



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 Vigneron 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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WELCOME TO ST BRIDGET'S CATHOLIC COMMUNITY GREYTHORN

St Bridget's Greythorn is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year B

2 May 2021

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!**

ST BRIDGETS CATHOLIC PARISH GREYTHORN
48 Sweyn Street, Balwyn North 3104

<p>Parish Priest: Fr John Salvano Contact the Parish Office of St Anne and St Bede on 9401 6355</p> <p>Priest in Residence: Fr Kevin Lenehan</p> <p>Parish School: Principal: Robyn Thomson Contact : 9857 6394</p>	<p>Parish Secretary: Mario Landini</p> <p>St Bridget Parish Office: Phone: 9857 6395 Office Hours: Wednesday & Friday 9-3. Email: greythorn@cam.org.au Web: www.stbridgetsgreythorn.org.au</p> <p>Parish Hall Hire: Enquiries – 9857 6395</p>	<p>Child Safety Co-ordinator: Anne Credlin Contact 9848 5389</p> <p>Sacramental Program: Contact the Parish Office 9401 6355</p> <p>Refugee Action Group: Chair: Robert Stewart Contact via Parish Office</p> <p>St Vincent De Paul Society President: Anne Hartley Help Line 1800 305 330</p>
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NOTE: Baptisms and Weddings by appointment only. Contact the Parish Office for details.

Mass times at our affiliated Churches for this week:

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
St Bridget				8.30am	5.00pm	10.00am
St Bede	9.15am		9.15am	9.15am	9.00am 6.00pm	9.00am 11.00am
St Anne		9.30am			5.00pm	10.30am
St Joachim						8.30am
First Friday of each month - St Bridget's @ 8.30am (with Anointing) and St Anne's @ 10.30am						

The government QR coding is now compulsory. Please check in with the QR code provided each time you attend any of affiliated churches. There will be parishioners on hand to help those who are not familiar with the process or who do not have a smart phone. Please arrive at least 15 minutes before Mass so you have time to register or be assisted, and so that Mass may still start on time.

We Remember: We remember in our prayers Joan Meikle whose anniversary occurs at this time; may she rejoice in the presence of our Risen Lord.



Global Pandemic Rosary Marathon: Pope Francis is encouraging the faithful to devote May in praying for the relief in suffering from the global effects of COVID. Broadcast live on Sunday May 16, from the Gregorian Chapel of St Peter's Basilica, Pope Francis will lead the Rosary which will be available at 6pm Rome time (2am AEST) on all Vatican media platforms. Together with the Holy Rosary, every day of the month is characterised by a prayer intention for people most affected by the plight of the pandemic.

Annual Mass Count: The annual Mass count commences today and will be taking place during the first four Sundays of May at all Masses.

Hospitality – We propose to commence Tea and Coffee after Mass on the first Sunday of each month only commencing June. However, this is dependent on the number of volunteers available and willing to serve the morning tea. Under current guidelines two people are required to serve the refreshments. Self-service is not permitted. If you can assist please advise the parish office on greythorn@cam.org.au so that rosters can be prepared.

Project Compassion: Thank you to all the parishioners who contributed to Project Compassion for 2021- a fantastic amount of \$2,135 was donated. Many thanks!

FINAL REMINDER - St Vincent De Paul Winter Food Drive: Vinnies Greythorn conference is undertaking a collection of non-perishable food which will be distributed to refugee and other needy families in our local area. We are being challenged to meet the ever increasing need in our community. Your food donations will be channelled to the needy in the Fitzroy, Kew, North Balwyn, Doncaster and Camberwell - all areas which we serve. Today is the final weekend for the donated food campaign. However, non-perishable food items may be left in the baskets in the narthex at any time. Many thanks for your generosity and support

Lecture: On Monday May 17, 2021 the ACU Centre for Liturgy will host an online public lecture by Monsignor Professor Kevin W Irwin on "Liturgy and Sacraments in a COVID World: Renewal not Restoration".

Registration is essential by May 13 on centreforliturgy@acu.edu.au. Cost is \$10 or concession for pensioners/students. From 10-11.30am. A Zoom code will be provided on registration.



PARISH FOCUS GROUP
In the Parish Hall
ON TODAY (SUNDAY)
COME AND JOIN US

YOUR VOICE IS IMPORTANT
Bring your ideas for the future

First Friday Mass next Friday May 7 Mat at 8.30am with Anointing available.

Rosters for May 8 & 9

	Saturday @ 5.00pm	Sunday @ 10.00am
<i>Lectors</i>	M Stewart	S Hii
<i>Minister of Holy Communion</i>	M Louis	B Potter
<i>Minister Visiting the Sick</i>	L Wong	A Hartley

NOTE: Ministers distributing Communion at Mass and visiting the sick at home must wear masks whilst doing so, and must sanitise their hands before and after administering the Sacrament.

Catholic Theological College: CTC presents a series of short sessions online, via Zoom **Engaging Your Faith.** Choose one, choose all, choose what interests you and all for just \$20 per session, running 11th to 31st May. Booking, payment & more information on: www.ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/engaging-your-faith/

Stewardship Giving: For those wishing to contribute to Stewardship or Priests' collection by direct deposit, the Parish account details are listed below for electronic funds transfer.

1 st Collection - Account name: St Bridget's Presbytery Account BSB: 083 347 Account no. 64 341 5066 (For support of the Parish Priest)
2 nd Collection Account name: Bridget's Church Account BSB: 083 347 Account no. 64 341 3829 (Stewardship envelopes).