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# St. Paul's Catholic Parish

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ADDRESS: 24 GARRETT STREET PO BOX 150 MOSS VALE NSW 2577

PHONE: 02 4868 1931

EMAIL: MOSSVALE@DOW.ORG.AU

WEBSITE: WWW.STPAULSMOSSVALE.ORG.AU

PARISH PRIEST: FR MAREK DUTKIEWICZ, PP

**Nick Knowles Pharmacist Advice**

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**PARISH WEBSITE**

Website [www.stpaulsmossvale.org.au](http://www.stpaulsmossvale.org.au)

The Parish Facebook "St Paul's Catholic Parish, Moss Vale". We continue to ask parishioners to contact the office via email [mossvale@dow.org.au](mailto:mossvale@dow.org.au) where possible.

**PARISH OFFICE**

To make an appointment please call 4868 1931.  
 If you need to speak to Father urgently, please call the office and select option 4.

Office Hours: MON, WED, THURS, FRI 10:00am-1:30pm.  
 The office will be closed on Tuesday.

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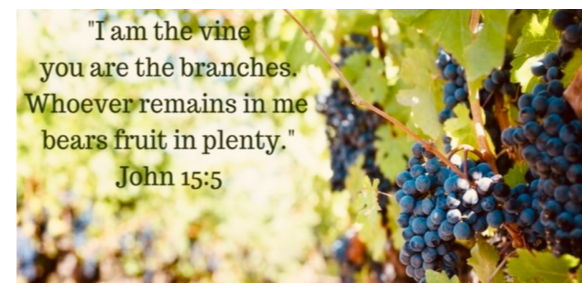
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[www.spic.nsw.edu.au](http://www.spic.nsw.edu.au) email [info@spic.nsw.edu.au](mailto:info@spic.nsw.edu.au) Tel. 4868 2211 463 Argyle St, Moss Vale 2577 NSW Fee assistance available

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



"I am the vine you are the branches. Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty."  
 John 15:5

In his teaching, Jesus sets forth two situations. The first is negative: The branch is dry, it bears no fruit, and so it is cut off and thrown away. The second is positive: The branch is living and healthy, and so it is pruned. This contrast already tells us that pruning is not a hostile act to the branch. The vinedresser expects much from it; he knows it can bear fruit; he has confidence in it. The same happens on the spiritual plane. God intervenes in our lives with the cross. It does not mean he is irritated with us but, in fact, the opposite. But, why does the vinedresser prune the branch and make the vine "weep," as is usually said. For a very simple reason: If it is not pruned, the strength of the vine is wasted; it will bear perhaps more bunches than it should, with the consequence that not all will ripen and that the rating of the wine will be lower. If it remains a long time without being pruned, the vine even becomes wild and produces only vine tendrils and wild grapes. The same happens in our lives. To live is to choose, and to choose is to deny oneself.

The person who wants to do too many things in life, or cultivates innumerable interests and hobbies, is dispersed, and will not be outstanding in anything. One must have the courage to make choices, to put some secondary interests to one side to concentrate on the primary. To prune! This is even truer in the spiritual life. Holiness is like a sculpture. Leonardo da Vinci defined sculpture as "the art of removing." The other arts consist in adding something: color to the canvas in painting, stone on stone in architecture, note after note in music. Only sculpture consists of removing, of taking away the pieces of marble that are in excess, so that the figure can emerge that one has in mind. Christian perfection is also obtained like this, by removing and making useless pieces fall off, namely, desires, ambitions, projects, carnal tendencies that disperse us and do not let us finish anything. One day, Michelangelo walking through a garden in Florence saw a block of marble in a corner protruding from the earth, half covered by grass and mud.

He stopped suddenly, as if he had seen someone, and turning to friends, who were with him, exclaimed: "An angel is imprisoned in that marble; I must get him out." And, armed with a chisel, he began to work on that block until the figure of a beautiful angel emerged. God also looks at us and sees us this way: as shapeless blocks of stone. He then says to himself: "Therein is hidden a new and beautiful creature that waits to come out to the light; more than that, the image of my own son Jesus Christ is hidden there, I want to bring it out!" We are predestined to "be conformed to the image of his son" (Romans 8:29). Then, what does He do? He takes the chisel, which is the cross, and begins to work on us. He takes the pruning shears, and begins to prune us.

**His Eminence Raniero Cardinal Cantalamessa**

**WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:** Mon, Wed, Fri 8am & Thurs 9.30am including School Mass (During School Term Only)

**St. Paul's Int. College (Sat) 8am**

**Confessions:** 1st Friday of each month following morning Mass. After Saturday 8.00 am Mass at St Paul's International College or by appointment.

St Paul's Moss Vale	St Brigid's Bundanoon	St Peter's Burrawang	Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy Penrose Park
Saturday Vigil - 6.30pm	1st, 3rd, 5th Saturday Vigil -5pm	2nd, 4th Saturday Vigil -5pm	Sunday - 8am, 9.30am, 11am, Weekday 11am
Sunday - 10am	2nd, 4th Sunday -8am	1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday - 8am	

St Francis Xavier, Berrima St Patrick's, Sutton Forest



PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING THOSE WHO SUPPORT OUR PARISH

PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN HOME

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** Cf Psalm 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 of the Apostles 9:26-31**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

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.**

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 John 3:18-24**A reading from the first letter of St John**

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** John 15:4-5

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

**GOSPEL** John 15:1-8**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

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.****COMUNION ANTIPHON** Cf John 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.

**FEASTS AND MEMORIALS**

Monday 29—St Catherine of Siena, virgin, doctor. Memorial. The liturgical vestment is white.

Thursday 2—St Athanasius, bishop, doctor. Memorial. The liturgical vestment is white.

Friday 3—Sts Philip and James, apostles. Feast. The liturgical vestment is red.

The liturgical vestment is white.



Mothers Day Raffle tickets to go on sale this weekend until Sunday 5 May 2024.

Tickets will be sold at each Mass.  
Raffle tickets—\$2 each or 3 for \$5.

The raffle will be drawn on Monday 6 May in the parish office.

Please support this raffle as all funds raised go towards the parish.

**PLANNED GIVING**

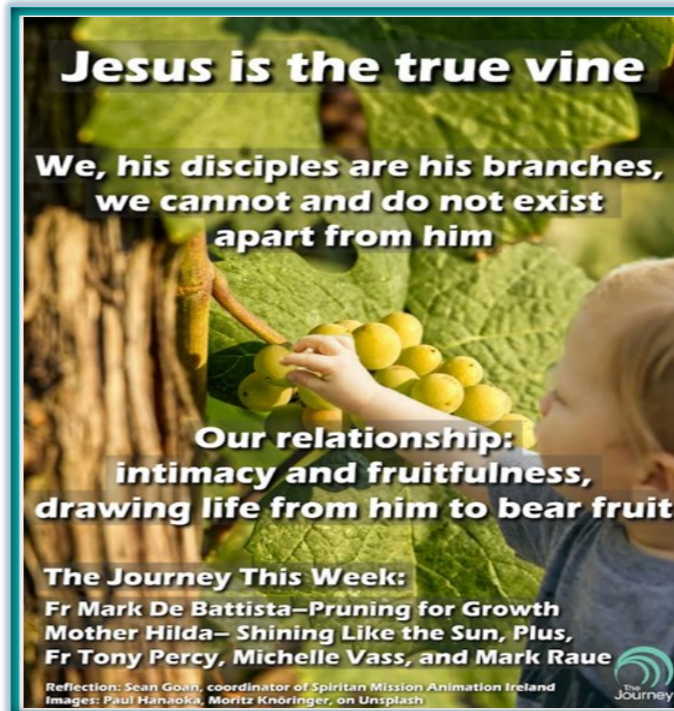
Our planned giving envelope programme for 2024-2025 will commence from 1 July.



If you would like to join by the envelopes or direct debit, please contact Cathy in the office on Monday or Wednesday.

The next PPC meeting will be held on Wednesday 1 May at 5.00pm.

The new reading roster is available in the church foyer.

**A New Vision for Parishes**

Bishop Mascord has supplied multiple copies of Come and See Go and Make - A vision for Parishes in the Diocese of Wollongong for distribution amongst the faithful. Further to this, a short introductory video message from Bishop Mascord may be viewed / downloaded at <http://dow.sh/CSGMvision>

Come & See, Go & Make: A Vision for Parishes resources may be found at <http://dow.sh/CSGMresources>



CatholicCare are again running an Ageing with Confidence forum. It is available to all the community.

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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[ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/](http://ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/)

**Compass: Catholic Family Camping**  
Weekend 17 – 19 May 2024  
at Wooglemai Catholic Camping Facility, Oakdale

Join with families of all ages and stages to celebrate the incredible gift of family life. Cost: \$30 per adult or \$70 per family (regardless of size) Enquiries: Jude Hennessy 02 4222 2407 / [jude.hennessy@dow.org.au](mailto:jude.hennessy@dow.org.au).

To register: [dow.org.au/events/compass-catholic-family-camping-weekend](http://dow.org.au/events/compass-catholic-family-camping-weekend)