

**28 April 2024**  
**FIFTH SUNDAY OF**  
**EASTER YEAR B**

**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.

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

**Responsorial Psalm**

Ps 21:26-28. 30-32. R.  
v.26

**Response:** I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

**Second Reading** from the first letter of 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!

**Holy Gospel** according to John 15:1-8

**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,

*We acknowledge and respect the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand, the elders, past and present and all the Dharawal people. May we too be good stewards of this land.*

**In our parish I see .....**

*This vision for our Parish is taken from The Diocese of Wollongong Come & See, Go & Make booklet issued by Bishop Brian in November last year. It is timely to reflect on this as we consider our own commitment to our parish by joining a new ministry and continuing in an existing ministry with renewed vigour.*

I see life breaking forth...

I see an active parish, marked by the joy of the Gospel...  
I see inter-generational families together, worshipping and praying...

I see vibrant eucharistic celebrations where God is worshipped with reverence and awe, and people are inspired. There, I see pastors speaking the truth in love to all who will listen ....  
I see a parish where there is a culture of invitation and welcome ...  
I see disciples sent forth to proclaim a crucified and risen Christ ...

I see a parish where the sick, hungry, hurting, and lost are given preference ....

I see a parish so deeply connected to those hurting in the community that their pain is our pain ...

I see a parish that is an epicentre of hope for all who draw near to it, a lighthouse amidst the storms of life ....

I see the community supporting one another in small faith-sharing groups .....

I see a place where there is no in-crowd or out-crowd, but rather, there are the people of God, serving one another, and using the gifts that God has given them for the upbuilding of the community.....

I see a parish where saints are made .....

I see a parish where all people can hear the voice of God calling them, and they actively respond to their baptismal call, their vocation— to the ordained life, consecrated religious, married, or single life .....

# Worship: Mass and Devotions

Sunday Mass	Weekday Mass	Devotions
Saturday Vigil: 6pm	Mon, Tues, Wed Mass at 9am	Adoration with the Rosary: Saturday 9.30am
Sunday: 9.30 am and 5pm	Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm	Divine Mercy Devotion: Third Sunday at 3pm
Filipino Mass: Third Sunday at 11.15am	Fri and Sat Mass at 9am	Alliance of the 2 Hearts Mass & Devotion: First Friday from 7.30pm
Samoa Mass: First Sunday of May at 12	Healing Mass: first Satur- day of each month at 9am	Reconciliation: Sat 11am

## Prayer intentions

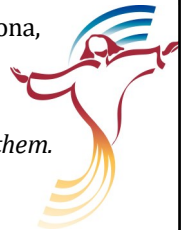
**For the sick and homebound:** Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Amanda and John Meredith, Reg Gardner, Sr Heather Burke, Marie and Barry Atkins, Carol and Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, Joe Spinnato, Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys, Pat Stewart.

*May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain and affliction.*

**For our recently dearly departed:** Sennie Masian, Francisco Carmona, Lola Moors, Rosario David, Rodney Smith,

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:**

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.*



## Contact us

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday

9.30am-12.30pm

Phone: 9603 7373 / 0434 705 176

Email: [varroville@dow.org.au](mailto:varroville@dow.org.au)

Website: [varroville.dow.org.au](http://varroville.dow.org.au)

Parish Priest:

Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD

Parish Associate:

Sr "Jill" Girlie Sudario, CM

Yes, in the parish I see, the clergy are not over-burdened, because they have good men and women around them, supporting them in their leadership, and exercising appropriate leadership themselves ...

The person of Jesus and his invitation to “come and see” and then to “go and make” is at the heart of the parish I see, and in that parish, good things grow and our buildings can scarcely contain us.

**That’s the parish I see! (Bishop Brian Mascord)**

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**Ministry Drive: You are called to serve.**

In our Parish Pastoral Plan we are called to Ministry/Service:

“Giving of ourselves: Our community enables every member to use their unique gifts and skills in ministry, giving of themselves in service to others”.

What gifts and skills can you share in our parish community.

Stop at the ministry table after mass and ask about the many practical ways you can support our parish community.

All ministry volunteers currently serving on a roster are requested to recommit for the next 6 months till the end of November.

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**Sacraments of First Holy Communion** preparation classes commence on Saturday May 4 at 4pm. Registrations are being accepted via the Parish office.

**High tea in honour of our mothers** is to be held on Sunday May 5 from 10am in the parish hall. This is a fundraising event. The cost is \$25 per person; Children \$10. Call 0434 705 176 to book a table.

**Major Raffle with cash prizes:** the tickets go on sale this weekend. Take a book home and sell to family & friends. The draw will take place at our Fiesta on 14 July.

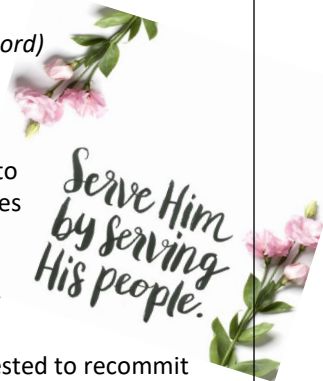
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**Parish Fiesta July 14:** The next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 30 April at 7.30pm.

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**CatholicCare's Ageing with Confidence forum** is returning across the Diocese. The half-day information session will provide seniors with practical information on the aged care system and healthy ageing. Expert presentations from CatholicCare staff will be joined by presenters from the Seniors Rights Services NSW and the NSW Fire & Rescue Service to discuss topics such as accessing support services, keeping your mind and body fit, and advocating and supporting older people. • Campbelltown Wednesday 8 May at 9.30am-1pm. Campbelltown Catholic Club, 20/22 Camden Road, Campbelltown. Places are limited. To register, call 02 4227 1122 or visit [www.catholiccare.dow.org.au/events](http://www.catholiccare.dow.org.au/events). For any other information, contact Jane Hollier on 0417 018 152 or [janeh@catholiccare.dow.org.au](mailto:janeh@catholiccare.dow.org.au)

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## Holy Gospel according to John 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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

### REFLECTION Dianne Bergant CSA

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.