



# St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

## One Family

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*5th Sunday of Easter Year B, 28th-29th April, 2018*

### This Week

**SUNDAY 29th Apr**  
9am, 11am, 6pm Mass

**MONDAY 30th Apr**  
9.00am Mass

**TUESDAY 1st May**  
8.30am Rosary  
9am Mass

**WEDNESDAY 2nd May**  
6.30pm Rosary  
7.00pm Mass

**THURSDAY 3rd May**  
9am Mass

**FRIDAY 4th May**  
8.30am Rosary  
9.00am Mass

**SATURDAY 5th May**  
10.30am Reconciliation  
6.00pm Mass

**SUNDAY 6th May**  
9am, 11am & 6pm Mass  
Baptism at 12.30pm



### *Christians by our love*

Until I spent time on a vineyard ten years ago, I always heard the parable of the vinedresser as a tough, 'shape up or ship out' message. I always imagined God as the vinedresser having a field day lopping and cutting my dead branches, trimming my unproductive stems and uprooting all the rot that undermines my fruitfulness. It always felt like a violent activity.

It was a pleasant surprise then, to actually see a vinedresser in action. Far from an act of violence, the care paid by the dresser to each stem is extraordinary. He or she carefully inspects the branch, delicately cutting only the smallest amount so that the vine will be healthier and more productive. A good vinedresser pores over the vines and from experience knows that to cut too much or too little will render the vine without its distinctive character. Every cut is measured and aimed to prune back only the diseased branch, so as to bring about greater growth for the whole vine and a bigger yield for the vineyard. The vinedresser is not violent with the vine, but extremely tender. The first hearers of today's Gospel would have known that this metaphor is anything but a 'shape up or ship out' message.

This parable is a profound insight into the Christian life. We can claim to belong to the Christian family all we like. We can come to Mass every Sunday. But if the fruit we produce is bitter and poisonous, if we are unforgiving, unjust and uncaring, we cannot claim to be on the vine of Christ's love. And if that's the case we are in desperate need of the gentle hand of the vinedresser, who only wants to see us bring forth the yield we are capable of achieving.

Rev Billy Graham once said, 'Being a member of the Church no more makes you a Christian than living in a garage makes you a car.' That's

the point of today's Gospel: God will not judge us by what we say or the public face of goodness we can turn on, we will be judged by our acts of love in and through our kindness and compassion.

This metaphor also reminds us that we are connected to each other. There are moments in our life of faith when we hear or see other Christians saying or doing things we cannot countenance. We can try to disown them by retreating into our denomination, but we are all connected in Christ's vineyard. We need the courage to tell them the truth as we see it, and charitably point out the problems we have with what they think is right. And we need the humility to listen when they challenge us.



It's even harder when the diseased part of the vine is in our own Catholic section of the vineyard. Our first instinct can be to lop off the branch, just to get rid of it. But as any vinedresser knows this is the last resort. Whether we find it easy or not, Christ calls us to limited surgical interventions over amputations every time. This is tough love. Even though there are people within our community who have committed terrible crimes and betrayed our trust, the Gospel calls us to hold on to them until it's clear that

no matter what intervention we make, they are dying on Christ's vine already. And even then, we hope and pray that our action towards them might see a new growth within them which could be the beginning of a possible grafting back on to us in the future.

In the face of the world's 'shape up or ship out' principle, today's Gospel challenges us to hang in there with each other, in season and out of season, because as the old folk hymn sings, 'They'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.'

*by Richard Leonard SJ*

# Parish Calendar, News & Events

## DIARY

- 4th May:** SPA Men's group from 8pm in the Annexe  
**6th May:** Children's Liturgy at 11am Mass  
**8th May:** **First Family Night** for **FIRST COMMUNION**  
**12/13 May:** First Communion candidates' Presentation weekend  
**20 May:** Childrens Liturgy at 11am Mass  
**22 May:** **Second Family Night** for **FIRST COMMUNION**  
**23rd Jun:** Parish Dance  
**31st May:** Workshop day for First Communion Candidates

## BAPTISM WELCOME.

This weekend we welcome Nicholas Mondous, Zara Shi, Lilie JB Klanja, Sofia Nicole Searl, Eastof Wulf and Zachary Jones Lara Laurretta who are being presented for Baptism next month



**YOUTH MUSIC:** Practice is on Fridays at 4.30pm in Church. If any young person would like to join the group please feel welcome to come along.

## FIRST COMMUNION—First Family Night

As our children completed their First Reconciliation sacrament program, now they will begin their journey for their Sacrament of **FIRST COMMUNION**. The First Family Night is on **TUESDAY 8th May at 7pm** in the church. Candidates and one or both parents must attend this night.

## MINISTRY of Communion to the Sick and Household:

A big thank you to those in our community who take Holy Communion to Viewhills Aged Care on the First Friday of each month, to those who visit homes on Sundays after 9am Mass (because some people like to fast) and at other times on Sunday and during the week.

This ministry is a way of caring for those in our community who cannot be present because of illness or disability. Your visit with the Lord helps keep a connection with the life of the parish. These ministers and those they visit are a powerhouse of prayer for our parish.

We have been very blessed with the team who have been doing this ministry for some years. But now we are short, as the number of people who need this ministry is growing. Some members of the team have had to step back be-



cause of illness or other needs.

We ask you to consider if this is a ministry you could take on. Training will be available and also those undertaking the ministry will require Working with Children and police checks.

We hope if we get a big enough team, you would only need to do this visit once a month.

If you would like to know more please contact Fr Kevin or Sr Brigid at the Parish Office.

## PARISH DANCE—WINTER DANCE

is on Saturday, 23rd June from 7.30pm at St Paul Apostle Community Hall. Tickets is \$35/adult and \$20/child (4Yr to 10Yr) Children under 4Yr old is Free (no seat) Please contact Vianney 0438 700 675, Louis 0419 008 173, Denver 0403 315 443, Valentine 0411 590 082 or Joe 0419 385 441



Tickets are on sale this weekend after 11am Mass.

## THE PARISH ANNEXE

When Fr Tim moved to Marrickville, a suggestion was made that we name our annexe after him, in recognition of his contribution to our parish and the driving force he was in the renovation of the annexe.

The idea was enthusiastically received and after consultation with some of our parish groups and parishioners, we would like to call our annexe the 'Tim O'Toole Annexe' It is proposed to have a blessing and dedication of the annexe on **Sunday 20th May 2018 after 11am Mass**.



## PARISH MEN'S CLUB

This group meets every First Friday of the month. Next gathering is on Friday, 4th May from 7.30pm in the Parish Annexe. All men in the Parish are invited to join us for a social night, including pool, darts, live AFL. Light supper provided. For further information please call Peter Bourke on 0418345576 or just come along for a great night.

## THANK YOU

A big thank you to Peter and Astrid Miller for the service they have given over several years in cutting the lawns and nature-strips around the grounds of the Church at very little cost to the Parish. We really appreciate the generosity and consistency with which Peter and Astrid carried out this task ensuring that our grounds were well cared for. They continue to be supportive members of our community.

## 2019 ENROLMENT FOR ST PAUL APOSTLE NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are presently taking enrolments for 2019. We invite families to download an enrolment form from our website or come in and collect one from the school office. We

would also love you to visit us for a school tour at any time, by appointment. Please ring the school on 9700 6068.

Children are eligible to start Prep in 2019 if they have turned 5 years of age by April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

We also have some places available for grades 1 to 6.  
(*Mary Lucas, Principal*)

**ST JOHN'S REGIONAL COLLEGE** is having an Open Night on Thursday, 17th May. Tours commence at 9.30am. This is for 2019 & 2020 Enrolments. 5-11 Caroline Street, Dandenong. Website is [www.sjrc.vic.edu.au](http://www.sjrc.vic.edu.au).

**Opportunity for Awareness Raising & Education**

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING:**

**STORIES OF STRUGGLE, STORIES OF HOPE**

A three part weekly series focusing on stories of struggle and hope emerging from the work of ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against the Trafficking of Humans) on Tuesdays, 8, 15, 22 May at 2.00 – 4.00pm. At Kildara Centre, Rear 39 Stanhope St., MALVERN. Facilitator of the event is CLAIRE GRIFFIN csb. Cost: Suggested donation: \$10pp/session. Bookings: Catriona – Kildara Centre, 9509 7906 or 9509 6624 or Email: [kildara@netspace.net.au](mailto:kildara@netspace.net.au) Website: [www.kildaracentre.org](http://www.kildaracentre.org)

Fr Kevin's corner

We are still in Easter and we try to understand that Jesus lives, and He lives amongst us. He also challenges us to live our lives differently.

The story in Acts today shows Paul arriving in Jerusalem. He is a changed man from the one who left to hunt down the followers of Jesus. Saul is a dangerous murderer, to be feared. His

reputation reaches Jerusalem before he does. Barnabas took charge of him and introduces him to the apostles and tells how he had been changed by the risen Christ. Paul comes as a humble believer and follower of Jesus. Finally, the apostles trust that this man who persecuted the Church was being led by God's holy Spirit to be the "apostle of the Gentiles". – *that is OUR Apostle!*

Like Paul, sometimes our reputation arrives ahead our suitcases! Just like the first apostles, it is still a challenge for us today to let the risen Christ, and his mighty Spirit, be alive in the lives of people who we think don't belong.

In the Gospel, Jesus leaves behind the image of the sheep and takes us to the vineyard. I "*I am the true vine and my father is the vinedresser*". Jesus describes himself as the true vine and we are branches on that vine. He's telling us that we are all joined together whether we like it or not. So the gospel invites us to reflect on our motto: *One Family*. Is this true? Do we take it seriously? How much room is there to welcome the stranger?

Talking of pruning, we are quite happy to decide *other* people need to be 'pruned' to make them acceptable to us: whether the "*other*" is women, or Muslims, or gay and lesbians, or.....*them!* But Jesus asks us to check out what needs to be pruned in my life? If I am to have a strong relationship with Christ "the true vine" there will be things that need to be pruned or cut from my life – Let's start with my prejudices, or the grudges I still carry in my guts. or what about my not being ready to forgive.....

The risen Christ asks: "*Saul, why are you persecuting me?*" When Jesus is so closely linked with all people, maybe he is also asking me to check and make sure that I'm not cutting anyone out life or out of my love or care.

When Jesus says *remain in me* he is saying that we are an interconnected human community, part of a global family, responsible to one another. Our actions or lack of action have consequences. As branches grafted onto Jesus, we should reflect both his care and his work.

*Kevin Ducey cp.*

**Sunday Readings**

**THIS WEEK:**

**5th Sunday of Easter Year B**

Acts 9: 26-31;  
1 Jn 3: 18-24  
Jn 15: 1-8

**NEXT WEEK**

**6th Sunday of Easter Year B**

Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48;  
1 Jn 4: 7-10  
Jn 15: 9-17

[www.universalis.com](http://www.universalis.com)

**This weekend we pray for:**

***Those who are sick***

Errie Gunawan, Pedro Llarena, Marcello, Annie Owen, Jeffrey Hall, Donald MacLeod, Elizabeth O'Toole, Brenda Solari, Anjana, Maud Quirin, Giorgia Vella, Sienna Hyland, Ponciano Cabrera, Devika, Jayanthi, Clifford Lemillour; Li Tsu Lay, Emma Segovia, Lambert D'Silva, Marie Martin, Emily Martin, Pat Garard, All who need our prayers

***For those who have died***

Antonino Bartuccelli, Joe Dennis, Virginia Dizon, Roch Long Phuc Tran, Gerald Riswick, Michael Ngo Van Cho & Family, Phyllis Brennan, Cesar Balatbat, Maria Sepulveda, Louis Ricaud, Melina Deckker, George Zacharias, Anthony Ramasingha, Molly Noronha, Anthony Hien Vu, Chris Enright, Gerald Descombes, Antonia Bva, Joseph Gatt, Melencio Dunca, Joao Mendonca, Edgar Pereira, Terrence Martyn, Sellappa James, Virginia de Silva, Ellen San Giorgio, Giovanni Stravato, Tyrone Perera, Emy Morales, Jason Pickering, Veronica Ratna Karmila, Loris Di Marcantonio

***May they rest in peace***



## St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

### Priests:

Fr Kevin Dance CP (PP)  
Fr Pastor Mumburi CP

### Pastoral Associates:

Sr Joan Smith CP  
Sr Brigid Murphy CP

### Parish Staff:

Bursar: Gillian Velupillay  
Secretary: Didi Karkas

### Passionist Community

Fr Brian Gleeson CP (*leader*)  
Fr Kevin Dance CP  
Fr Chris Mithen CP  
Fr Pastor Mumburi CP

### Sisters of Cross and Passion

Sr Brigid Murphy CP  
Sr Joan Smith CP  
Sr. Karen Englebretsen CP

St Paul Apostle  
North Primary  
School - 9700 6068  
Mrs Mary Lucas

St Paul Apostle  
South Primary  
School - 9700 3663  
Principal  
Mr. Paul Gleeson

St John's Regional  
College - 9791 3366  
Principal  
Mr Tim Hogan



Roster for next weekend 28-29 Apr (5th Sunday of the month)				
	6pm	9am	11am	6pm
<b>Welcome</b>	Volunteers	Siro De Rozairo Wilma San Giorgio	Anabela Costa George Jornet	Volunteers
<b>Sacristan</b>	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers
<b>Readers &amp; Commtr</b>	Marg Daly, Jeremy Ferrao, Trevor Saldanha, Kurt Dimitrakas	Rosa Mitchell	Mary John Louis Newman Jennifer Jornet	Liz Spear Mignonne Meerwald
<b>Gifts</b>	Christine Cachia Inez Caruana	Volunteer		
<b>Communion</b>	Peter Miller Bernie Henstridge Liz Flood Sylvia Fernandes Sue Sharp	Peter Van Helmond Edna & Bernard David	Andrea Anthony George Jornet Florence Madeira Anne Astin Melissa Krajacic Volunteers	Volunteers Daniel Masset Marie Masset
<b>Servers</b>	Jocelyn, Ananya, Avinda, Andrew, Christopher	Joyen, Mark Harper	Calvin, Cassandra, Joaquin, Kiara	Lakni Rachel Adrian
Roster for next weekend 5-6 May (1st Sunday of the month)				
	6pm	9am	11am	6pm
<b>Welcome</b>	Judy Tarranto, Bettina D'Rozario Beryl Barnfield	Marina Nadarajah Rita Constanzo	Antoinette Gargano Damian Kearney	Julian Disanayake volunteer
<b>Sacristan</b>	Mark Rolfe	Denver De Rozairo	Yvonne Sherwin	Volunteer
<b>Readers &amp; Commtr</b>	Emily or Lindley Ah-Qune, Kathleen Stewart Mary Pegram	Virendra Jayatileke Mary Moore	Rhonda <i>or</i> Michael O'Connor Geraldine Mutthumani Maximus Anthony	Aidan Del Socorro Pierre Mendonca
<b>Gifts</b>	Beryl Barnfield Helen Sanders	Margaret Magee Danny & Rose Sugunasekera	Shalet Mamachan Ashlyn Mamachan	Cecilia & James Stisnijovski
<b>Communion</b>	Gertrude Akom Jolene Stewart Jenny Satya Graha Denise Ritchie Jessica Satya Graha Jeremy Ferrao Karen Maillard	Sandra & David McGuire Esteban Morales Sig Romano Errie Gunawan, Pierre Marion Rosa Mitchell	Vianney & Alex Clark Louis Newman Crystal Jayamaha Antoinette Gargano Bryant Jayamaha Rinku Arora Jean Jansz	Pierre Mendonca Margaret Keating Tania Mendez Maureen Dawson Anne Kankanige Volunteer
<b>Servers</b>	Jocelyn, Brodie, Christopher, Ananya, Joshua	Mark Harper, Joyen, Tara	Calvin, Cassandra, Joaquin, Kiara	Lakni Schron Adrian
<b>Cuppa</b>	<i>4th Sunday of the month</i>			
<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Church Prep</b> Phuong Team 5 Herbert Family	<b>Communion to the sick</b> (after 9am Mass) Patricia Shaw-Dennis	<b>View Hills: Friday, 11th May</b> Mass at Heatherton Rd Wing Geraldine Lorenz	



### Sacraments:

**Baptism** are held on the **1st & 2nd Sundays** of the month. Preparation is on the 3rd Sunday of the month. **Parish Office**

**Marriages** require 6 months notice to one of the priests, participation in a FOCCUS marriage preparation program, or a CatholicCARE Course.

**Anointing of the Sick** is held during Mass on the 1st Friday of the Month at 9am. Before going to hospital for major surgery, why not ask one of the priests to pray with you and anoint you.

**Children's Sacraments** require full participation in the preparation phase.

**Registration forms in the Parish Centre**