

**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.

**A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**

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# Breaking Open the Word

## 'MAKE YOUR HOME IN ME'

The juxtaposition of the story of Saul (Paul) in the first reading from Acts with the image of Jesus as the vine in the Gospel speaks to the formation of disciples of Jesus. In Acts we have a glimpse into the beginnings of Saul's (not yet called Paul) ministry who, with all the zeal of his experience of the risen Christ, joins the believers. Barnabas takes him under his wing. Trouble erupts with the Hellenists and Paul is whisked away from Jerusalem to his hometown to where he contemplates his call.

When we then hear the Gospel's beautifully elegant description of the vine and the branches we can connect with the formation of the disciples and discern our own call. The clear instruction is 'to make your home in me', to make our home in Jesus. It is a symbiotic relationship just like the vine and its branches. We need to remain/abide in Jesus to bear fruit. No matter our zeal, our life of faith and ministry grows and flows from Jesus. This is further enriched by the words of the second reading from the First Letter of John where we hear that 'our love is not to be just words or mere talk but something real and active'. We are to live the life God wants, to love one another and live in God.

Vines and their fruit are no stranger to us here in Australia, so we take time to reflect on this image to see how closely we abide in Jesus the vine.

Dr Rosemary Canavan



# THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / B

**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!

28 April 2024

Easter Wk 5 Yr B

## WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrikswesttamworthparish.org>

Email: [westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au](mailto:westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au)



Parish Priest

Fr Anthony Koppman

Pastoral Associate:

Sr Kathryn Sweeney RSJ.

Office Hrs: Wed & Thurs 8.30-11.30 am

Administration

Di Bolitho, Anne Bowden

Presbytery 67658211

Sacristan

Elaine Smyth

Pastoral Associate 0411703608

School Principals

Greg O'Toole and Maree Holland

St Josephs School 67654079

WEEKEND MASSES Sat: 5.30pm Sun: 9.00am Sun: 5pm

### CONFESIONS

Sat: 4.30-5.00 pm

\*Or by appointment

WEEKDAY MASSES Tues: 5 pm Mass

Wed: 12 noon Mass

Thurs: 9 am Mass

Fri: 12 noon Mass

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

**COMMUNION** I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord.  
**ANTIPHON:** Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** John Nash, Peter Newley, Colin MacPherson, Gary Donaldson.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Marie Mansfield (3/3), William Grima (5/3), Anna (25/3),

Fr Bruce MacPherson (8/4), Harry Cunningham (30/4).

**DECEASED:** Margaret Marshall, Sr Rita Vella, Barry Schipp.

**SICK:** Fr Anthony Koppman, Norma O'Brien, Christine Porters, Shane Davidson, Monica Austin, Terry Dean, Barbara Brennan, Graeme Bussell, John Betts, Kate Harrison, William Bonner, Maureen Harrison, Deacon Peter Harrison, Fr Bernard Flood.

**VEENA'S VERSION:** Jesus walks into a bar: He sees a Russian man with a glass of water. Jesus asks "My son, are you a believer?" The Russian replies "No." With a wave of his hands, Jesus changes it to a glass of wine. "Well my son, do you believe now?" The Russian frowns and shakes his head. The next day, Jesus comes into the bar and sees the same man. "My son, are you a believer yet?" The Russian replies "No." Jesus waves his hands and behold! The glass again is changed to wine. "Well my son, now you surely believe?" The Russian frowns and shakes his head. On the third day, Jesus enters the bar and approaches the Russian. "My son, are you a believer yet?" The Russian looks up "If I say I believe, will you just leave my vodka alone .

### COMING EVENTS:

28 Apr Term 2 Commences

15 June REFLECTION DAY West Tamworth Parish Centre

### CHURCH COLLECTIONS: **BSB 082 105**

1st. Collection West Tamworth Presbytery (Diocesan collection) Acc No: 001023642

2nd Collection West Tamworth Church (St Patricks Church) Acc No:001041198

*"It is not those who can pay us well that we should first seek, but rather the poor and neglected where we can find the means of supporting them."* (1898)



**VEENA'S UPDATE - FR ANTHONY'S LEAVE:** Please keep Father Anthony in your prayers and pray for the return of his good health. Please also pray for blessings upon Fr Martin Maunsell and Fr John McHugh for their continued pastoral care of St Patricks in Fr Anthony's absence.

**menALIVE WEEKEND FOR MEN.** What are you doing on the 4th and 5th of May? Could you benefit from a weekend featuring talks, personal testimonies, opportunities for discussion and space to reflect? Since menALIVE commenced in 2003 thousands of Catholic men have been encouraged and inspired at weekends across Australia. Now, Armidale's 3rd menALIVE weekend is being hosted at Echidna Gully at Metz Gorge. Further information - [www.trybooking.com/CPBWS](http://www.trybooking.com/CPBWS) to register or Chris on 0433 775 42.

**PARISH REFLECTION DAY:** Sr Maureen's reflection day is now for 15 June. Through the Desert God Leads us to Freedom - Pope Francis invites us to journey with God this Lent. During the day there will be the opportunity to open up the Lenten Message of Pope Francis as we reflect on his words, inviting us to grow to greater freedom.

### From Pope Francis' Reflection:

*His call to freedom is a demanding one. It is not answered straightaway; it has to mature as part of a journey. Just as Israel in the desert still clung to Egypt – often longing for the past and grumbling against the Lord and Moses – today too, God's people can cling to an oppressive bondage that it is called to leave behind. We realize how true this is at those moments when we feel hopeless, wandering through life like a desert and lacking a promised land as our destination.*

**DE LA SALLE ARMIDALE REUNION:** All Ex-students of De La Salle College Armidale are invited to a School Reunion to be held In Armidale on Saturday 26th October **THIS YEAR**, which is the 50th Anniversary of the closing of the College as we knew it. Very Importantly - in order to secure our booking at this early stage - we need to soon know NUMBERS coming! **IF** you (wife/partner also welcome) intend to come please send a "YES" email to [dlsarmidale@yahoo.com](mailto:dlsarmidale@yahoo.com). to be put on invitees list. Limited seating for this special Reunion! More information if required from Pete Stanley, mob 0401745406. Other information will come to your email.

### PRAYER FOR OUR NEW BISHOP

God our Father, in Jesus, your Son, You have given to your Church the perfect model of priest, prophet and king, and so You have blessed us through His sacrifice, taught us through His Word, and guided us through His rule. We ask You, Father, to guide and enlighten those who will be tasked with helping to choose the next bishop of our diocese. May the person they choose be one of deep and true prayer, a person of a compassionate heart and firm resolve, and a person of joy and peace, who desires above all to do Your will. We entrust our prayers to our Patroness, Mary, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, and ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen



### WEEK 1 ROSTER: 28/4/24

Vigil: R C Ledwos Sr Kathryn  
9am Sun: R S Nichols G Clout  
5.00pm Sun: R J Moloney C Lavell  
Counting Team P Shiels A Bowden  
Fri Cleaning S Brown V Griffiths  
Altar Linen: H Reid

### WEEK 2 ROSTER: 5/5/24

Vigil: R Sr Kathryn N Pullman  
9am Sun: R S Brown A Sartori  
5.00pm Sun: R A O'Halloran T Mitchell  
Counting Team G & M Thrift A Bowden  
Fri Cleaning K O'Brien M Brown  
Altar Linen: J Hutt

We acknowledge the First Nations people who have walked upon and care for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of First Nations people to this land and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

