



Parish News

Sunday 2nd MAY

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.

This Sunday in our reading from John there is a change in symbolism from shepherding to that of the vine. This too is an image that derives from the Old Testament where the prophets speak of the chosen people as God's vine that he tends with love in the hope of it producing choice fruit. The evangelist now takes that same idea and revolutionises it by showing us that Jesus is the true vine and the disciples are his branches, in other words they cannot and do not exist apart from him.



Two important aspects of the believer's relationship with Jesus emerge from this: intimacy and fruitfulness. We are in complete union with him, that is, we remain or abide in him and draw life from him. Since we draw life from him then we will bear fruit and that means that we cannot claim to be his disciples and live only for ourselves....

We gather as people who have been grafted into Christ by baptism, as the people who have heard his voice and who seek to follow him in our lives, and to join with him in prayer in thanking the Father.

In today's gospel we are reminded that this discipleship is not a passive affair: we are made part of Christ so that through us the Father's kingdom can come closer to all humanity and so that, through us, his will can be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Reflection

Looking at the story of Paul in the first reading, we are reminded that we can never predict how and where God will speak to us. It is not difficult to imagine the fear of the Jerusalem church when they heard that Saul was back from Damascus. Some of them had probably witnessed his involvement in the death of Stephen, and now they were being asked to believe that he had become one of them. Surely it was a trick! It took Barnabas to show them the way. Just as God was to be found in a crucified Messiah, why couldn't he now be working through Saul the Pharisee? Sometimes faith demands that we take risks because God would have us look for him in the most unexpected places. If we are attached to Jesus the true vine, then our faith will be nourished and we will remain in him.



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Catechesis on prayer. Pope Francis gave his general audience address in the library of the Apostolic Palace April 28th. The speech was the 31st reflection in his cycle of [catechesis on prayer](#) Topics include meditation, vocal prayer and praying in communion with Mary.

Pray in May for an end to the pandemic.

Pope Francis urges Catholics to Pray in May for an end to the Covid-19 Pandemic [The initiative](#) will involve all the Shrines of the world in a special way, so that they might encourage the faithful, families, and communities to recite the Rosary to pray for an end to the pandemic. The Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization announced the news with a press release on Wednesday afternoon. It takes place under the theme “The whole Church was fervently praying to God,” which recalls a verse in the Book of Acts (12:5).

BETHANY BEREAVEMENT GROUP

We know that many families have suffered bereavement during the year and due to Covid 19 there were many restrictions. Our Bethany Bereavement Group cannot carry out visits as we usually did. But we are thinking of you and want to assure you of our prayers. Hopefully we will be able to resume visits later in the year.

The Little Way Novena will take place in St Eugene’s Cathedral from Saturday, 8th May until Sunday, 16th May. Theme: Holiness consists simply in doing God’s will, and being just what God wants us to be. Due to current restrictions tickets will be required.

Parish Envelopes. The Parish envelopes for those who are in the Gift Aid Scheme have been distributed. If you have not yet received your envelopes please contact the parish office on 02871342303. The pink boxes are available at the Church doors. If you are working and paying taxes and not already on the Gift Aid scheme we would ask you to consider completing a Gift Aid form .

We would also like to thank people for their continued generosity and support especially over the last few weeks



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The Month of May is dedicated to The Blessed Virgin Mary.

The first 23 days fall within the liturgical season of Easter, which is Represented by the liturgical color white — the color of light, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence (absolute or restored).

Focus of the Liturgy

May 2nd - 5th Sunday of Easter

In today's Gospel Jesus says He is the vine and we are the branches.

May 9th - 6th Sunday of Easter

Christ gives the commandment to love as He loves.

May 16th - Ascension or 7th Sunday of Easter

Jesus tells his disciples to preach the Gospel to the whole world.

May 23rd - Pentecost Sunday

In this Gospel Jesus gives His disciples the power to forgive sins.

May 30th - Trinity Sunday

Jesus tells the apostles to "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

The saints that we will focus on this month — those who have already shared in the rewards of the Resurrection — are **St. Joseph the Worker** (May 1), **Sts. Philip and James** (May 3), **St. Damian the Leper** (May 10), **St. Nereus & Achilleus**, **St. Pancras** (May 12), **Our Lady of Fatima** (May 13), **St. Matthias** (May 14), **St. Isidore the Farmer** (May 15), **St. John I** (May 18), **St. Bernadine of Siena** (May 20), **St. Christopher Magallanes** (May 21), **St. Rita of Cascia** (May 22), **St. Bede**, **St. Gregory VII** and **St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi** (May 25), **St. Philip Neri** (May 26), **St. Augustine of Canterbury** (May 27) and the **Visitation** (May 31).



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Our Parish Mass Schedule

Weekday schedule

09.15am Immaculate Conception
10:00am St Columb's,
11:00am St Oliver Plunkett
11:00am St Mary's Oratory (**Wednesday only**)
07:30pm St Columb's

Saturday Morning

10:00am St Columb's
11:00am Immaculate Conception

Weekend schedule Vigils

06:00pm Immaculate Conception
06:00pm St Oliver Plunkett
07:00pm St Columb's
08:00pm Immaculate Conception

Morning (Sunday)

09:30am Immaculate Conception
10:00am St Columb's
11:15am St Oliver Plunkett
12 noon Immaculate Conception

Evening (Sunday)

06:00pm St Columb's

NB! Mass in St Mary's Oratory, Newbuildings on Wednesday at 11:00am

The [full schedule](#) is available on the parish website
All Liturgies are streamed on www.youtube.com/watersideparish



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Rest in Peace

Deaths:

Margaret Holmes, Killea, Dougie Kershaw, Faulkner Court,
Kathleen McGurk, nee McFeeley, Strabane and Florence Street

Anniversaries:

Margaret Frazer, John Monaghan, Sally McCallion, Sean McHugh,
Sheila Kelly, Marie Coyle, Jim McGinley, John Carlin, Annie Starrett,
Margaret Muldoon

A Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the
Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You
sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



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