

The Living Word

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year B

28 April 2024

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!



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 Greg Sunter

The Lectionary of this Easter season draws out some of the 'classic' gospel passages, particularly some of the discourses from the Gospel of John. Like many 'famous' or familiar passages, it can be true that familiarity breeds contempt – we think we are so familiar with the passage that we don't need to pay it much attention.

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.

I am reminded of the old *Karate Kid* movie when the boy, Daniel, is introduced to the art of bonsai. He is told to close his eyes, imagine the perfect tree and then start clipping and shaping the plant to make real the perfection that lies within it. It is only through a process of cutting away and pruning that we can nurture ourselves to realise the beauty of our potential.

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Incorporating the Mass centres and communities of

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| Holy Family | Our Lady Star of the Sea | Holy Trinity |
| 101 Hitchcock Av | 68 John Dory Drive | 34 Stevens St |
| Barwon Heads | Ocean Grove | Queenscliff |

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather, the Wathaurong people. We pay our respects to them for their care of the land. May we walk gently and respectfully in the land.

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev Fr Darien J Sticklen

Parish Secretary: Mrs Daniella Sutura

Safeguarding & Admin Support: Ms Jennie Ryan

Parish Mission Ambassador: Ms Josephine Barnes

Pastoral Care Coordinator: Sr Nola Morrissy RSM

For all parish ministries, including Holy Communion to the Sick, RCIA, Baptism & Sacramental Program, Men Alive, Faith Development & Spirituality Group, St Vincent de Paul local Conference, Trinity Aid for Refugees, etc., please visit:

www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au

PARISH OFFICE & PRESBYTERY

34 Stevens Street, Queenscliff 3225

Telephone: (03) 5258 1673

Email: queenscliff@cam.org.au

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
10:00am to 1:00pm (closed public holidays)

PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS

St. Aloysius, Queenscliff

Principal: Ms. Miriam Leahy, Tel: 5258 1736

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove

Principal: Ms. Kerryn Sells, Tel: 5255 4308

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

BARWON HEADS: Saturday Vigil 6:00pm

OCEAN GROVE: Sunday 9:00am

QUEENSCLIFF: Sunday 11:00am

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Please see below: Liturgy in our Parish this week

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

is available prior to each weekend Mass, and before or after weekday Masses if needed.

BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS

Visit our website for all information or contact Parish office

www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/sacraments/

COLUMBARIUM

Please visit www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/about-us/parish-columbarium/

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN ATTENDING NON-CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Please visit our website for all information:

<https://hollytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/sacraments/sacramental-program-1/>

Please send in bulletin notices by 1pm on Thursdays

PARISHIONERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE THEIR BULLETINS HOME AFTER MASS

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year B

Recently Deceased: Lynette King, Vincent John Bourke and Andrew Gillivan.

Anniversaries 28th April to 4th May: Rafael Nnopus, Monica Connellan, Rita Anthony, Francisca Dekker, Robyn Meaker, Antonio Staltaro, Patrick Reid, James Patterson, Ian Stoney, Johanna Verheyen, Adelaide Upton, Tony Robinson and Martin Brown.

Please pray for those who are Sick: Elly Anwyl, Naomi Bianco, Mary Blonk, Peter Bourke, Helen Carter, Sam Caruana, Jack Davin, Pat Dickeson, Michael Dowling, Ian Downing, Robert Drummond & Patti Semler, Frank Flynn, Gloria Forbes, Nell Fraigneux, Kay Freyne, Ross Gilham, Margaret Gladstone, Martin & Mary Grundy, Justin Hanan, Stephen Hanan, Susan Hardy, Peter Harrington, Jeannette Hodgkinson, Gregory Holien, Robert & Lyne Horner, Robert Hurley, Melissa Keogh, Gary Kingsbury, Hilda Koertjes, Margaret Lomas, Toni Lukauskas, Brendan Merriman, Belinda Monterosso, Christine Naulty, Frank Nelson, Helen Pearce, Cecilia Picc, Mavourneen Ray, Margaret Renwick (Snr), Geraldine Richards, Betty Rushton, Mary Sullivan, Pam Sullivan, Kevin Teasdale, Deanne Warren, Cathy Williams, Peter Williams and Shirley Woodruff.

ROSTERS

If you are unable to meet your commitment on your day, please arrange a substitute. Thank you!

COMMENTATOR (C), LECTOR (L), SPECIAL MINISTER (SM), WELCOMERS (W), PROJECTIONIST (P)

OCEAN GROVE: 5th May at 9:00am:

(C) Peter Dickinson (L) Liz Frazer (SM) Jo Ballard, Sandra Duggan (W) Marg Lucas, Sr Nola Morrissy.

QUEENSCLIFF: 5th May at 11:00am:

(C) Bob Merriman (L) John Hanan (SM) Maria Sammut (W) Helper required.

COUNTERS: Tuesday 30th April at 10:00am:

Judy Compton and Fay Neville.

** NEWS & EVENTS **

If you need Pastoral care & support, or you are aware of others who may need assistance, please phone our Parish office. Mobile number for emergencies is on the recorded message.

For all Safeguarding updates, please visit the parish website:

www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/safeguarding/parish-child-safe/

We appreciate your understanding and support as we work together to comply with our legal requirements. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Upcoming annual appeal and special collection:

CatholicCare Sunday Appeal will be held next weekend (4-5 May). Envelopes will be available at each Mass centre.

Ladies Social Group: lunch is at Barwon Heads Hotel (1 Bridge Road, Barwon Heads) on **Wednesday May 1st, at 12pm**. To RSVP, text or phone Sandra on 0423 047 862. All ladies in the parish welcome.

TLC Aged Care – Homestead Estate, Wallington: 4 weeks respite at no charge to the resident! Each person has individual needs during their journey into aged care. For this reason, we offer 4 weeks respite at no cost to the resident as an alternative or transition to full-time care. ***Offer ends 30th April 2024***. To book your personalised tour, contact Susan (Resident Liaison) on 0498 018 632. See Church noticeboard for further details.

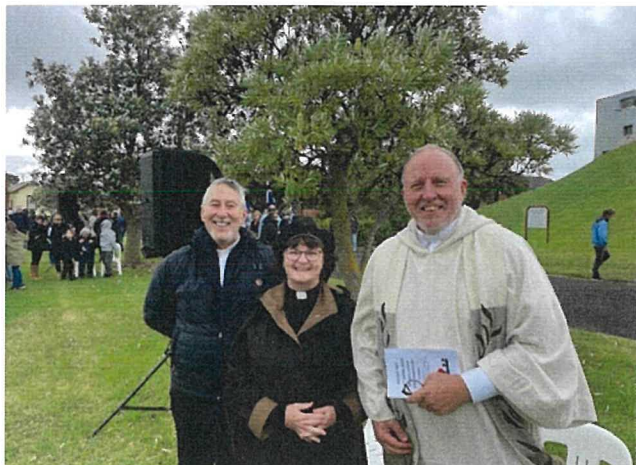


I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCHES.

St Bernard's Church Annual BOOK FAIR – Sunday 5th May: Clairvaux School Hall (Reynolds Road, Belmont) from 8am to 2pm. Come along & browse through a huge selection of *second-hand books* - fiction, non-fiction & children's - all at *bargain prices*. Jigsaw puzzles, board games, DVDs & CDs & scrumptious scone stall. *Something for everyone!*

Each Church in our Parish has a TAP & GO terminal. These have helped increase financial support for our Parish. Easy to use – please avail yourself of this way to support us. Thank you.

Trinity Aid for Refugees (TAR): if you wish to continue support you can donate directly to Wesley Church Welcome Place: BSB 633 000, Account 160 305 066. Website: www.queenscliff.org.



Fr Darien, Rev. Jo White and Rev. Greg Crowe, described as "The God Squad", following Anzac Day ceremonies at Fort Queenscliff.

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LITURGY IN OUR PARISH THIS WEEK

Monday 29th April – St Catherine of Siena (Memorial)

Tuesday 30th April – St Pius V (Memorial)

9:15am Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove

Wednesday 1st May – St Joseph the Worker (Memorial)

9:15am Mass at Holy Trinity, Queenscliff with St Aloysius Senior students attending

Thursday 2nd May – St Athanasius (Memorial)

9:15am Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove
9:00am Our Lady Star of the Sea Year 6 Confirmation Reflection Day

Friday 3rd May– Sts Philip & James (Feast)

9:15am Mass at Holy Trinity, Queenscliff

Saturday 4th May – Saturday of the 5th week of Easter

Sunday 5th May – SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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Parish Vision Prayer

Heavenly Father, Holy Trinity Parish is your family, committed to praying and growing together, as we build on the gifts of our past, the living of our present and our hopes for the future.

Lord Jesus, we are nourished by prayer, the word and sacraments, especially the Eucharist. We recognize and trust in each other's spiritual gifts. We will strive to be a visible sign of God's love for the world.

Holy Spirit, baptized in your name, we accept the challenge to live as Jesus did. We will celebrate our lives and gifts in service to others, welcoming all people, and sharing our talents and resources.

As a parish, we will endeavour to make present the Kingdom of God, here and now. AMEN.

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Your Parish Pastoral Council will meet at 5:30pm on Wednesday 1st May at Our Lady Star of the Sea Primary School. As some Councillors will be coming to an end of their term on the Council, there's an opportunity for new members to join around the middle of the year. On Pentecost Sunday, we will acknowledge outgoing Councillors and welcome new Councillors after a process of discernment.

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Anthony & Letitia Dowling
with the friendly team you know and trust.

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Contact Frank Nelson

0413 017 053
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CHARLIE'S MAINTENANCE CO

General maintenance, gardening, cleaning and tiling. Servicing the Bellarine and Geelong areas. Contact Charlie on 0413 609 170 or email charlie.sutera76@gmail.com.