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| ***Immaculate Conception Parish*** P O BOX 600 Tumut Catholic Community Collection amounts for January 2016 ~PARISH NEWS~ ~ PARISH NEWS ~ **~ GOSPEL REFLECTION ~** |

Again and again, life's experiences teach us that, as members of the Earth community, we cannot make it on our own. We need one another, other living beings, the sun, the soil, the water and everything else that formed from exploding stars in the distant past. The gospel reading reminds us that as baptised Christians we are not just intimately interlinked but that the source of our unity is the Risen Christ. As limbs and leaves and sap of the same vine, we simply cannot survive in isolation.

The vine image picks up one of the most potent biblical images for God's relationship to the people of Israel. It is an image of life and growth, of colour and vibrancy. It holds the promise of a life-sustaining grape harvest that is ultimately transformed into wine, the biblical symbol for joy. God brought Israel “the vine” out of Egypt (Psalm 80:9). For the prophet Isaiah, Israel is also a vineyard planted and nurtured by God (Isa 5:1-7; 27:3). For Jeremiah, Israel is the choice vine “of fully tested stock” planted by God (Jer 2:21).

The Johannine Jesus takes the image further: Jesus is the vine and God is the vine grower. The potency of this image resides in the fact that a vine without branches is inconceivable. It draws us into the mystery of the mutual interchange of life between us and the risen Christ, into the mystery of God. It also invites us to acknowledge our interconnection with the whole of the Earth community, to nurture the wonderful biodiversity of our planet, and to accept the inevitability of pruning if we are to “bear fruit” and “become disciples”.

“Pruning” can take various forms. A chance encounter, a sudden inspiration, a word from a friend, an unexpected illness, a confronting story: any such experience can bring us to our senses and serve as a “pruning” device. The first reading for today recounts the story of Saul of Tarsus who is “pruned” quite dramatically through his encounter with the Risen Christ on the road to Damascus. He is transformed from persecutor to defender of Christ and Christ’s followers. Saul “bears much fruit” and becomes a disciple. The Greek-speaking Christian Jews are suspicious, even murderous, when he tries to preach the gospel among them. Peace ensues, however, and the movement takes hold in the regions where Jesus had first preached the gospel. It is worth reflecting on the cultural diversity that characterised earliest Christianity and the tensions that had to be resolved between different language groups or groups of different ethnic origin for the gospel to flourish and bear fruit. John’s gospel is written against the backdrop of such “pruning within the early communities. Sometimes the requisite “pruning” is respectfully hearing a point of view that differs from one’s own.

*An excerpt by Sr. Veronica Lawson*



**‘CLERGY’**

* **Fr. Sijo Jose (Parish Priest)**
* **Fr. George Ogah (Assistant Priest)**

**‘PARISH SECRETARY’**

 **Anna Quinn**

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Office hours: Wednesday & Friday 9am -12noon

-------------------------------------------------------- **‘WEEKEND MASS TIMES’**

**Saturday Vigil: 6.pm**

**Sunday: 10am**

 **Talbingo Sunday: 8.am**

 **‘THIS WEEKS MASS TIMES’**

**Tuesday: 6pm in Chapel**

**Wednesday: 10am**

**Thursday & Friday: 8am in Chapel**

**Saturday: 9am (every fortnight – Thursday: 11am BUPA Liturgy Saturday: 9.40am BLAKENEY LODGE Liturgy)**

 **‘ROSARY’**

**Saturday at 8.45am Exposition at 8.30asm (1st Sat of month)**

**‘RECONCILIATION’**

 **Saturday at 5.15pm**

 **‘LITURGY MEETING’**

 **Tuesday: 2.00pm in Chapel**

 **‘PRAYER GROUP’**

 **(Rosary & Divine Mercy)**

 **Wednesday: 2.00pm in Chapel**

  **‘CONTACTS’**

 **Care Group: Anne Huebner 69473406**

**5th Sunday of Easter Year B**

 **April 29th 2018**

***Gospel Acclamation***

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

 ***Gospel Acclamation***

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Alleluia, alleluia! Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed; the Saviour of the world will be our king. Alleluia!

 ***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.**

 ***Responsorial Psalm***

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

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| T THIS WEEK Saturday & Sunday 28th & 29th April   |
| Ministry | Saturday Vigil 6pm |  Sunday 10am |
| Acolyte |  Tony Butler |  Peter Malone |
| Reader |  Patricia Wilks  |  Sue Bulger  |
| Commentator |  Anne Huebner  |  Mary Kelly  |
| Children’s Liturgy |  ---------- |  School holidays |
| Musicians |  Anna Quinn  |  Hall Visiting Choir  |
| Altar Servers |  Jessica & Emily Kelly |  New Servers |
| Church Care\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_LINEN Marie Ambrose | Group 2: Anna, Pat & Sophie |
| NEXT WEEK Saturday & Sunday 5th & 6th May  |
| Ministry | Vigil 6pm | 10am |
| Acolyte |  Barry Madigan |  Sue Bulger |
| Reader |  Claire Cole |  Trish Matthews |
| Commentator |  Liz Boxall |  Anne Huebner |
| Children’s Liturgy |  ---------- |  Fran Butler |
| Musicians |  Patricia & Monica |  -----------  |
| Altar Servers |  Abby Crampton & Olivia Dean | Jude Moreno & Hunter Styles |
| Church Care | --------------------------------------  |

Feast Day**Wishing all our wonderful dads a Happy In m**

 R O S T E R S

~ ~ ~ **St. Vincent de Paul Volunteers The centre is looking for new volunteers who can assist in the shop – if you are interested – please call in and speak to the Manager.**

**FEAST DAYS 2nd May: Saint Athanasius 3rd May: Saints Philip & James**

 **~PARISH NEWS~**

**Reminder to parishioners the weekly bulletin is available on our Web page www.cg.org.au/tumut – please remember to log on for weekly roster reminders if in doubt. WELCOME** to the Hall Parish Choir, we thank you for being part of our Sunday Mass. **DEBUTANTE BALL** the Catholic Debutante Ball is to be held next Saturday 5th May 2018. The 18 debutantes and partners will be presented to the guest of honour Mr Luke Peacock and the matron of honour Mrs Susie Peacock. We wish them all an enjoyable evening. **A SINCERE THANK YOU** to Maureen Norman for her dedication and faithfulness to the music ministry in our Cathloic Community. Over the years the music has enriched all our celebrations, Masses, weddings funerals and other special days. Maureen is not well at present and is in Wagga with her family, she plans to move into a retirement home in Wagga. Please keep Maureen in your prayers. **GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL** we are greatful to all the parishioners who generously donated to this appeal an amount of $531.85 was raised. **PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES** please return these boxes.

**We pray for those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith:**

 **MASS HAS BEEN REQUESTED FOR:**

Filomena Comai, Eileen Creighton, Muriel Maidwell, Thomas Maidwell, Margaret Anne Reardon, Steph Scott, Peter Bush, Alan Guthrie, Jim McInerney, Kath Stuckey, Iris Stuckey, Minnie Murphy, Alfred & Bridget Claffey, John Marzol, Joan & Pat Cronmy, Sean Gordon, Maureen Ashleigh,Kade Adams, Tom Sturt, Winifred Whitacker, Edward,Mary & Clem Malone, Pat Malone, Hickson & O’Sullivan families, Colleen Anderson, Reg & Mary Madigan, Matt Downing, Wilkinson & Downing families, Frank Stanfield, Peter Heffernan, Tim & Amy Twomey, Barbara Fuller, Tom & Merle Arentz, Harriet & Ruben Arentz, Kevin & Nola Arentz, Dulcie & Arthur Piper, Marie & Ray Cowan, Kevin Cowan, Kevin Hawthorne, Natalie Baker, Ian Barbour, Yvonne Harrison, Fr. Peter Quirk, Con & Ennis Twomey, Mons.John Twomey, Sr. M. Brenda Twomey, Sr. M. Canice O’Sullivan, Sr. M. Celine McCormack, Bert & Teresa Butler, Anne Lawrance, Joan & Bob Liddell, Mary & William Claffey, Ruby Harmer, Hassel & Joy McGrath, Noel Cook, Hargreaves family, Family members & relatives of Tran family, Frederick & Mabel McInerney, Ken Elliott, Jock Roberts, Ralph Klaus, James Kelly, Tom & Dorothy French.

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