

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 Fr Michael Tate

We are too familiar with today's gospel. Christ is the vine and we are the branches, sometimes in need of a good pruning. But God's purpose is not to produce a perfect vineyard. It is to produce a full-bodied wine at the end of history.

There is a foretaste of this at every Mass. The wine we offer - 'fruit of the earth and work of human hands' - becomes the spiritual drink which best serves the purpose of our Heavenly Father. How does this happen?

For the Jewish people observing an animal whose throat is cut, it is obvious that the life drains out with the blood. 'Life' and 'blood' became synonyms. So, when the Jewish Jesus says of the wine in the chalice at the Last Supper: 'This is my blood', amongst other things he is saying: 'This is my life force, this is my very life given unreservedly for you.'

So, when we drink from the chalice at Holy Communion, the life of the Risen Lord courses through our bodies just as the sap of the vine courses through its branches. We share the same ultimate vitality so that our bodily existence builds into the Body of Christ. He becomes truly 'full-bodied' as the Divine Vignerone desires.

We could take a moment to pray that we respond to the pruning and the tending and the pressing by our Heavenly Father so as to contribute our distinctive character to the vintage at the end of history, the spiritual drink of the Kingdom of Heaven.

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Entrance Antiphon: Cf Psalm 97:1-2
 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.

Communion Antiphon: Cf John 15:1,5
 I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia. © Liturgy Help 2024

GOULBURN MISSION

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WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday ---- 6pm SPP Goulburn
 6pm Taralga
Sunday ----- 8am (OLOF), 10 am (SPP)
 9am (Crookwell)
 Binda -10.30am (1st Sunday)
 Marulan - 8.30am (2nd Sun)
 Tarago - 8.30am (3rd Sun)
 Tuena - Nil until further notice
 Bungonia St Michael's: 7pm, Thurs Rosary

CONFESSIONS

SPP: 11.30 -12 (Wed /Thurs/Fri), Sat 5.15pm
OLOF: Sat. 9.30am -10am
Taralga: 5.30pm (1st Sat)
Crookwell: 8.30am (2nd Sun)

ADORATION & BENEDICTION

SPP 11am Fridays
Holy Hour: 2nd & 4th Tuesday 5.30pm OLOF

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday - 5pm (OLOF),
 Wed, Thurs Fri - 12md (SPP)
 Sat - 9am (OLOF)

Mass Offerings: Please send to office, or central collection boxes.

ROSTER Coordinator-

judith.stuart11@gmail.com

BAPTISMS: Book through the Parish Office.

MOTHERS DAY RAFFLE tickets available from the office from Wednesday the 1st May.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

May 4: Women's Morning tea. Workers Club 10 am
May 5: Children's liturgy
May 8: Crookwell parish morning tea
May 11: Rotary Council Parkside monthly BBQ 7am-1pm
May 12: Mother's Day
May17-19: Catholic School reunion.
June1&2: First Holy Communion
June 30: Parish Luncheon (Sts Peter & Paul Feast)

Combined Catholic Schools Goulburn Reunion

Ex Students of St Pat's Tech, Inverolochy, OLMC and St Joseph's College are holding their reunion 17th, 18th and 19th May at the Goulburn Workers Club.
Rsvp Paul Wales on 0412 676 073 by May the 4th.

GOOD SHEPHERD APPEAL

A reminder that the Good Shepherd Appeal is available on your QkR app, this week's retiring collection and the payment slips available at the front of your church. Thank you for your generosity towards the seminarians studying to carry the word of God in to the future.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are invited to assist for a few hours at the next Rotary Council Parkside Monthly BBQ to be held on **Sat May 11** between 7am to 1pm, and the Bunnings BBQ to be held on **Sun June 9** between 8am to 4pm. The funds raised will go to meet the operational cost of the Cathedral's gas heating. **Please contact Dennis on 0415 210 245 to help out.**

DATES FOR SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Holy Communion lessons begins on
 1st May Crookwell
 2nd May Goulburn

Confirmation Lessons begins on
 8th August Goulburn

Goulburn Women's morning tea

Women's' Morning tea is being held at the workers club on Saturday May the 4th at 10am. Please call Chanel Burke or Sr Janet to confirm attendance.

CROOKWELL PARISH MORNING TEA RETURNS

On the second Wednesday of the month, the Crookwell Parish Morning tea will be held in the Parish Meeting room at 10.30am. All welcome!!

Recently Deceased: Steven Thorne, Dwain Berggren, Joe Patti, Joseph O'Neil, Violeto Policarpio, Rita Berrell, Carmen Williams, Myra Kanowski, Sr Marie De Porres, Bob Bower, Margaret Cherry, Theresia Neonbasu, Barbara Simpson, Archbishop Francis Carroll,

Anniversaries: Janet Fisher, Anne Fisher, Frances Owens, Arthur Cracuin, Mick and Ena Webb, Marie and Jack Druett, Nancy Dane, Noel Plumb, Winnie Elliott, Yvonne Hoare, Selby William (BILL) Burgess, Perry McCormack, Pat McCormack, Val Elliott, Pam Lee, Andrezy Bobrowski, Margaret Clark, Pauline Bowen, Terry Thistleton, Jan Collins, Jessie Falk, Max McGaw, Gerry Doodman, Bernadette and Phillip Hart, Deasey Family, Deceased of the Anable, Coffey and Craciun Families.

Prayers: Sue Harris, Karla Zalapa, John Lizzio, Ruth Read, Merrilyn St Aude, Bridget Flannery, Sean Lucas, Justin Cauduro, Paul Hollands, Sr Aileen Wailes,RSM, Gavin McKenzie,