Fifth Sunday of Easter

The Catholic Parish of Pittwater

Sacred Heart & Maria Regina. Neighbourhoods of Grace, entrusted to the care of the Salvatorians.

Prayer to be a true branch on the Vine

Lord Jesus, let us realise that every action of ours no matter how small or how secular enables us to be in touch with You.

Let our interest lie in created things – but only in absolute dependence upon Your presence in them.

Let us pursue You and You alone through the reality of created things.

Let this be our prayer – to become closer to You by becoming more human.

Let us become a true branch on the vine that is You, a branch that bears much fruit.

Let us accept You in our lives in the way it pleases You to come into them: as Truth, to be spoken; as Life, to be lived; as Light, to be shared; as Love, to be followed; as Joy, to be given; as Peace, to be spread about; as Sacrifice, to be offered among our relatives and friends, among our neighbours and all people.

Amen.

If you have used this bulletin, please take it home with you.



Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions For May

The World of Finance

of finance will work with

governments to regulate the

financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

Let us pray that those in charge



The Service NSW QR codes are now available at the entrance of both of our churches, for you to use to check in. If you do not have a smartphone or you're not carrying it with you, please provide your contact details via the sign-in sheets provided. If you have checked-in with the QR code, you do not have to use the sign-in sheets. Thank you A warm welcome to all especially our parishioners and visitors who are celebrating the Eucharist with us at Pittwater Parish - Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale and Maria Regina Church, Avalon.

This week we welcome the children from the other Yr 2 class Sacred Heart School, Mona Vale on Saturday, 5pm Mass, Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale.

1 Keenan Street Mona Vale NSW 2103 • Tel:9157 0999 • email: office@pittwaterparish.org • website: www.pittwaterparish.org

Fifth Sunday of Easter

1st & 2nd May 2021

Parish Pastoral Council Matthew Hyland matthyland100@yahoo.com.au

Pittwater Parish Ministries

Catechists Co-Directors Maureen Wooldridge - 9997 4694 Veronica Thomas veronicathomas2009@gmail.com

Evangelisation Ministry Erich Ott (Coordinator RCIÁ) 0409 124 840 Sr Margaret Collis - 9974 4116 Sue Berg - 0419 991 781 (Coordinators Adult Faith Education/ Formation

> Legion of Mary Connie Robinson - Director 0458 007 706

Little Hearts Playgroup Co-Directors-Marie Bockman mbockman@hotmail.com Maureen Wooldridge - 9997 4694

Media & Communication Ministry Laura Ee - Director media@pittwaterparish.org

> Music Ministry Josh Willard - Director 9157 0999 ext 17

Pastoral Care and Communion to the Sick Ministry Co-Directors Denise Bottero - 9997 6904 Marie Bockman mbockman@hotmail.com

> Parish Library Trish Newman - Director 9918 3973

Sacramental Program Ministry Suzy Caruso 9157 0999 ext 0 sacraments@pittwaterparish.org

Social Justice Ministry Tamara Harding - Director 0403 226 699 www.facebook.com/pages/Pittwater-Friends-OF-Soibada/162612300466694

Youth Ministry soul@pittwaterparish.org or Josh Willard (Soul Youth) music@pittwaterparish.org

All our Ministries comply with Working With Children Check requirements

We acknowledge the lifelong trauma of abuse victims, survivors and their families, the failures of the Catholic Church to protect, believe and respond justly to children and vulnerable adults, and the consequent breach of community trust.



May Appeal — 8/9 May 2021 Many thousands of young people and families in our community receive help from the charities that CWF supports. They can arise with new strength and hope because of

your support. We give thanks to God for the blessing these pastoral works offer to those in hospital, at school, across neighbourhoods and local parishes of Broken Bay.

Please give generously to the final CWF appeal of the Financial Year 2020/21. Donations are 100% tax deductible and support the five charities.

Your support will help us meet our shortfall of \$27,162.52 of our parish quota of \$56,891.30.

THURSDAY MORNING SPIRITUALITY GROUP Our study this year continues with

Pope Francis' new Encyclical Letter on Fraternity and Social Friendship. Pope Francis gives us insight into a way of life which allows to

acknowledge, appreciate and love each person, regardless of physical proximity and regardless of where they were born or live. "God has created all human beings equal in rights, duties and dignity and has called them to live together as brothers and sisters.'

We meet after 10am mass (around 10:30) for morning tea, followed by study and contemplation until 12 noon. We read through the book in a very relaxed manner gaining new insights from each other. All are invited.

Contact Margaret Abrahams via the Parish office on 9157 0999.



We invite all Mothers for a blessing during all Masses over the weekend.

Vinnies

Vinnies changes lives everyday.

Show your support and give to our annual appeal

For the needy, help is available by contacting the Brookvale Centre 9905 0424 during business hours.

We welcome to Pittwater Parish **Harry Warner-Smith** Zara Warner-Smith **Jack Warner-Smith** Lauren Porter on 2nd May 2021 at Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale for the Sacrament of **Baptism**

from Our Schools



We have many students at Mater Maria currently qualifying for their bronze and silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. These students undertook a two day hike this week, an expedition designed to challenge and inspire them to achieve their goals by working together - values that will continue to empower them throughout life.

It was a big week for sport at Mater Maria. Our U13 Jamie Lyon Cup Rugby League team participated in the City Cup Rugby League Gala Day which was located on our large oval. The BBSSA intermediate soccer also took place, designed to showcase the best of our male and female soccer players playing off against other schools in the Broken Bay Diocese. It's an opportunity for selected students to compete in the NSWCCC Tournament and join the soccer representative pathway. Our keen sailors also participated in the NSW Secondary Schools Teams Racing Championship which is the premier state teams sailing event held on Sydney Harbour at the Roval Sydney Yacht Squadron.

Our Year 10, 11 and 12 drama students attended Glen Street Theatre to watch Animal Farm, one of the most enduring political commentaries of our time. The intensely powerful fairy tale illustrated with stunning simplicity showed our students how greed and power can corrupt with devastating consequences to all involved. It was highly beneficial to our drama students.

Our small group tours are now available. Please note that places are limited and therefore registration for all tours is essential. To book a tour please visit www.matermaria.nsw.edu.au/enrolment s/book-a-tour/.

To read the messages from **Bishop Anthony and from the** people Vox Populi please go to www.pittwaterparish.org. News and events tile and Messages from Bishop Anthony on the drop down menu.

BOOK REVIEW

You Can Understand the Bible by Peter Kreeft



Saint of the Day for May 1 The Story of Saint Joseph the Worker



To foster deep devotion to Saint Joseph among Catholics, and in response to the "May Day" celebrations for workers sponsored by Communists, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker in 1955. This feast extends the long relationship between Joseph and the cause of workers in both Catholic faith and devotion. Beginning in the Book of Genesis, the dignity of human work has long been celebrated as a participation in the creative work of God. By work, humankind both fulfills the command found in Genesis to care for the earth (Gn 2:15) and to be productive in their labours.

Saint Joseph, the carpenter and foster father of Jesus, is but one example of the holiness of human labour.

Jesus, too, was a carpenter. He learned the trade from Saint Joseph and spent his early adult years working side-by-side in Joseph's carpentry shop before leaving to pursue his ministry as preacher

TAP TO REPLACE

Our air-conditioning units in our Maria Regina Church, Avalon, which was generously donated by a parishioner, have been irreparably damaged by some uninvited lizards and now the Church is in need of new air conditioning units.

Our aim is to raise \$17,500.00 to cover the cost of the supply and installation of new units.

It would be wonderful if we could achieve this goal quickly so that we can make the Church cosy in the fast approaching winter months as well as when we need it to cool in our hot Summer.

To help reach this target, our Tap & GO Device in our Maria Regina Church, Avalon will be temporarily set to \$50 and all proceeds will go directly to cover the cost of the new air conditioning.

Envelopes are also available in the Church for your cash and cheque donations and can be placed in the collection baskets.

Credit Card donations can be made via our website through BPoint https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/pittwater/ archive/donations-and-giving and selecting "Other" from the drop down Biller Code list and using "Air Conditioning" as the Reference. Thank you for your generosity and continued support. and healer. In his encyclical Laborem Exercens, Pope John Paul II stated: "the Church considers it her task always to call attention to the dignity and rights of those who work, to condemn situations in which that dignity and those rights are violated, and to help to guide [social] changes so as to ensure authentic progress by man and society."

Saint Joseph is held up as a model of such work. Pius XII emphasised this when he said, "The spirit flows to you and to all men from the heart of the God-man, Saviour of the world, but certainly, no worker was ever more completely and profoundly penetrated by it than the foster father of Jesus, who lived with Him in closest intimacy and community of family life and work."

Reflection

To capture the devotion to Saint Joseph within the Catholic liturgy, in 1870, Pope Pius IX declared Saint Joseph the patron of the universal Church. In 1955, Pope Pius XII added the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker. This silent saint, who was given the noble task of caring and watching over the Virgin Mary and Jesus, now cares for and watches over the Church and models for all the dignity of human work.



Pope Francis composes prayers for end of pandemic to be recited after praying the Rosary

As the Church marks the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, POPE Francis asked Catholics to make a special effort in May to pray the Rosary, knowing that by doing so they would be united with believers around the world asking for Mary's intercession in stopping the coronavirus pandemic.



Prayers: Pope Francis prays the rosary at the Shrine of Our Lady of Divine Love in Rome in this May 1, 2018. Photo: CNS

"Contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary, our mother, will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial," the pope said in a letter addressed to all Catholics and released by the Vatican April 25.

The month of May is traditionally devoted to Mary and many Catholics already are in the habit of praying the rosary at home during the month, he noted. "The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this 'family' aspect, also from a spiritual point of view."

"You can decide according to your own situations" whether to pray individually or in groups, he said, noting that "it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow."

Pope Francis wrote two prayers to Mary that can be recited at the end of the rosary, prayers he said he would be reciting "in spiritual union with all of you."

Both prayers acknowledge Mary's closeness to her son's followers and ask for her protection and for her intercession just as she interceded with Jesus on behalf of the newlyweds at Cana who had run out of wine for their wedding feast.

"We know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial," one of the prayers read.

Pope Francis' prayers also include specific intentions for those who are sick, for those who care for them, for those who have died and those who mourn for them, for scientists seeking cures and vaccines and for government leaders who must find a way to protect their people.

"Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future," one of the prayers said.

"Beloved Mother, help us realise that we are all members of one great family and to recognise the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need," it continued.

"Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer."

<u>First Prayer</u>

0 Mary,

You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith. "Protectress of the Roman people", you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen. We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God; Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.



Second Prayer

"We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God". In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realise that we are all members of one great family and to recognise the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary.

lamthevineandyou arethebranches

5th Sunday of Easter, Year B

Can you work out which of these three branches is the one bearing fruit?



The Living Word

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Ps 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.

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 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.

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.

or

(R.) Alleluia!

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! (\mathbf{R})

IAll 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)

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 A reading from the first letter of St John 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. The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

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

Jn 15:4-5

In 15.1-8

Gospel

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.

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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Communion Antiphon Cf. Jn 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.

REFLECTION

by Dianne Bergant CSS

Today we reflect on the way salvation brings an ecclesial community into being. This community is joined to Jesus as branches are part of the vine. It is a multi-faceted community, devoted to good works and to prayer. The image of the vine and the branches is an intimate characterisation of the community of believers who share the same divine life. This community thrives on Christ's resurrected life that surges through all of its members. The early church was a multi-ethnic community. It included inhabitants from Jerusalem, Judea, Galilee, Samaria and even Damascus. Some of these people were firmly rooted in Jewish customs, others were more Greek in their culture. It was the fulfilment of the promises made so often in the past, that the saving power of God would reach the whole world. Our own ecclesial community of believers is also multi-ethnic. Where formerly parishes or liturgical assemblies might be made up of people of only one ethnic identity or economic status, today there is much greater diversity and rapid change of character. Like the early Christians, we too are often suspicious of newcomers. In the face of all of this variety, we are called to open our hearts to the various manifestations of God's power and to fashion a community that gives glory to God. Today's readings remind us that we demonstrate our love for God and for each other in the way we live. Joined to Christ as branches are part of the vine, we too are enlivened and thereby bear fruit in abundance.

© Dianne Bergant CSS

With the current restrictions in NSW, the capacity of our Sacred Heart Church, Mona Vale is 200 and 250 for Maria Regina Church, Avalon.

Masks are now not complusory in Church.

It is our responsibility to protect others and ourselves and stop the spread of **COVID-19 in Australia.**

Continue to practise good hygiene. Please use the hand sanitisers provided in both of our Churches.

Everyone must also stay 1.5 metres away from other people whenever possible.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

businesses in return.

1st & 2nd May 2021



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9157 0999





To find out more, call Tamara 0403226699



LOCAL PEOPLE CARING FOR LOCAL FAMILIES

Our team live, work and play on the Beaches. We understand the local community and are here for you when you need us most. Whether it's to plan an immediate funeral for a loved one or plan ahead for your own with a prepaid funeral, we're here to help.

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