



## 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 Greg Sunter

The Lectionary of this Easter season draws out some of the 'classic' gospel passages, particularly some of the discourses from the Gospel of John. Like many 'famous' or familiar passages, it can be true that familiarity breeds contempt – we think we are so familiar with the passage that we don't need to pay it much attention.

At first glance, it appears that there is a certain ruthlessness about the image of the vinedresser pruning the vine: perform or perish! However, the process of cutting away and pruning branches is an incredibly nurturing action; it is removing the unproductive portions of the plant so that the vine has an even better opportunity to produce fruit in the next season. It is an act of love; not an act of economic rationalism. Within our own lives we are called to make decisions about which of our thoughts and actions are life-giving (fruit-bearing) and which are unproductive; negative; crippling; life-diminishing. If we are able to 'prune' our life-diminishing thoughts and actions we allow ourselves the freedom and the ability to really flourish. Feelings of jealousy, greed, resentment, self-doubt and lack of confidence can limit our ability to be fully alive just as addictive and harmful behaviours can physically take away our ability to perform at our best.

I am reminded of the old *Karate Kid* movie when the boy, Daniel, is introduced to the art of bonsai. He is told to close his eyes, imagine the perfect tree and then start clipping and shaping the plant to make real the perfection that lies within it. It is only through a process of cutting away and pruning that we can nurture ourselves to realise the beauty of our potential.

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# 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!**



# Catholic Parish of St Mary Queen of Heaven Georges Hall

**Parish Priest:** Rev. Peter Krigovsky  
**Secretary:** Mrs. Zenna Azar (Tues 9.30am—5.30pm)  
**Address:** 15 Georges Cres, Georges Hall NSW 2198  
**Telephone:** 9727 3759  
**Website:** <http://www.smgh.org.au>  
**Email:** [parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com](mailto:parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com)  
**Facebook:** [fb.me/smg2](https://www.facebook.com/smg2)  
**Streaming:** <https://cutt.ly/StMarys>

## St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Georges Hall

*God and Us Together*

**Principal:** Mrs Monica Palmer  
**School Tel:** 02 9727 0000  
**Website:** [www.stmgeorghall.syd.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmgeorghall.syd.catholic.edu.au)  
**School email:** [info@stmgeorghall.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@stmgeorghall.catholic.edu.au)

**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.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** 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.

**COVID-19** is still around, please use sanitiser when you enter the church.

**ADDITIONAL NOTICES** If you are interested in any diocesan events, please collect a copy of the additional bulletin at the back of the church.

**MESSAGE FROM FR PETER**  
 On Monday 22nd April I have received an email with message of resignation from our 8am organist, our 5pm vigil organist and our 5pm cantor and conductor. No reason for the resignation was given, however, it followed my email outlining my vision for the music ministry in our parish which is the same as the vision of Australian Bishops' Conference, the implementation of which would necessitate a process of transition from the current list of music to the one selected/approved by the bishops. Over the years the list of music used in Georges Hall has evolved in its own way, separate from the rest of Australia. This is a conversation which we had to have and is long overdue. I want to acknowledge with gratitude the hard work of our musicians over many years in the past. The door is always open for them whenever they are ready to continue in the music ministry.

**BIG SHOES TO FILL** With the above mentioned resignations there are big shoes left to be filled. Any parishioners willing to help with either playing the organ or singing, please let Fr. Peter know. The invitation is also extended to our young parishioners/children learning piano/organ to come forward. All

training will be provided. Ideally we would have a number of organists for each Mass forming a roster and filling for one another in time of sickness, or travel. In the meantime Mr. James Doig, who filled in at 10.00am Mass last week will also help with the 8am Mass, subject to his availability. He is an accomplished and qualified musician, both organist and cantor and will soon schedule a choir practice for those interested. Please pray for our parish music ministry so that this crisis may turn into a catalyst for renewal and provision for the future.

**FRIENDSHIP GROUP** will meet again on the first Tuesday of May, 7th May, between 10am and 1pm. However this time we will meet in a private home. Come and join us for coffee, cards and a chat or bring along some knitting or sewing if you prefer. If you are interested ring Pauline on 97910098 for information about the venue.

### CWF APPEAL 4 & 5 MAY 2024

the first appeal for 2023 is being held next weekend. It is a practical

opportunity for most of us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and visit the sick and prisoners, as our donations are used by the Archdiocese to support the vital ministries of the Church in service to those who need it most. Please give generously - donations to CWF are 100% tax-deductible. Use envelopes in the pews or envelopes or Credit Card



donation slips at the back of the church.

**AVOIDING CONGESTION AT HOLY COMMUNION** To facilitate the distribution of Holy Communion at the front of each aisle, please form a single line in each aisle, so that people may be able to return to their seats from either side of the line. Please join the line pew by pew, beginning from the front. Remain seated until your pew is due to join. Thank you.

**NEW TAP DEVICES** are now installed at both entrances to the church. You can now select donation amount according to your preference. Making donations through monthly Credit Card withdrawal or weekly plan-giving envelopes will enable you to receive a 30% Tax Deductible Receipt.

**CONFIRMATION** Our next parish sacramental journey will be the sacrament of Confirmation. The information/ registration evening for parents will be held in the school hall on Wednesday 1st May at 6.30pm. The commitment weekend for children & their families will be at any weekend Mass 4th/5th May.

### 2024 FAMILY MASSES - YEAR 6

The next family mass will be held at the 10am mass on **Sunday 30th June 2024**. We invite all parishioners to bring a plate to share at hospitality after mass.

### GOLDEN OLDIES - BUS TRIP - 1 MAY

This Wednesday our bus group will be heading to Belgenny Farm - the 'Home Farm' of the Macarthur dynasty, granted to John Macarthur in 1805 - it holds the oldest set of intact farm buildings in Australia. Those joining us, **please meet at the church by 8:15am** as the bus will be leaving at 8:30am. We expect to return to the church by 4:00pm.

**YOUTH GROUP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** We'd like to restart the youth group at St Mary's. Youth leaders are needed! Must be 18+ and have a WWCC. If you're interested or have any questions, please contact Grace on 0450 757 377.

### ST MARY QUEEN OF HEAVEN'S ANNIVERSARIES

We are so blessed to be a part of this beautiful community and it is fitting that we celebrate our milestones. We are planning to celebrate the anniversary of the appointment of the first parish priest and dedication of the church together on Sunday 16 June 2024 - 10am Mass followed by feast Memories - Parishioners are invited to share their memories - a template is available at the back of the church with suggestions of the type of information you might like to provide.

Photos - we are hoping to collate historical photos—do you have any sacramental (or other) group photos that you can share with the parish?

Please forward any memories or photos to: [parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com](mailto:parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com)

**SAFEGUARDING OUR PARISH** - Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding Office at 02 9390 5810 or Email: [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org). The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

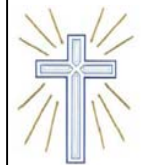
**Our parish** has a folder with Safeguarding information in the church for parishioners to view. Check out the latest safeguarding newsletter. A link to the Archdiocese's Child Safeguarding Policy is available from the homepage of our parish website and on display in the folder. Enquiries: Veronica via email: [parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com](mailto:parishoffice.smgh@bigpond.com)  
**Check out the latest Safeguarding newsletter-in the folder**

Date/Mass	Greeters	Commentator	Proclaimers	Extraordinary Ministers	Acolytes	Altar Servers	Altar Servers
<b>April 27/28 - Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year B</b>							
5.00 pm Sat	Chris Lockart	Pauline Tonkli	Tony Re	Annette Simpson Eileen Stevenson	Laurie Simpson	Charlie Delfino Jack Colley	Gabriel Azar Harry Colley
8.00 am Sun		Jenny Freeburn	Danuta Maka	Goetz Family Karen Worley	Bernie Freeburn	Gabriel Serratore Harry Ross	Lucas Ross Elizabeth Tobaji
10.00 am Sun		Ghanem Family	Maurice Gili	Gill Cramp Alex Driessen	Andrew Driessen	James Ghanem Marcus Kasparian	Isabella Maamary Abie Khalil
<b>May 4/5 - Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year B</b>							
5.00 pm Sat	Lorraine Impala	Abraham Family	Zenna Azar	Eileen Stevenson Annette Simpson	Chaben Azar	Anthony Torbay Andrew Trostel	Charlie Delfino Adrian Trostel
8.00 am Sun		Coorey Family	Goetz Family	Carmen Heredia Karen Worley	Mike Anderson	Lucas Ross Daniela Lukunic	Harry Ross Elizabeth Tobaji
10.00 am Sun		Rosemary Lim	Ghanem Family	Maurice Gili Gill Cramp	Andrew Driessen	William Amicucci Tiana Daou	Eliana Mardini Brandon Daou



Please Remember In Your Prayers Our Sick

Judith Van Baardwyk, Cornelius Van Baardwyk, Diane Small, Jayden Turk, Joseph Akkary, Daniel Clarke, Warren Clarke, Azelia Donati, Eileen Ellery, Paul Evans, Kerry Gibbons, Christine Hughes, Sue James, Daniel Matesic, Phillip Nehme, Robert Sanders, John Smallwood, Tony Strambio



Let us Pray For All Those Who Have Died

Janet, Debbie and John Wood, Van Haotu & Ancestors, Josephine and Alojzy Pientka, Hermann Reinke, Nilda & Roberto, Filomena Auditore, Teresa, Maria, John the Baptist1, John the Baptist2, Eddie Counihan, Tom Counihan, George Stevenson, Robert Lawler, Ancrea, Trevor Newton, Ross Graham, Lise Goetz, Max Graham, Hillary + Rita + their sons, Nabill + Bahia + Elias + Eilie Maroun, Norma Younane, Raemanos + Wadia Nehme

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
 May they rest in peace. Amen.*

*Rest In Peace*

**MASS TIMES (English):**  
 Vigil Mass 5:00pm (Saturday)  
 Sunday 8:00am & 10:00am

Weekdays:  
 Mon. Tue. Thu. Fri. Sat. 9:00am  
 Wednesday 6:00pm

**VIETNAMESE MASS**  
 Vigil Mass 6.30 pm (Saturday)  
 Sunday 5.30pm

**RECONCILIATION**  
 Saturday 4.30pm-4.55pm  
 or anytime on request

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**  
 Wednesday 5.00pm—6.00pm  
 Friday after Mass 9am-10.30am

**SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK**  
 Offered to those in need on  
 1st Tuesday at 9.00am Mass

**Baptisms:** Sunday 11.00am  
 Bookings are necessary

**Parish Pastoral Council:**  
 Michael Anderson, Veronica Denning, Elaine Nehme, Zenna Azar, Paul Abdul Ahad, Natalie Goetz, Monica Palmer, Linh Bui, Jannette Samawi, Grace Mokdassi

**Finance Committee:**  
 Michael Anderson, Ted Goetz, Veronica Denning, Eileen Stevenson

**Children first Sacraments:**  
 Please contact Elaine Nehme:  
[nehme.elaine@yahoo.com.au](mailto:nehme.elaine@yahoo.com.au)

**Golden Oldies:** Lorraine Impala

**St Vincent de Paul:** Mary Scott

**Special Religious Education (SRE) Catechist Coordinator:**  
 Zenna Azar

**Music Ministry:** Vivienne Mosely

**Youth Ministry:** Grace Mokdassi

**Childrens Liturgy:** Nancy Khalil

**Childrens' Choir:**  
 Natalie Showah, Jicy Kasparian