

# St Patricks Parish Church Hill

Under the Pastoral Care of the Marist Fathers since 1868



28 April 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter Year B

## Real life

In today's Gospel – John 15:1-8 – we have a parable that is one of many expressions of the central theme of the Christian life. Jesus says: "Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me." It is our communion with Jesus that gives us life – real life. This is gift, It cannot be merited. The appropriate response is to let the gift flood through our beings like sap through the vine. If someone asks who are the Christians in our world, we can answer: "Those who abide in Jesus and Jesus abides in them". Nothing could be more simple really.

It will help us to begin to grasp the simplicity and transforming power of this truth if we recall some other expressions of the same truth in John's Gospel.

We have, for example, the Prologue of John's Gospel: "In the beginning was the Word ... and without him not one thing came into being... in him was life, and the life was the light of all people... The Word became flesh and lived among us" (1:1-4 & 14). The enfleshing of the Word is beautifully represented in the parable of the Good Shepherd: "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (10:10).

Sometimes the imagery used to communicate this truth is confronting, as when Jesus declares that "my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them" (6:55-56).

What a travesty of the Christian life it is when we reduce it to a moral project! Of course there is a profound moral vision in Jesus' life and teaching. But it does neither him nor us justice if we present Jesus primarily as a moral teacher. In order to find the moral vision, we must plumb the depths of the images of intimacy: He is "the Word made flesh", "the Good Shepherd", "the bread of life", "the light of the world". He is "the vine" and we are "the branches". Our real life is in him.

*See [www.aquinas-academy.org.au](http://www.aquinas-academy.org.au) for background material on the Gospel text.*

Michael Whelan SM, Parish Priest

## OUR SYNODAL JOURNEY

“This welcoming gaze of Jesus also invites us to be a welcoming Church. In such a complex time as ours, new cultural and pastoral challenges emerge that call for a warm and kindly inner attitude so that we can encounter each other without fear. In synodal dialogue, in this beautiful ‘journey in the Holy Spirit’ that we are making together as the People of God, we can grow in unity and friendship with the Lord in order to look at today’s challenges with his gaze; to become, using a fine expression of Saint Paul VI, a church that ‘makes itself a conversation’

(Encyclical Letter *Ecclesiam suam*, 65)’ Pope Francis’ Homily at the opening of the First Session of the Synod on Synodality.

**St Peter Chanel Feast Day:** Due to the fact that the Feast of St Peter Chanel, one of the first Marists, falls on Sunday, 28th of April, we will celebrate the Feast on Monday 29 April. A special Mass for vocations to Marist life will be celebrated in honour of St Peter Chanel who is the proto martyr of the Pacific.

**Temporary Parish Office Hours in May** - our office hours will be temporarily adjusted during the month of May. Mona Redito, our Parish Secretary will be on holiday during this period. Temporary office hours: Tuesday to Friday: 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. During these hours, the office will be attended by volunteers who will be happy to assist you.

**The Call to Be** - The Artist’s Story: Lecturer: Daniel Dominguez in the Crypt of St Patricks Church, 1, 8, 15 May 10am-noon, cost \$90. For more information see <https://catalystforrenewal.org.au/events> or email [thecalltobe@gmail.com](mailto:thecalltobe@gmail.com)

**Charitable Works Fund:** Next weekend 4 and 5 May is the first of our three Archdiocesan Charitable Works Fund Appeals for 2024. All donations from the Appeal will be spread across the six agencies CWF supports. Your tax-deductible gift changes lives!

## WISDOM FROM TRADITION

“Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.”

(Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus caritas est* (December 25, 2005))

## PARISH DIARY THIS WEEK

Mon 29 Apr St Catherine of Siena

Tues 30 Apr St Pius V, Pope

Wed 1 May St Joseph the worker; Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena 12.30pm

Thur 2 May St Athanasius; Rosary Group - 12.30pm, Crypt

Fri 3 May St Philips & James, Apostles

The parish of St Patrick’s acknowledges the Gadigal people of the Eora nation as the traditional custodians of this place we now call Sydney.

### **A reading from the Acts of the Apostles Acts 9:26-31 (NRSV)**

When Saul had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples; and they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him, brought him to the apostles, and described for them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who had spoken to him, and how in Damascus Saul had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus. So Saul went in and out among them in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. He spoke and argued with the Hellenists; but they were attempting to kill him. When the believers learned of it, they brought Saul down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. Meanwhile the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Response to the Psalm**

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

### **A reading from the First letter of St John 1Jn 3:18-24 (NRSV)**

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and God knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases God. And this is

God's commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another; just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

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

### **A reading from the holy Gospel of John 15:1-8 NRSV)**

Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. "Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. "Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**St Brigid's Church,**  
14-16 Kent Street, Millers Point

**Did you know** - St Brigid's, designed by colonial architect Ambrose Hallen, is the oldest surviving place of Catholic worship in Australia? Governor Richard Bourke approved the site and building plan in 1833.



**Join our community  
for Mass - Sundays at 9.00am**

Visit our **Piety Store and Book Store** in the William Davis Courtyard every Sunday from 10 am. Discover good finds pre-loved books, prayer cards and gift items

**Electronic Donations:** We have two tap machines for electronic donations near the entry to the church. For regular donations from your credit card, please contact the Parish Office.

**RECONCILIATION PROGRAM**

**MONDAY - THURSDAY:**  
7.30 - 7.55 am; 10.00am - 11.00am;  
12.00 noon - 1.00pm; 5.00 - 6.00pm

**FRIDAY:** 7.30am - 7.55am; 10.00am - 1.00pm; 5.00pm - 6.00pm

**SATURDAY:** 7.30am - 7.55am; 10.30am - 12.30pm; 5.30pm - 5.55pm

**SUNDAY:** 7.45am - 8.30am; 8.45 am -12.45 pm; 2.45 pm - 4.45 pm; 5.30 pm - 5.55 pm.

**PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:** 7.30am - 7.55am;  
11.30 am - 11.55am; 4.45pm - 5.20 pm

**PARISH OFFICE**

**Address:** 141 Harrington Street, Sydney  
**Office hours:** Monday to Friday,  
10.00 am - 2.00 pm  
**Telephone:** 9254 9855 Fax: 9252 3431  
**Email:** office@stpatschurchhill.org  
**Website:** www.stpatschurchhill.org  
**St Patrick's Church:** 20 Grosvenor Street,  
Sydney, NSW 2000

**A MESSAGE FROM THE  
ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY**

**Child sexual abuse is a crime.** The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguarding-enquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

**ST. PATRICK'S COFFEE SHOP**

**Open Tuesday - Friday 11.00 am - 2.00 pm  
Sunday 10.00 am - 2.00 pm**

**Sunday First Collection:** Support of the Marist Community at St Patrick's  
**Sunday Second Collection:** General Parish Expenses and Maintenance.

**MASS PROGRAM**

**MONDAY - FRIDAY:** 8.00am, 10.30am, 12.00noon & 5.30pm.  
**\*Church open from 7.30am - 6pm**

**SATURDAY:** 8.00am, 12.00 noon  
**Vigil Mass at 6.00pm.**  
**\*Church open from 7.30am - 6.45pm**

**SUNDAY:** 8.00am, 9.00am, 10.00am, 11.00am, 12 noon, 3.00pm, 4.00pm, 6.00pm  
**\*Church open from 7.45am - 6.45pm**

**St. Brigid's, Millers Point: 9.00am Mass**

**PUBLIC HOLIDAY:** 8.00 am, 12 noon, 5.30 pm  
**\*Church open from 7.30am - 6.00pm**

**St Patrick's Parish**

Fr. Michael Whelan, SM <i>Parish Priest</i>	Br Terry Garrett, SM Michael Borromeo <i>Coffee Shop</i>
Fr. Bernie McFadyen, SM	Andrew Carter, <i>Maintenance Manager</i>
Fr. Peter McMurrich, SM	Karen Larkman, Teresa Seric - <i>Safeguarding</i>
Fr. Paul Mahony, SM	Helen Nejaim, <i>Sacristan</i>
Fr. Paul Hachey, SM	Mona Redito, <i>Secretary</i>
Fr Michael Carroll SM	
Sr. Fidelis McTeigue, SM <i>Pastoral work</i>	

*The church is fitted with an audio loop for the hearing impaired*