5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER—YEAR B
6th May 2012

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31

Responsorial Psalm I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

Second Reading: St John 3:18-24

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!
Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
My branches bear much fruit.
Alleluia!

Gospel: John 15:1-8

MASS TIMES & SERVICES THIS WEEK

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Service</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Mass, school attending to celebrate mother’s day and remember Fr Tony Mass, Fr Tony’s Anniversary</td>
<td>9.30am   7.30pm</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Mass</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Mass</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
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Baptisms
Are arranged by appointment and are held on the first Sunday of the month at 11.00am.

Marriages
(6 months notice)
Arranged by appointment.
(Enquiries and information brochure available from Parish Office)

Reconciliation
Celebrated at 5.30pm on Saturday or by appointment with the Priest.

Welcome
St Ambrose Parish community warmly welcomes visitors and new parishioners. We invite new parishioners to fill in a card found on the table at the church entrance and place it on the collection plate. A member of the Parish will visit you as soon as possible.
COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

This service is available to sick, elderly and housebound members of our parish community and there are many special ministers of the Eucharist who would deem it an honour to provide this service to such people. If you know of any parishioners who would like someone to call for this purpose contact the office on 5427 2690 and we will make the necessary arrangements.

WE PRAY FOR...

Please keep in your prayers all the members of this community who are sick, and all the sick of the Parish. God bring them peace of mind and a recovery to good health and guide those who care for them. We pray today for all those who have died recently, especially Kevin Farrell and for all whose anniversaries are at this time, especially Fr Tony Hally and Urban & Marjorie Hughes and for all those who have gone before us from this world to the fullness of life with God. May God have mercy on them all and help us to be faithful to their memory.

CHURCH ROSTERS

Reader s
May 5th Joe & Jill Caruana
May 6th Sharon Simpson & Jim Wright
May 12th John Keating
May 13th Eileen French

Special Minister s
May 5th Pat McHenry or Angela Grinton
May 6th Rhonda Loret, Martin Prior & Kate Mason
May 12th Pat McHenry or Angela Grinton
May 13th Mary Welch, Mary Larnach Jones & Bruna Bombig

Church Cleaning
May 7th Marg Flett
May 14th Frances Bowen

Church Flowers
May 11th Veronica Sullivan
May 18th Bernadette Battruccelli

MEDITATION

Please remember if you are cleaning or arranging flowers on Saturday morning that the Christian Meditation Group will be in the Church from

COLLECTIONS

Presbytery Collection (1st collection)
{This collection covers running costs of Presbytery and Priest’s stipend.} $361

Church (envelopes) collection
{This collection covers the Church capital costs, and on going maintenance.}

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today Jesus tells us that he is the true vine, and we are the branches. There are times when we feel we are being pruned, and there are times when we recognise the growth and fruit. As long as we remain part of the vine, we will grow more and more in God’s love, bearing fruit that may

ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP QUOTES

These quotes explore the spirituality and personality of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. She had much wisdom and insight and her words will help us to live the Gospel in TODAY’S world.

If we have love in our Hearts, we shall have God with us. 1890

The Little brown book by Sue & Leo Kane

VOCATION VIEW

Who shall come forward to explain the love God has for His people who should be one in faith? We need more faith-filled, prayerful and spirited people to make the vine and the Branches One again. How about you?
ST BRIGID’S PARISH GISBORNE
Parish Renewal May 26th—May 31st
International speakers Fr Mike Champlin, Fr Nick Punch & Sr Joan Bukrey.
Morning (9.30 & 11.30) & evening(7.30 & 9.30) Masses, reconciliation service Tuesday evening and a healing Mass Thursday evening. Child care and transport offered. Catholic and non-Catholic alike are all welcome to join the parish and bring a friend.
For more information contact the Parish Office ph 54282591

BAPTISM
This weekend we welcome into our Parish and Christian community Angus James Waters son of Daniel & Jodie, John Steven Pearce son of Jason & Michelle, Riley Jeffrey Coundon & Hunter Alan Coundon sons of Bradley & Anne-Maree and Joel Rhys Blanch son of Christian & Robyn.
May God Bless their families always.

DON BOSCO CAMPS
The Don Bosco Camp has developed over the years an incredibly unique tradition of beach holiday programs lead by teams of dedicated volunteer leaders. The camps are conducted with the clear aim of providing opportunities for all young people, especially poor and disadvantaged youth, to have a beach holiday and for families in difficult circumstances to be offered respite for their children.
No young person is denied a place on camp because of their financial circumstances. As such, Don Bosco are looking for people to sponsor young people to attend a camp. You will find forms in the church foyer if you

THE SERVITE FRIARS
The Servite Friars invite you to celebrate the feast of St Peregrine Patron of Cancer Sufferers. Sunday 20th May 2012 commencing at 2.30pm in St Brigid’s Church North Fitzroy. There will be Servite Rosary, Holy Mass & Anointing of the Sick.
Enquiries St. Peregrine Apostolate (03) 93478191

CATHOLICCARE’S MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT
Married Couples give yourselves a treat! A whole day together to relax, revisit, renew, rejuvenate, recall, reassess, reconnect, romance, respond, resource and rekindle your relationship. ‘R’ Day Marriage Enrichment Day, $80 per couple June 16th 2012
Contact Karin or Rada for info or bookings 03

MASS FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS
The Life, Marriage & Family Office warmly invites all expectant mothers and their families to a Mass for Expectant Mothers. The Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Denis Hart at St Patrick’s Cathedral on Sunday 17th June at 11.00am. To register, please contact the Life, Marriage & Family Office on 92875587 or lmf@cam.org.au. You can also register online at: www.cam.org.au/lifemarriagefamily. Please note that registration closes on Friday 8th June. Women who register will receive a small token of recognition.

ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY MASS
Are you celebrating your 25th, 40th, 50th or 60th-70th wedding anniversary this year? The Life, Marriage & Family Office invite you and your families to join us at the annual Anniversary Mass.
The Mass will be celebrated at St Patrick’s Cathedral on Sunday 29th July at 11.00am by Archbishop

SUNDAY @ SIX SINGING (SASS)
SASS is an ecumenical service of worship through song.
When: Third Sunday at 6pm
Where: Rotation between Woodend Churches St Marys May 20th, St Ambrose June 17th, St Andrews July 15th
Musicians, Singers, Listeners All Welcome.
First Reading  Acts 9:26-31
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
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 Saul, and brought 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 in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 21:26-28. 30-32. R. v.26
(R.) I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

1. My vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.
May their hearts live for ever and ever! (R.)

2. All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord.
All who live in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.

3. And my soul shall live for him, my children shall serve him.
As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me.

4. And he knows everything.
Whoever 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
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.

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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In the small Portugese village of Fatima, the Blessed Virgin Mary is said to have appeared to three shepherd children. On six occasions between May and October, 1917, Our Lady appeared to Lucia dos Santos and her two cousins, Francisco and Jacinta Marto. According to an account of the events given by Lucia, Mary entrusted the children with three secrets and encouraged them to do acts of penance and say the rosary every day. Thousands of people came to Fatima upon hearing of the visions, and on October 13, some 70,000 people reportedly witnessed a miraculous solar event. Fatima is now a major site of Marian pilgrimage.