



Saint Mary MacKillop Parish Western Border

Comprising the communities of Apsley, Balmoral, Casterton, Coleraine, Dunkeld, Edenhope, Glenthompson, Goroke, Hamilton, Harrow, Macarthur, Penshurst and Tarrayoukyan.

Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year B

2 May 2021

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.

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.

1. 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! (R.)
2. All 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.)
3. 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

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.

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.'



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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We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand, the Gunditjmara people.

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Office Address: 23 Dinwoodie St, HAMILTON

Weekend Mass Times @ Hamilton: 6pm Sat & 10:30am Sun

Weekday Mass Times @ Hamilton: Tue, Thu, Fri. 10am & Wed 5.15pm.

Reconciliation (Confession): Sat. 5.30pm & after weekday Mass

We are a Child Safe Parish.

Child Safe Officer: John Hockey 0439 319 823

<http://westernborder.church/child-safe-policy-and-protocol/>

ST MARY'S PRIMARY, HAMILTON

Principal: Mrs Terrielynn Groves

Phone: (03) 5551 9000

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY, PENSURST

Principal: Stephen Hogan

Phone: (03) 5576 5438

MONIVAE COLLEGE, HAMILTON

Principal: Jonathan Rowe

Phone: (03) 5551 1200

Country Mass Schedule

St Joseph's Penshurst

	1 st Sun	2 nd Sun	3 rd Sun	4 th Sun	5 th Sun	Sunday 16th May	
Penshurst 8:30am	No Service (To Hamilton)	Mass	SAWC	Mass	Mass	Lector	Margie Eales
Dunkeld 8:30am	Mass	No Service (Glen)	Mass	SAWC	SAWC	Prayers	Laine Kelly
Glenthompson 8:30am	SAWC	Mass	No Service (To Dunkeld)	Mass	SAWC	Gifts	
						Special Minister	Catherine Loria
						Leader	Brendan Kelly
						Communion to Hospital	Catherine Loria

Saint Mary MacKillop Parish

Our Parish Collections

1st Collection: Priest Support: \$

2nd Collection: Stewardship 2020 FY

Full Year Pledged: Given YTD: \$95,333

Western Border Parish Mission Outreach

Mission Donations made financial year to date.

Sr Lourdes—Kenya Mission

Sr Stella's—India Mission \$2,510

Ministry Roster If you are unavailable for your ministry please try to arrange swap & advise office of change.

1 & 2 May Ministers of Communion

8 & 9 May Ministers of Communion

6 pm

Peter Fitzgerald.

Kerry Stevens

10.30am

Nola Joseph & P Stanhope.

F Soulsby & M Bell.

Date	Opening	Welcome	Cuppa	Computer	Commentator	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading
1/5	Chris Jansen	Sandra McCaskill	Kathy Jansen	Chris Jansen	Felicity Shaw	Sonia Shaw	Jacinta Ryan
2/5	Carolyn Stanhope	Ursula Murphy	Anne & Des	Richard Murphy	Helen Tripovich	Karen Brewis	Bronson Hill
8/5	Margaret Meagher	Trish Soawyer	Kylie-Anne & Trish	Jacinta Ryan	John Duyvestyn	Felicity Shaw	Pauline Kelly
9/5	John Hockey	Kim Fitzgerald	Filipino Community	Carolyn Stanhope	Sherrie Hockey	Rohan Fitzgerald	Angelina Juby

What's happening this week in
St Mary's Community ?

TUESDAY: Weekday Mass 10am Day Chapel.

WEDNESDAY:

Weekday Mass @ 5.15pm Day Chapel.

Men's day out MacKillop Centre 1.30-4.30pm

THURSDAY:

Weekday Mass 10am Day Chapel

Craft group MacKillop Centre 10am -3pm

FRIDAY:

Weekday Mass 10am Day Chapel.

All Welcome.

First Collection - Priests Support



**Tap n Go Card
Facility
Now Available
\$5 Set Amount**

(At the rear of St Mary's Church)

Last weeks
donate giving
total. \$45

Saint Mary MacKillop Parish

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Deaths: Terrence O'Callaghan.

Our prayers and sympathy to the family.

Anniversary:

Dough Scott, Kerrin Hurley, Patricia Pierce,
Bernice Turner, Irene Donne, Mary Tedesco,
Bernadette Blohm, Catherine Howman,
Lucielle Selman, Margaret Ely, Troy Wareham,
Mary Ross.

SICK: Please notify Parish Office of Names .

**Catholics in Australia encouraged to
receive COVID-19 vaccine.**

Get vaccinated for the common good

Vaccination against COVID-19 is a morally good thing, providing protection for the person vaccinated and the wider community.

Some COVID-19 vaccines are associated with ethically questionable production and research practices, but Pope Francis and the Australian Bishops have advised that it is morally permissible to receive any vaccine made available.

A media release and FAQ information from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is available from the diocesan website "news" section

ballarat.catholic.org.au/catholics-in-australia-encouraged-to-receive-covid-19-vaccine/

Prayer

Your love for us,
O God,
surpasses our poor hearts,
and your command is only this:
that we should become true disciples
by believing in Jesus
and loving one another.
Grafted now as living branches
of Christ
the true Vine,
may we be pruned
and cultivated by your care
and glorify you by bearing much fruit
in the midst of the church.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

AMEN.



**Have courage
and patience
and God will help you
in all things.**

St. Mary MacKillop

We welcome in Baptism



at St Mary's Parish,
Hamilton.

William Baden

Thornton

Son of Katherine & Shaun.

Grandson of Karen & Geoff Brewis.

Australia sends support to India during COVID-19 surge

cathnews.com

The last 24 hours brought 360,960 new cases for the world's largest single-day total, taking India's tally of infections to nearly 18 million. It was also the deadliest day so far, with 3,293 fatalities carrying the toll to 201,187, *Reuters* reports.



However, fewer than a quarter of all deaths in India are registered, which means that current estimates of the COVID-19 fatality rate fall far short of the true picture.

"The populations that we work with in India are some of the most marginalised and vulnerable, who have had limited access to clean water and PPE for each outbreak, and are now among those with the least ability to access timely medical attention," said Chanthea Nou, Caritas Australia's program coordinator for Cambodia and India.

"It's vital that we respond quickly to ensure that our program participants are supported through this second wave of COVID-19, and that they receive the support they need to rebuild their lives afterwards as well."

The steep increase in cases is related to what is believed to be a new "double mutant" variant of the coronavirus which transmits faster.

The Australian Government is sending 500 ventilators, 1 million surgical masks, 500,000 P2 masks, 100,000 surgical gowns, 100,000 pairs of goggles, 100,000 pairs of gloves, 20,000 face shields and 100 oxygen concentrators, as part of an initial package to support India in this crisis.

Caritas Australia is accepting donations to help support vulnerable communities in Asia through its Asia Emergency Appeal.

FULL STORY

[Australia sends support to India as country struggles to contain massive second outbreak of COVID-19 \(Caritas Australia\)](#)