

5th Sunday of Easter, 1st - 2nd May 2021, Year B

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.

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.

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.

The Word 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

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

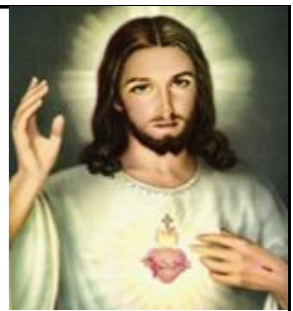
“I am the vine, you are the branches”



Sacred Heart Parish Preston

322 Bell St, Preston 3072

Parish Contacts: Phone: (03) 9480 3398 Or (03) 9484 2124
Email: preston@cam.org.au Website: www.sacredheartpreston.com.au



Office Hours:

Mon, Thurs & Fri: 10am -2pm

Parish Priest:

Fr Aloysius Nato, SVD
Ph: 0428 715 282

Italian Community Chaplain:

Fr Albano Da Costa, SVD
Ph: 0478 963 248

Parish Office: Rachel Costa

School Principal: Mark Tierney

School Phone: 9487 1001

Sacrament Co-ordinator:

Ylenia Useli
shpcatechists@gmail.com

Child Safety Officers:

Kay Dufty: 0431 376 212
Robert Dullard: 0433 401 958

Child Safety Committee:

Robert Dullard (Chair), Kay Dufty,
Mary Harb, Teresa Dang and
Pauline O'Day

Parish Council Members:

Gerard Grant (chairperson), Kay
Dufty (secretary), Tony Eley,
Ophelia Swai, Anisasio (Pauline)
Veamatahau, Mark Tierney,
Ben Fortuna and Natalie Baran

Parish Finance Committee:

Peter Constable (Chair)
Ph: 0425 779 831

St. Vincent de Paul Society:

Stephen Costello (President)
Ph: 0432 405 417

Parish Mass Schedule

Weekend Masses:

Saturday: 6:00pm
Sunday: 9:00am (Italian),
10:30 am, 6:00 pm

Weekday Masses:

Monday to Friday: 9.10am

Healing Mass: 1st Thursday of
the month at 1.30pm

Devotional Practices:

**Adoration of the Blessed
Sacrament:** Wednesday after
9.10am Mass

Holy Rosary: Thursday (English)

Reconciliation:
Weekdays: 30 minutes before
Mass or by appointment

Baptisms & Weddings:
By appointment only

5th Sunday Easter, 1st - 2nd May 2021, Year B




There is a scene in the movie, *Shadow of the Hawk* where a young couple is climbing a mountain with the help of their Indian guide in a desperate attempt to flee from evil people. At one point the young woman slumps to the ground and says, "I can't take another step." The young man lifts her to her feet and says, "But darling, we must go on. We have no other choice!" She shakes her head and says, "I can't go on! I can't go on!" Then the

Indian guide advises the young man, "Hold her close to your heart. Let your strength and your courage flow out of your body into hers." The young man does this and in a few minutes the woman smiles and says, "Now I can go on! Now I can do it!" The story helps us understand the deeper meaning of Jesus' parable of the vine and branches in today's Gospel. Like the young woman must stay close to the heart of the young man to draw strength and courage from his body so must followers of Christ. They must stay close to him to share his divine strength which enables them to carry out their mission and bear fruit. The first reading, taken from the Acts of the Apostles, testifies to the abundance of spiritual fruits yielded by the apostles because of their close bond with the risen Lord. Saint John, in the second reading, reminds us that only if we remain united to Christ by putting our faith in him and drawing our spiritual strength from him, will we be able to obey God's commandments, especially the commandment of love, loving one another as Jesus commanded us. We need to abide in Christ and let Christ abide in us. The four Gospels teach us how to become true disciples of Jesus and how to abide in him as branches abide in the main trunk of the vine, drawing their life from it. Personal and liturgical prayers, frequenting of the Sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation, daily, meditative reading of Scripture, and our loving, mutual forgiveness exchanged with everyone enable us to abide in Jesus, the true Vine, as fruit-bearing branches.

However, we also realize that staying close to Jesus, the vine, and committed to his mission is always a challenge. Like the young woman who wanted to give up climbing the high mountain, we too are tempted to give up. Probably what we need is to undergo a spiritual pruning. Saint Paul is the best example of that. He was a fanatic persecutor of the Church but the Lord pruned him to produce a fruit-bearing branch. As a result of his pruning, he dedicated his entire life to the proclamation of the Gospel to the gentiles which earned him a title the zealous Apostle to the Gentiles. As followers of Christ, we need pruning in our Christian life. How can we do that? Firstly, by cutting out of our lives everything that is contrary to the spirit of Jesus and renewing our commitment to Christian ideals in our lives every day. Secondly, by practicing self-control over our evil inclinations, sinful addictions and aberrations. Last but not least, by pruning away our selfish, judgmental, and prejudicial tendencies which destroy the harmonious living with our neighborhood and society with people of different cultures, races, religions, and orientations. I believe an ongoing pruning of our Christian life will enable us to exclaim:

“Now I can go on! Now I can do it!” (Based on Fr Tony's homily).



Heart of Life
Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation

Pondering Grief',
Saturday 22 May 2021, 10am-3.30pm. This reflection day offers an invitation to reflect on and honour our inner life of change and transition. With creativity, space and gentle guiding support, this workshop offers a sacred place for the breadth of human experiencing and spirit to guide individual exploration. Facilitated by Linda Espie at Heart of Life, Kildara Centre, Rear 41 Stanhope St, Malvern. Cost \$80 (Materials provided, BYO lunch). Book and pay via website heartoflife.melbourne, email info@heartoflife.melbourne or tel 9890 1101.

Weekly Catholic Radio Reflection:
Visit <https://bit.ly/3sNC1W1> where you can listen anytime!





Sacred Heart Primary School
2021 Enrolments

Enrolments for the 2021 school year are open as of Monday 1st March. For a school tour, please contact the school principal on 9487 1001 or via the school website <http://www.shpreston.catholic.edu.au>

At Sacred Heart School, our students are at the heart of every decision we make. Every day is Open Day and prospective students and their families are warmly invited to tour our school.

Registration for Sacramental Program for 2021



Children of our parish who attend other than Catholic schools and wish to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Year 3) and First Holy Communion (Year 4) are required to enrol for preparation classes conducted in our parish. Enrolment forms are available in the foyer of our church.




Welcome!

This weekend through Baptism we welcome **Lawrence Rooney, Raphael Joel Walhan, Isheanesu Chigwedere and Azariah Arthur** into our Parish family

Last Week's Collection: 25/04/21

1st Collection for our Church: \$1,328
2nd Collection for support of clergy: \$725
Project Compassion: \$1,453



Thank you for your kind generosity!

We are to produce the rich fruit

Many of the Old Testament prophets compared God's people to a vineyard that needed tending and protecting. Equally, they were not afraid to call the people to order when they strayed, reminding them the same vineyard was producing only sour grapes and was ready for destruction. We know that Jesus was familiar with these scriptures and often used their images to proclaim his message of salvation. At the Last Supper he initiates the New Covenant in his blood by consecrating the wine at table, commanding us to do this in his memory. And in his conversation with the apostles he speaks of himself as "the true vine" and his "Father as the vinedresser", but more than that he develops the image, reminding us that if we are to bear good fruit we have to be united with him. The alternative does not bear thinking about: we will be cut off from the source of life. In Jesus's day, probably most people would have known how to graft vine branches, but few of us work that closely to nature these days. Nevertheless, this is a useful image as we think of the mission of the Church, reaching out to others to be connected to the source of God's life. We have a classic example of that in the conversion Saul of Tarsus, the man who was zealously persecuting the early Christian community and who was struck down on the road to Damascus. His conversion was the talk of the early Church and is widely reported in the New Testament, both in the Acts of the Apostles and in his own letters. It seems that Paul, as he became known, was not someone to meddle with, whether he was for or against you. You have only to read his letters to realise that he does not mince his words and clearly, to begin with at least, he was regarded by the early Christian community with suspicion and even fear: just note how Luke describes the situation in today's extract from the Acts. Barnabas acts as a mediator but even as Paul becomes accepted, he manages to end up in such a heated argument that the Hellenists are out to kill him. Fascinatingly, it is only when the brothers get him out of the way, that we hear the churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were able to live in peace. If you read on in the Acts of the Apostles, you will find that Paul and Barnabas form a mission team. However, sadly, this partnership was to end in tears, when Paul would not hear of John Mark, Barnabas's cousin, re-joining them after he had abandoned the work for a while. Maybe, we can take consolation from all this. The fact is that even after we have been grafted onto the vine, we remain the same people with our own complicated personalities and foibles, but the Lord can still use us to produce rich fruit.

Damian Coleridge



LITURGICAL GUIDELINES COVID-19
Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne
Updated as of 5:00pm Thursday 8 April 2021:


Full guidelines can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3uBL1io>

Sacred Heart Parish Prayer


Loving God, we honour the heart of Jesus, your beloved Son. We remember how he opened his heart in love to all people. Open our own heart to receive the gifts that continue to flow so richly from the heart of Christ, who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Meditation on Jesus for Healing and Wellbeing of Body and Soul
One day Retreat
Saturday 15th May 2021: 10am – 4pm.
BYO lunch. Cost \$25, Concession \$20
Registration is necessary by phone or email. (concludes with Mass)
Guided by Fr. Gilbert Carlo SVD
At: Janssen Spirituality Centre,
22 Woodvale Road, Boronia, Victoria 3155.
RSVP Tel: 03 9762 6625
or gilbertcarlo@gmail.com

MAY MASS COUNT.
During the month of May, the Archdiocese organises this survey during the weekends so as to know how Catholics are faring in their church attendance and to organise better the pastoral needs of the parishes.




THOUGHTS FROM POPE FRANCIS
Let's not wait for our neighbours to be good before we are good to them, for others to respect us before we serve them. Let's begin with ourselves.



Help for marriages under stress:

The BreakThrough Online Course created by SmartLoving will enable you to identify your conflict triggers, learn strategies to de-escalate an argument and find constructive ways to re-establish connection. Restore hope for your relationship's future.
Visit: smartloving.org/breakthrough
Divine Mercy Discount - 50% | until May 10, 2021.

WE PRAY FOR:
The elderly and the sick
Anthony, Peter Bourke, Pasquale Curcio, Anthony Joseph Paige Lapenta, John Plum and Bronislawa Slobodzian



That they may be blessed with constant care, attention and respect

Ministers and Readers

At present, only one Extraordinary minister of the Eucharist has been allocated for each mass if required. This will depend partly on numbers of attendees at each mass and ongoing circumstances related to Covid-19.

If you are continuing or are no longer available for these ministries or for a mass time, please advise the office, Jessy or myself as soon as possible and the roster will be adjusted.

The Parish Safe Standards committee is currently updating its record of volunteers who hold current Working with Children Checks, as it is now compulsory for all Clergy, volunteers and employees.

If you need to apply for a WWCC, update your currently held Card or add Sacred Heart Church to your list of organisations in which you work as a volunteer, please ask for clarification by contacting the presbytery office or myself. Teachers who hold current VIT cards will nominate organisations in which they undertake volunteer work via VIT and the Parish will be advised via the WWCC Unit.

Thank you for your ministries past and present to our Sacred Heart community.
Pauline O'Day - Parish SS Committee

Roster for weekend of 8- 9 May 2021

	Readers	Ministers
Sat 6.00pm	Renato Tonini Celia Lemos	Terry Murphy
Sun 9am (Italian)	Volunteers	Volunteers
Sun 10.30am	Sonya Bading Ophelia Swai	Eileen Stevens
Sun 6.00pm	Peter Constable Carolina Constable	Margaret Bannan

Cleaning Roster:
Saturday 8 May 2021
Pauline and Dale
Thank you for your help!

