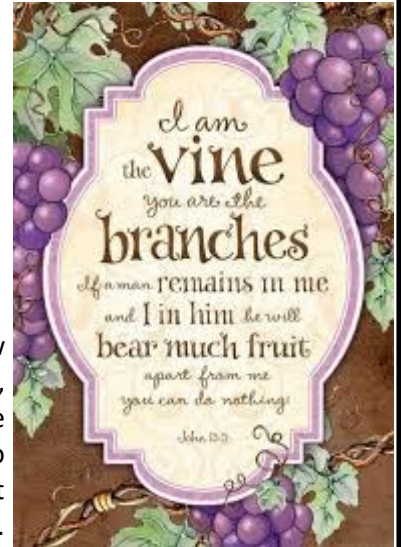


Reflection

At first glance, it appears that there is a certain ruthlessness about the image of the vinedresser pruning the vine: perform or perish! However, the process of cutting away and pruning branches is an incredibly nurturing action; it is removing the unproductive portions of the plant so that the vine has an even better opportunity to produce fruit in the next season. It is an act of love; not an act of economic rationalism. Within our own lives we are called to make decisions about which of our thoughts and actions are life-giving (fruit-bearing) and which are unproductive; negative; crippling; life-diminishing.

If we are able to 'prune' our life-diminishing thoughts and actions we allow ourselves the freedom and the ability to really flourish. Feelings of jealousy, greed, resentment, self-doubt and lack of confidence can limit our ability to be fully alive just as addictive and harmful behaviours can physically take away our ability to perform at our best. It is only through a process of cutting away and pruning that we can nurture ourselves to realise the beauty of our potential.

© Greg Sunter



Parish Priest: Fr. Novelito Lim
Email: nlim@stmarysechuca.org.au
Mobile: 0450 185 021

Community Coordinator: Julie Moyle
Email: pcc@stmarysechuca.org.au
Mobile: 0409 826 336

Admin Assistant: Marianne Kelly

Parish Office Hours
Tuesday—Thursday : 9am - 1pm
St Mary's Parish Centre
224-230 Anstruther Street, Echuca
Ph: (03) 5482 1127

Email: admin@stmarysechuca.org.au
Website: www.stmarysechuca.org.au
Facebook: St Mary's Parish Echuca

PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekday Masses: 29th April —3rd May
Wednesday: 12.00pm Mass Church
Thursday: 9.00am Mass
12:30pm Kildare Campus Liturgy
(Catholic Education Week)
Friday: 9.00am Mass

Weekend Mass Times: 4th & 5th May 2024
Saturday: 6:00pm Mass
Sunday : 9:30am Mass
11:30am Mass Tongala

Reconciliation: Approach Fr Novie before Mass
Baptism: Every Second Sunday of the Month
Weddings: By Appointment with the Parish Priest
Sophia Sisters: Every Tuesday 1:30pm (Parish Centre)
Men's Group: Every Saturday 9am (Parish Centre)
Playgroup: Every Friday 9am (Parish Centre)
During school terms

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Yorta Yorta Nation. 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.

If you wish to assist in "further supporting the Parish" we offer different ways of giving... direct debit, credit card or planned giving envelopes. Please ring the office for more details.

PARISH BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS are as follows:
St Mary's Echuca: BSB Number: 083-543
Account Number: 45-782-9206

Child Safety: Through our policies and practices, we protect the right of children to feel safe and to be safe. We promote the well-being and inclusion of all children. For more information, contact the parish office and look for the Child Safety Officer Mel Slattery.

PARISH CALENDAR

27th April: G'Day Weekend Parish Feast Day (Senior Leadership Team & Filipino Community)

28th April: G'Day Weekend Anzac Day Mass (Family Groups)

3rd May: Trivia Night On line

7th May: PPC Meeting 5.30pm

* Nicholls House Mass 12.15pm

8th May: High Tea Committee Meeting 4:30pm (Upstairs) * Liturgy Committee Meeting 5pm

10th May: Aged Care Liturgy 10am

12th May: Mother's Day

15th May: Soup and Sandwiches 12:30pm (After Mass)

21st May: Finance Committee Meeting 5pm

18th -19th May: G'Day Weekend

On this joyous Parish Feast Day in honour of Our Lady of Good Counsel, we gather to pray for our community. May we remain steadfast in our faith, spreading the good news, and seeking the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Prayer to our Lady of Good Counsel

God of heavenly wisdom, you have given us Mary, Mother of Jesus, to be our guide and counselor. Grant that we may always seek her motherly help in this life and so enjoy her blessed presence in the life to come. Amen.

OLIVE PRESSING!

If you or a friend has olives ready for pressing and you would like to add them to our Parish collection please contact Cecilia on 0400863190 for further information.

The Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project continues its vital work in support and advocacy of refugees. There is a couple of ways we can support them in the coming days.

BASP Online Trivia Night, Friday May 3rd

St Mary's Meeting Room. Trivia begins at 7.30

St Mary's Hampton on-line trivia event in support of the **Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project**

A fun night for you and your friends to raise money for a great cause, Sr Brigid will also provide updates regarding the current situation for refugees. St Mary's Echuca hopes to sign up at least two teams who would make a donation to BASP.

We will link in on the big screen to join in the fun!

If you would like to be involved please contact Andrew Sebire on 0428368281 or andrew@ivyhurstdairy.com.au

Sr Brigid has also asked for support regarding a bill the Government is trying to pass through the Senate, the

Proposed Migration Amendment (Removal and Other Measures) Bill.

This Bill would

1. Impose a one-year prison sentence for detainees who do not leave Australia, even if they could face persecution or death in their own country.
2. Give the Minister for Immigration the power to ban visas being issued for applications from countries that do not accept deportations.
3. Separate families because the Minister can direct people to leave Australia regardless of the impact on their family.

BASP are already getting phone calls and messages from people asking BASP to find them lawyers. They fear the implications of this Bill. They worry about being sent back to a country where there is a risk of persecution and/or death; being detained again or not being able to reunite with their family.

BASP does not want this Bill to be passed, no part of this Bill is acceptable.

Please click on this link to email to Senators and show that you do not support this 'entry and deportation' Bill.

<https://action.asrc.org.au/deportation-bill#newmode-embed-44120-65235> St Mary's Social Justice Group

G'DAY Weekend



PARISH FEAST DAY IN HONOUR OF
OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

6:00 PM MASS

SATURDAY, 27TH APRIL 2024

**FOLLOWED BY CUPPA HOSTED BY
THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM
AND THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY.**



COMBINED FAMILY GROUPS

ANZAC MASS

AND MORNING TEA FOR ALL
PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS

9.30AM MASS

SUNDAY 28 APRIL 2024

ST. MARY'S PARISH, ECHUCA



FOLLOWING THE LAST POST AND THE DISMISSAL, PLEASE JOIN
OUR FAMILY GROUPS TO CELEBRATE AND REMEMBER THOSE
WHO HAVE SERVED.

Hangabout Playgroup

9am - 10:15am Friday mornings during the school terms.

St Mary's Parish 224 Anstruther St Echuca
(enter via side gate).

Enjoy fun activities - craft, singing, story time, outdoor play with the kids and meet others.

Mums, Dads & Carers are all very welcome

Contact Mel Slattery 0417 822 589 if you require further details.

Reconciliation Week Sorry Day Afternoon Tea

St Mary's Social Justice Group invites you to enjoy a cuppa around the fire as we gather with local community elders to share stories and have a yarn.

2.30 Sunday 26th May 2024

More details to come...

Christine Sebire

G'DAY Weekend

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Senior Leadership Team serves as an advisory council to the Parish priest and comprises key leaders within the parish. This team includes the Chairpersons of major Parish groups such as the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) led by Rob Morris, the Finance Committee led by Margaret Hart, and our appointed Community Coordinator, Julie Moyle. While we handle minor decisions, our approach is consultative, drawing insights from various ministry groups. We discuss issues communicated by these groups and collaboratively find solutions that benefit both the groups and the community.

ROSTERS THIS WEEK

27th & 28th April 2024

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Kristy Serpell
Chamali Stouter, Carla Chisholm

9.30am: Noela Boyer
Barbara Green, Carmel Mackenzie

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Christine Sebire
9.30am: Rob Morris, Carol Purdon

Prayers of the Faithful: David Baker

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 27th Josie Drakatos,
Effie Xodo, Mel Slattery

Setting up the Church: 27th Carol Purdon

Setting up the Church: 28th Rod Chisholm

Baptism Preparation: Sarah Byrne

Counters: 30th Brendan Shingles, Andrew Kennedy,
Peter Davey

Hospital Visiting: 29th Jackie Delahunty

Gardening: John Zealley, Ken Hatfield, Alfred Grigg

ROSTERS NEXT WEEK

4th & 5th May 2024

Commentators/Lectors:

6.00pm: Chris Lee
Nick Lee, Carol Purdon

9.30am: Barb Green
Rod Chisholm, Kerry McLoughlan

Ministers of the Eucharist

6.00pm: Dominic Karunanayke
9.30am: Kay Westblade, Catherine Lindner

Prayers of the Faithful: Noela Boyer

St Anne's Church Cleaners: 4th Elaine Roberts,
Tania Dixon

Setting up the Church: 4th Kate Bruty

Setting up the Church: 5th Bernie Oliver

Baptism Preparation: Holly Morris

Counters: 7th Roma Bowman, Margaret Hart

Hospital Visiting: 6th John and Julie Moyle

Gardening: Doug Black, Ray Lewis

YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

Sick: Julio and Nati Acebron, David Baker, Bruno Barbera, Monica Beckwith, Dan Carey, Howard Clark Jnr, Pat Davey, John & Chloris Dignan, Caroline Farley, Bernadette McClelland, Fred Molluso, John Monigatti, Margaret Oman, Murray Perrett, Beatrice Phillips, Peter Phillips, Meredith (Maddick) Ryan, Patricia Vogele, Jodie Walton, Jayden Williams, Judy Wallace, Colleen Bosse, Bruce Haines, Sue Dalton (Johnson), Maureen McKenner.

Anniversaries: Kate Aldridge, Paul Merrigan, Barbara Monahan, Mary Fenn, Palma Scarfo, Bill Shanahan.
Allan Bolton, Percy Colvin, Peter Lee.

Recently Deceased: Rodney Thaw (David Baker's cousin)

First Reading

Acts 9:26-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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.****Second Reading** 1 John 3:18-24**A reading from the first letter of St John**

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.****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.**

Gospel Acclamation**Alleluia, alleluia!**

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

Alleluia.**Gospel**

John 15:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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.**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.****Next week: 6th Sunday of Easter****4th & 5th May Year B****1st Reading: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48****Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 97:1-4****2nd Reading: 1 John 4:7-10****Gospel: John 15:9-17**