



5th SUNDAY OF EASTER
YEAR B

28 April 2024

LITURGY AND BULLETIN



OPENING PRAYER

*God our Father, look upon us with love.
You redeem us and make us your children in Christ.
Give us true freedom and bring us to the inheritance you promised.
Amen.*

FIRST READING: 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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Response: 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: 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.

Gospel Acclamation

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

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

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 on the Gospel of John 15:1-8.

Father Tony writes:

Dear Parishioners,

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, used to say that 'God does not expect us to be successful but faithful.'

Likewise, we should remember that we are 'not called to be busy, but fruitful':

I AM the true vine, and my Father is the Vinedresser. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty (John 15).

We are called to 'bloom where we are planted.'

So much of life can be wasted by waiting for the right moment to arrive or for the right circumstances to finally present themselves:

No. Out with excuses.

Let's shut down, once and for all, the 'complaints department.'

Jesus is the vine – we are the branches. Our lives are interwoven with our Lord in intimacy and vulnerability – essential in sincere friendship. Faithfulness and fruitfulness has its source and summit in Jesus.

We have to toughen up, however:

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.

Purification is entirely necessary.

We are going to have lose some branches, and we are going to have to let ourselves be pruned, since the great Vinedresser is constantly at work within us.

Cool nights, beautiful days – what could be better than the season of Autumn?

We stop and thank God for the gift of Creation, the original, primordial covenant forged with us, Father Tony

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Reader: That the Church's love of Christ Jesus will be made real and active in the world.

(pause) United we pray:

Reader: That strife and turmoil among nations will give way to peace and reconciliation.

(pause) United we pray:

Reader: That the voices of men and women who courageously expose injustice and dishonesty will be heard. (pause) United we pray:

Reader: That the efforts of those who seek a way out of conflict will be strengthened.

(pause) United we pray:

Reader: That this assembly, the branches of the true vine, will bear much fruit.

Reader: That those who are pruned by suffering or sickness, including , Patrick Thomas, Kerry Prothero, Dennis Dempsey, Penny Crawford, Patrick Hynes, Tony Riley, Jenny Bodman, Violet Davis, Ross Lawless, Helen Montgomery, Judy Nielson, Val Biggers, Ross Lawless and all who need our prayers.will remain in Christ's love. (pause) United we pray:

Reader: That those who have gone before us, including Florrie Coffey and Archbishop Carroll, will reach their eternal home. (pause) United we pray:

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord, help us to seek you with all their hearts and to deserve what you promise.

Grant his through Christ our Lord

Amen.

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Father Tony Percy M. 0431 225 574

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Parish email: braidwood@cg.org.au **Parish Website:** [ttp://cg.org.au/braidwood/Home.aspx](http://cg.org.au/braidwood/Home.aspx)

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: Marylou Gorham Ph. 4842 2413

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Tues: 9.30am – 3.30pm; Fridays: 9.30am – 12.30pm until end April

Mass: Saturdays at 5.00pm.

Meditation: Thursdays in Presbytery at 10.30am

Social Justice Group: 7 May at 3pm in the Presbytery

Scripture: Tuesdays at 4pm in the Presbytery.

The Community Lunch at the Club will be held next Thursday 2nd May.

The St Bede's parish 'Call to Connect' women's Ministry warmly welcomes all women to a Mother's Day Breakfast. Let's come together to celebrate the gift of mothering, enjoy each other's company and pray for one another.

At: St Bede's school hall on Saturday 4th May 2024. 8am-9.30am

Cost: \$12. Sorry no refunds due to costs incurred. RSVP by Monday 29th April with exact cash to James' coffee window.

Mother's Day

Arranging flowers for the church altar. Demonstration in St Bede's Church following the Women's Mothers' Day Breakfast on 4 May. Call Margaret on 0419 982 004 to secure your place.

Position Vacant: People are invited to apply for the position of Parish Secretary for St. Bede's Parish, Braidwood This is a part-time permanent position of five hours per week.

Essential Requirements:

- Experience with database packages.
- Strong communication and liaison skills
- Strong organisational skills
- Ability to work on your own, and as part of a wider team and take direction.
- Understand and administer areas of regulatory compliance (eg. WHS, child protection, copyright)
- Understanding and respect for the Catholic Church and its teaching
- Current experience in an office environment.

Employment conditions are subject to Clerks Award. Please phone 0430 169 849 for a copy of the duty statement. Applications addressing the Selection Criteria above with attached resume to Father Tony Percy, Administrator of St. Bede's, Braidwood and cc. wilmont289@gmail.com, must be received by 16 May 2024 Email: Tony.Percy@cg.org.au

Readings for Mass: 1st: Acts 9:26-31. 2nd: 1 John 3:18-24. Gospel: John 15:1-8.

Next Sunday readings: 1st: Acts 10:25-6, 34-35,44-48. 2nd: 1 John 4:7-10. Gospel: John 15:9-17

Radio Church: Sundays at 6pm.

Ministries for our Mass:	27 Apl	4 May	11 May	18 May
Welcomer:	Helen P	Geraldine	Helen P	Cathy F
Acolyte:	Felix when available			
Reader 1:	Anne T	Cathy F	Tommy	Germaine
Reader 2:	Wendy H	Michael	Bobbie	Wendy M-B

Happy Easter season,

Helen Hart