

5th Sunday of
Easter

28th & 29th April

Year B

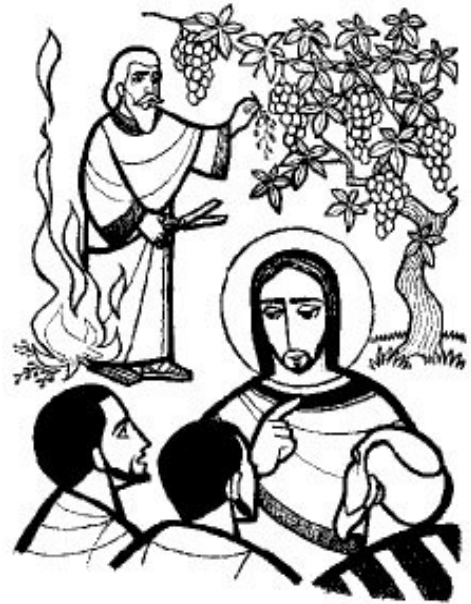


year of youth
OPEN NEW HORIZONS FOR SPREADING JOY

St Mary's Parish Echuca

Focus on the Gospel

The Early Church (about the first three centuries) worked towards two important concerns. First was Peace. The church was suffering from several persecutions. In today's first reading we hear that after Saul's conversion the Christians "were now left in peace." (Act 9:31) until the Roman persecutions began later. Secondly was Unity. We hear of arguments among the early Christian about conversion of pagans, about distribution of welfare and leadership of small communities in the Acts of the Apostles and the in letters of Paul. Each time the apostles worked for unity through the spirit of Christ and the gift of the Spirit.



Today's Gospel highlights the quest for this unity. Unity is founded on the union with Christ with his followers. In the parable of the vine, Jesus, as the true vine, asks his listeners to "remain in me". The Greek word menein (remain) occur 11 times in this chapter. It translated by "remain in" (our Lectionary) or "abide with" (NRSV) or "stay joined with" (CEV - the Children's Lectionary). John's Gospel used the word 89 times all up. Unity with Christ promotes, growth, fruitfulness and identity.

The gospel passage moves from the Parable of the Vine to its implication for Christians: the reality of Christian life to be loving and faithful, as expressed in the second reading from the first letter of St John. God dwells in us and through the Holy Spirit who is present and active in us we are able to bear witness and show goodness and peace to others.

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PARISH STAFF

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Today we respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Yorta Yorta Nation including the 8 clans, Bangerang (Pangerang), Kaitheban, Wollithiga, Moira Ulupa, Kwat Kwat, Yalaba Yalaba and Nguri-illiam-wurrung.

This land is sacred, this land is gift, this land is thousands of years old. We acknowledge the immense beauty of this land and the dreams of the Yorta-Yorta People.

We pay our respects to elders past and present and acknowledge the lessons the Yorta-Yorta people teach us about care, respect and justice for mother earth. We remember their story as we journey together in a spirit of hope, justice and peace.

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday: 6.00pm
Sunday: 8.00am & 10.00am

Come & See 5.00pm
3rd Sunday of the month
March to November

No weekday Masses this week at St Mary's

Liturgy—12noon

Weekday Masses at St Aloysius Moama Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9.00am

No reconciliation next weekend

NOTICES

Sabbatical

As this will be the last weekend Fr. Des will be with us for some time as he is taking a well-earned sabbatical break we, as St. Mary's Parish Community, wish him safe travels and trust that he will enjoy and be enriched by his experiences whilst away. God bless you Des.

The best way to keep track of all that happens in our parish is to follow us on facebook . To stay in touch with news, events, people in our community and our schools: @stmarysparishechuca



Refugee Welcome Weekend in Echuca

Echuca Moama RAR and St Mary's Parish are hosting a number of refugees from the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project for an overnight stay in Echuca.



Thank you to those people who have volunteered to be host families, it is not too late if you would like to take up the offer now.

If you would like to be involved or meet some of our visitors you are invited to join them and the hosts for lunch at the St Mary's School Auditorium on Sunday the 6th May at noon. Please bring some food to share. If you are able to help by donating salads or fruit please contact Sr Cecilia 0400863190.

If you would like to assist in the cost of the weekend donations can be left at the Parish Office.

As many of the visitors are experiencing financial difficulties, there will also be a "Clothing Table" where parishioners can leave any clothing (in good condition) that our visitors can choose from. Last time we found there was a significant need for men's clothing, though the ladies and children were very appreciative of the lovely things that they had to choose from.

For any further information please contact Christine 0411627645.



SINGING PRACTICE

**Monday April 30th at 7.30pm
in the Church**

**Learn something new –
update the Golden Oldies!
All singers, instrumentalists
and new faces are welcome.
Please bring your folders
Enquiries: Barbara 0429 380 032**



THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM

Airs 6 May 2018

All Journey Catholic Radio information is a week in advance.

On The Journey next week, we welcome Fr Richard Healey to reflect on the Gospel, proclaiming Jesus' love for us. We also have the wonderful Sr Hilda Scott OSB sharing some new Wisdom From the Abbey, with a wonderful story about finding God, Sam Clear with new reflections from his Walk 4 One and his speaking ministry, and much more fantastic content to enrich your life! Along with some of the best Christian music out there, this is a fantastic episode! Join us to receive some faith, hope, love, and life! Go to Life 105.1 FM Sunday 11am or www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email.



**Combined Family Groups
Mass for Deceased members**

Sunday April 29th @ 10.00am Mass

Roz Walker, Frank Moore, Margaret Garreau, Mary Robb, Des & Mary Nolan, Mary Farley, Dianne Tracey, Frank Sanderson, Anne Welch, Jack Oman, Sr Mary O'Brien, John & Jan Hynes, Ken Marwood, Joan Daniher, Mick Fleming, Mini Sanchez, John Dodd, Di Divine, Arthur Fraser, Carole Daniels, Pat Mueller, Peter Boyer, Mel Pitts, Tom Arnold, Vince Connellan

All Parishioners are invited to join Parish Family groups for tea and coffee following the Mass.

'Soup & Sandwiches'

The Social Committee ladies are commencing this very popular gathering on Wednesday 2nd May after 12 noon Mass.



Soup & Sandwiches is on the first Wednesday of each month until October.

A warm welcome is extended to all so don't be shy, come along and enjoy the food and the fellowship.

May 5 & 6

Altar Servers:

6.00pm Trinity & Sarah Porter

10.00am Ryan & Jayden Berryman

Commentators:

6.00pm Jan Davey

8.00am Margaret Oman

10.00am Claire Hogan

Lectors:

6.00pm Mary Marwood, Christine Sebire

8.00am Mal Whyte

10.00am Win Lavery, Kerry McLoughlan

Eucharistic Ministers:

6.00pm Terry & Alison McKitterick, Olivia Gregory

8.00am John Dignan, Christ Armstrong, Margaret Spedding

10.00am Julie Moyle, Theresa Jacobs, Bernie Oliver, Cecilia Merrigan, Jenny Mayes

Setting up for Mass:

6.00pm Marie McDonald

8.00am Margot Vagg

10.00am Noela Boyer

Altar Society:

Joan Westblade, Roma Bowman, Glense Zealley

Glanville Communion:

Mick Westblade

Wharparilla Communion:

Sr Cletus Dullard

Bupa Communion:

Colleen Edwards, Carmel MacKenzie

Home Communion:

Sr Cletus Dullard

Hospital Visiting:

Veronica Brown & Barb Green

Proof Reading-May 3

Mary Atkins

Counting-May 1

Nancy Goldrick, Lois Williams

Lawns-May

Bernie Oliver & Tom Oliver

Baptism- May

Mary Byrne

Calendar

April

29: Combined Family Groups Mass for Deceased Members-10.00am Mass

30: Fr Des leaves for Sabbatical

May

2: Christian Meditation-10.45am to 12 noon-PC

2: Soup and Sandwiches-PC-after 12noon Mass

5: Fr Ted Arrives in Parish

5&6: Refugee Weekend

9: Sacramental Team meeting -PC-5.00pm

11: Aged Care Services

20: Come & See Mass

23: Reconciliation Ceremony

23: CWL meeting -PC-12.30

YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

Sick: Des Taylor, Mary Edwards, Patricia Vagg, Cheryl Carey, Mary Roberts, Mary Byrne, Enid Stapleton, Bruno Barbera, Anne Henderson, Jill Sutherland, Helen Munro, Frank Dullard, Judy Clark, Vanessa Rose Maroni, Matt O'Neill, Terry White, Beatrice Phillips, Barry O'Sullivan & Alan Roache

Recent Death: Bernard Curtin

Anniversary: Deceased members pf the Combined Family groups, Barbara Monahan, Mary Fenn. Allan Bolton & Tony Tyndall

Christian Meditation will be held every Wednesday at 10.45 am in the Parish Centre.

All welcome to come whenever you can.

Do you remember how special the Pentecost Come and See Mass was a couple of years ago?

Do you recall the power of the Spirit that was palpable amongst us?

Do you remember the candles and the flames?

Do you remember the birthday cake?

What a joyful celebration of the birth of the Church!!

Please bring some party food to share !!!!!



**We're celebrating
the Spirit!**

Sunday 20th May - 5pm

**St Mary's School
Auditorium**

St Mary's children will enflame our hearts with the Holy Spirit as we celebrate Pentecost.



Readings

1st Reading: Act of the Apostles 9:26-31

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.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

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

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.**

2nd Reading: St John 3:18-24

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Today's Gospel: John 15:1-8

Next week:

1st Reading: Act of the Apostles 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 97:1-4

2nd Reading: St John 4:7-10

Gospel: John 15:9-17