

## 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.

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# Breaking Open the Word



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / B

# THE SAVING WORD

02 MAY 2021

## REMAINING IN JESUS' LOVE

Today's Gospel presents us with the image of the vine and the challenge to bear fruit in our Christian lives. There are some plants that are best left alone but a vine needs to be pruned, to cut away what is not essential so that it can produce a good and abundant crop. For Christians the implement of pruning is the word of Jesus which enters into our hearts and challenges us to take stock of our lives and values.

In the second reading John shares a simple and profound truth with us, that the business of bearing fruit requires more than good intentions and fine words. The new life of Easter is something we can all share in by our belief in Jesus and our love for one another. The principles are simple, and the difficulty has always been that of living our lives day by day open to the word of Jesus and the demands of love.

Six times the theme of remaining is mentioned in the gospel. It is clearly an important and difficult dimension of our bearing fruit as Christians. Remaining faithful to our promises and allowing Jesus' word to enter deeper into our hearts is a constant challenge but the readings also encourage us not to lose heart. The example of Paul in the first reading shows how the Lord can enter into the hardest heart and can turn a feared persecutor into a fearless preacher of the word. Even gnarled vines can bear abundant fruit.

Christopher Monaghan CP

## 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!

2 May 2021  
5th Sunday Easter

# WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrickswestamworthparish.org/>



Parish Priest Fr Anthony Koppman  
Deacon Deacon Peter Harrison

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Administration: Di Bolitho / Anne Bowden  
Sacristan Elaine Smyth

St Joseph's School  
Principal Mrs Katie Hanes 67654079

WEEKEND MASSES Vigil: Sat: 5.30pm Sun: 9 am and 5.30 pm

CONFESSIONS  
Sat: 4.30-5.15pm  
\*Or by appointment

WEEKDAY MASSES  
Mon: \*No Mass  
Wed: 12pm  
Fri: 9am  
Tues: \*No Mass  
Thur: 9am  
Sat: 9am

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: *O sing a new song to the Lord, for He has worked Wonders in the sight of the nations He has shown his deliverance, Alleluia.*

May God have mercy on all those asked to be remembered in prayer:

Recently Deceased: Blagyna Nikolovski, John Parker, Rodney Oatley.

Anniversaries: Harry Cunningham (30/4), Peg MacRae (2/5), John Varga (1/6).

Deceased: Patrick Valentine McNicholas, Dalis O'Brien, Fay Sims, Steven Walton, Stephanie Cayley, Ronald Dietrich, Patricia Hawes, Norm Moran, Thomas Brown.

Sick: Fr Bernie Flood, Barbara Brennan, Monica Austin, Mimmie Bennett, Bob Worthington, Kim Myers, Rachel MacPherson, Judy Cummins, Shirley Hobbs, Elaine White, Erin Hansen, Bill Press, Jenny Crawford, Sr Pat Bartley, Deacon Peter Harrison, Maureen Harrison, Linda Bourke, Peggy Bussell, Margaret Doyle, Christopher Struck, Graeme Bussell, Brindley Cavallaro, Jack & Marge Attard.

## PADDY'S CORNER



Two Irish lads were working for the local county council. One lad would dig a hole and the other lad would follow him and fill the hole in. They worked up along one street and then down the other. They then moved to the next street and did the same, working flat out all day without stopping. One lad digging the holes. The other lad filling them in. A passerby saw what they were doing and was amazed at the hard work, but couldn't understand what they were at. So, he shouted over to the lad digging the holes, 'I don't get it - why do you dig a hole, only for the other lad to fill it in?' The lad wiped his brow and sighed deeply, 'Well, I suppose it probably does look a bit odd. You see, we're normally a three-man team. But today the lad who plants the trees phoned in sick.'

## COMING EVENTS

9 May: Mother's Day ♥♥ 31 July: Launch of Online Men's Gathering 2021

## CHURCH COLLECTIONS

1st Collection: BSB 082105 ACC 001023642 2nd Collection: BSB 082105 ACC 001041198

Entreat God to make us all that we should be. (1873)



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\*\* STICKER MARK YOUR SEATING AND  
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EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST are being sought for the proposed new Parish Pastoral Committee. The Committee will be formed in the coming weeks to meet many new and exciting challenges as the Parish grows into the future and embraces new and important pastoral opportunities. Please contact Fr Anthony or email the Parish if you feel you can contribute your special gifts to assist our Parish in this important work.

THE NATIONAL COUNT OF ATTENDANCE will be conducted throughout Australia from this weekend for four consecutive Sundays in May 2021. Counting over 4 Sundays ensures that fortnightly and monthly Masses are not overlooked. It will be a simple head count; no other information about attendees will be collected. This is a count of attendance at ALL MASSES celebrated in the Diocese, including all parishes, non-parish centres, hospitals and chaplaincies. Volunteers for counting heads will be gratefully accepted.

GET VACCINATED FOR THE COMMON GOOD: Vaccination against COVID-19 is a morally good thing, providing protection for the person vaccinated and the wider community. Some COVID-19 vaccines are associated with ethically questionable production and research practices, but Pope Francis and the Australian Bishops have advised that it is morally permissible to receive any vaccine made available. More information is available at <https://www.catholic.org.au/coronavirus>

THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC MEN'S GATHERING FOR 2021 will be launched online on Saturday 31st July. The Diocese of Armidale will be holding its own Diocesan Catholic Men's Gathering as an in-person event on Saturday 16th October in Tamworth. This event will include the input being prepared by the ACBC for the National Catholic Men's Gathering as well as local input and content. Aim: To inspire and encourage all Catholic men with a vision for personal discipleship, service and mission in the family, parish/diocese and the world. Further to come.

DIMMING IN THE CHURCH: The lights in the Church are gradually failing. Unfortunately replacement of these lights forms a significant endeavour and cost. We have seen the improved savings made with updating of lighting in the presbytery and grounds and we would like to see the same in the Church. We hope to be able to address the issue in the not too distant future.

CRACKER'S TALES: To assist with the lighting project, we will aim to clear the stock of Cracker's Tales. The bargain price of \$10 will get you all the laughs you need. Please contact the office or speak with Fr Anthony after Mass or at the office if you would like to buy a copy



## WEEK 1 ROSTER: 2/5/21

Vigil: R D Bolitho G Styman  
9am Sun: R S Nichols G Clout  
5.30pm Sun: R M and J Murray  
Counting Team R Paull; A Bowden  
Sat Cleaning 8/5 K O'Brien J Cunningham  
Altar Linen: J Hutt

## WEEK 2 ROSTER: 9/5/21 (Mothers Day)

Vigil: R D Bolitho R Palmer  
9am Sun: R C Monet O Monet  
5.30pm Sun: R M and J Murray  
Counting Team P Sheils; A Bowden  
Sat Cleaning 15/5 J Hutt & J Moran  
Altar Linen E Jackson