintain an up-to-date picture of Mass attendance in the Archdiocese.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

June Cochrane, Des White, Beb Larsen, Chaiel Balcombe, John & Rose Ignace, Ronald Seaman, Aristotle Pamintuan, Therese Phillips, Mitos Gloudemans, Elsa Notarte, Meldred Liba Lagahit, Socorro Severe, Dolores Hogan, Frank Muratore, Maurice Wallin, Madeleine Anderson, Ron Blunt, Andrew Hamilton, Alex Wallisz, Margaret Greene, Elaine Dennis, Spiros Layla, Emma Kirk, Mary De Bono, Chris 'Smith', Anthony Singh, Jean de Campo.

JUNE FAITH DISCUSSION NIGHTS IN THE PRIORY

Watch this space each week for more about the Tuesday Faith Discussion nights in the priory in June.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy will be held next Sunday 6th May during 10.30am mass at St Joseph's church.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS 22/04/18

Thanking you for your continuing support!
 Please contact the parish office if you wish to contribute via Direct Debit or Credit Card

1 st Collection (Clergy/Priory a/c)	\$1198.30
2 nd Collection (Church a/c)	\$ 502.00
Loose money	\$ 524.40