



# HOLY EUCHARIST PARISH

1A Oleander Drive, St Albans South 3021  
Office Hours: Tues - Fri: 9:00am - 3.30pm  
Phone: 9366 1310, Fax: 9366 9359  
Email: [stalbanssouth@cam.org.au](mailto:stalbanssouth@cam.org.au)  
Website: [www.holyeuchariststalbans.org](http://www.holyeuchariststalbans.org)



## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B

1 & 2 MAY 2021

### REDEMPTORIST COMMUNITY

#### Mission Leader

Fr Peter Danh CSsR

#### Parish Priest

Fr Vincent Long Pham CSsR

#### Assistant Parish Priest

Fr Vinsensius (Lovin) Lolo CSsR

Fr Oche Matutina CSsR

Fr Patrick Corbett CSsR

#### Parish Secretary

Mary-Lucy Atonio PH: 9366 1310

#### Parish School Principal

Michael Bonnici PH: 8312 0900

#### Filipino Chaplain

Fr Joselito Asis

#### South Sudanese Chaplain

Deacon George B.P.Meat

### MASS TIMES

- ◆ **Tues-Fri:** 9:00am
- ◆ **Saturday:** 6:00pm
- ◆ **Sunday:** 9:00am, 10:30am, 12:00pm Vietnamese

#### Other Masses

- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun Sudanese Mass - 3.00pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun Samoan Mass - 2.00pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sun Filipino Mass - 3.00pm

#### SOCIAL OFFICE

Contact: Son Nguyen & Tammy Le  
Phone 9366 1310

Tuesday & Friday 10:00am-3:00pm.

#### FOODBANK open Fridays

10.30am until 2.00pm. More details call Charlie 03 9366 1310.

**RCIA:** Please contact Br. Anthony Gatt on 0419 115 692 or call the Parish Office for more details.

**St Vincent de Paul:** Call Centre is now open. Please contact 1800 305 330. Thank you.

### BAPTISM- MARCH

Congratulations to: **Zachariah Camilleri, Preston Blake Farrugia, Vincent Paul Vongpraseuth, Riley Aiko Lo, Joshua Goku Phan, Noah Noshi Phan, Tyson Thai Son Nguyen, Ethan Terrence Smith, Fiona Bui, Alan Dang, Chloe Phan, Mason Lieu-Johnson, Ashley Nguyen, Austin Gia Nghia Nguyen**, who were baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. You are welcome to be a part of our community faith.



### HEY VOICE

#### MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION - THE NIGHT OF PRAISE & WORSHIP

This year our Parish Youth Ministry will be celebrating Mother's Day on Friday, May 7 at Holy Eucharist Hall. This is not only the night to show our gratitude to all the mothers, but also a wonderful night of praise and thanksgiving to God. This will be shown through "The Hey Voice" Final Round. We have journeyed together more than 2 months to find 6 teams to go to the final round. And on this night we will continue finding the champion for this first singing competition. They will be explosive and burned to praise God and celebrate Mother's Day.

Tickets will be sold after each Mass this weekend and next weekend or can be booked directly via [bit.ly/booknow2021](https://bit.ly/booknow2021) or call Tammy on 0415 599 413.

Fares \$ 20 include the dinner and live-show.

**5:30pm door opened for refreshment and main meal comes afterwards.**



Dear Parishioners,

It was so great to have 92 of our parishioners who turned up last Tuesday night for our parish family meeting. In the meeting, there was a chance for us to look back to our parish history in order to acknowledge those who have contributed generously to build our parish. There was also an opportunity to identify our mission and ministry activities in order to have a vision for our future. I would like to say a huge thank you to those who have turned up and gave their ideas to shape our future in 10 years' time.

For some reasons if you could not make it last Tuesday night, here is a reflective question: *what aspects of our parish life would you like to see improvements?* You can send your suggestions and ideas via email: [stalbanssouth@cam.org.au](mailto:stalbanssouth@cam.org.au) or you can give them to the priests or drop them to the Parish office before 5pm Tuesday 4th May 2021.

Any feedback and suggestions are welcome.

May our God guide us in the way that He wants us to be.

Fr Vincent Long Pham CSsR  
Parish Priest

### MASS COUNTS 2021



The Archdiocese of Melbourne conducts Mass count during the month of May.

This year, parishes will also be asked to provide estimates of the age and sex of those who attend Mass and Sunday assemblies. Collectors/Volunteers and Community Leaders will commence the count this weekend, and all Sunday in May. Thank you.

## THE LIVING WORD

### First reading Acts 9:26-31

*Barnabas explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul 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(22):26-28,30-32

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

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!

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

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.

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

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.’

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

### Second reading 1 John 3:18-24

*The commandment of faith and love*

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 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 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

*I am the vine, you are the branches*

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

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 (5:1-7; 27:3). For Jeremiah, Israel is the choice vine “of fully tested stock” planted by God (2:21).

The Johannine Jesus makes the claim: “I am the true vine/vineyard” and God is the “vinegrower”. He goes further: “I am the vine/vineyard and you are the branches”. 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 becomes a disciple and “bears much fruit”. 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 hearing respectfully a point of view that differs from one’s own.

*By Veronica Lawson RSM*

## **MEDITATING IS A WAY OF ENCOUNTERING JESUS**

*Continuing his catechesis on Christian prayer during the weekly General Audience, Pope Francis explains the importance of meditation, highlighting that it is a means of prayer that helps us encounter Jesus and find ourselves.*

For a Christian, Pope Francis said at the General Audience, "to 'meditate' is to seek meaning: it implies placing oneself before the great page of Revelation in order to try to make it our own, taking it in completely."

Therefore, having welcomed the Word of God, a Christian does not keep it closed up inside, because that Word must meet with “another book,” which the Catechism calls “the book of life.” This, the Pope affirmed, “is what we attempt to do every time we meditate on the Word.”

The Holy Father dedicated his catechesis on Wednesday to meditation as a form of prayer.

### **Meditation is a need for everyone**

The Pope highlighted that the practice of meditation has received great attention in recent times by almost all the religions of the world, including Christianity, and is even widespread among people who do not have a religious vision of life.

“We all need to meditate, to reflect, to find ourselves,” he said. “Especially in the voracious Western world, people seek meditation because it represents a high barrier against the daily stress and emptiness that is everywhere.”

He further added that it is a phenomenon to be welcomed, because we possess an interior life that cannot always be neglected.

### **Prayer is an encounter**

The Word, "once accepted in a Christian context, takes on a specificity that must not be erased," the Pope explained. Here, Jesus Christ is “the great door through which the prayer of a baptized person passes” and the practice of meditation also follows this path.

When a Christian prays, Pope Francis explained, they do not aspire to full self-transparency nor seek the deepest core of their ego. Rather, the prayer of a Christian is, first of all, an encounter with the ‘Other.’

Therefore, “if an experience of prayer gives us inner peace, or self-mastery, or clarity about the path to take, these results are, one might say, side effects of the grace of Christian prayer which is the encounter with Jesus,” he said.

### **Methods of Christian meditation**

Pope Francis went on to note that the term “meditation” has had different meanings throughout history, including within Christianity where it refers to different spiritual experiences. However, the Catechism of the Catholic Church helps to trace some common lines by highlighting that “there are as many and varied methods of meditation as there are spiritual masters... But a method is only a guide; the important thing is to advance, with the Holy Spirit, along the one way of prayer: Christ Jesus.”

In this regard, he highlighted the many methods of Christian meditation: “some are very sober, others more articulate; some accentuate the intellectual dimension of the person, others rather the affective and emotional,” he pointed out.

However, “all of them important and worthy of practice, inasmuch as they can help the experience of faith to become a total act of the person” because people do not only pray with their minds or their feelings.

### **The method is a road, not a goal**

Further illustrating his message, Pope Francis recalled that the ancients used to say that “the organ of prayer is the heart” to explain that it is the whole person, starting from his or her center – not only some of their faculties - who enters into a relationship with God.

At the same time, “we must always remember that the method is a road, not a goal,” he stressed. “Any method of prayer, if it is to be Christian, is part of that *sequela Christi* [following Christ] which is the essence of our faith.”

Citing the Catechism of the Church, Pope Francis noted that “meditation engages thought, imagination, emotion, and desire. This mobilization of faculties is necessary in order to deepen our convictions of faith, prompt the conversion of our heart, and strengthen our will to follow Christ. Christian prayer tries above all to meditate on the mysteries of Christ.”

### **Christ is not far away**

The grace of Christian prayer is that “Christ is not far away but is always in relationship with us,” Pope Francis affirmed.

This is because “there is no aspect of the divine-human person that cannot become for us, a place of salvation and happiness,” he said. Thus, “every moment of Jesus’ earthly life, through the grace of prayer, can become contemporary with us” and there is no page in the Gospels in which there is no place for us.

In this manner, thanks to the Holy Spirit, we too are present at the river Jordan when Jesus is baptized, we are diners at the wedding feast of Cana when Jesus gives the best wine for the happiness of the couple, we too witness in amazement the thousands of healings performed by Our Lord. At the same time, “we are the cleansed leper, the blind Bartimaeus who regains his sight and Lazarus who comes out of the tomb.”

For us Christians, the Pope concluded, “meditating is a way of encountering Jesus. And in this way, only in this way, can we find ourselves.”

*By Fr. Benedict Mayaki, SJ*

## SCHOOL NEWS

### DATES of the SACRAMENTS - Church

- ◆ Grades 4 & 5, 2021 First Holy Communion - Sat. 5th June @ 6pm or Sun. 6th June 10.30am
- ◆ Grade 6 2020 & Grade 6 2021 Confirmation - Sat. 19th June @ 2pm FAMILY

### FAITH EVENINGS - Church

- ◆ The Blessed Sacrament of First Holy Communion Tuesday 18 May 7pm-8.30pm
- ◆ Confirmation Tuesday 25 May 7pm - 8.30pm

### Other Dates:

#### MAY

- ◆ Mon 3rd May - Grade 6 Camp (Campaspe Downs – 2 nights)
- ◆ Wed 5th May -Portfolios are due back -Shine a Light on Road Safety
- ◆ Sun 9th May -6th Sunday of Easter - Mother's Day

### AN INVITATION TO SHARE THE JOURNEY

The discernment of a vocation is a wonderful journey. God desires that you will be happy in your choices. In this sense, Redemptorists would love to meet you, hear your views, and be inspired by your passion to give yourselves in service of others. If you wish to talk with someone about your thoughts of vocation, please contact with one of the Redemptorist priests or write to: [vocations@cssr.org.au](mailto:vocations@cssr.org.au)

### MEMORIAL MASS

Memorial Mass for **Maria Vu Thi Yeu Thuong** on **Wednesday 5th May 2021, 7.00pm** at Holy Eucharist Church.



invite you to join



### RETREAT DAYS WITH MARY IN MAY

The Blessed Virgin Mary, Model of Faith

ALL TUESDAYS IN MAY 2021 (May 04, 11, 18 & 25) @7:30PM-9:00PM (AEST)

To Join pls Register to this link: <https://forms.gle/UwY8tBVAYmNduVuus6>

For Details: Fr. Asis – 0404 261 228 Eldred & Celine Rivera: 0433 132 041



## READERS/COMMENTATOR/ COORDINATOR/EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

### Tues 9:00 AM, 04-05-21

Reader Xuan Duong  
Eucharistic Min. Monica Lomen

### Wed 9:00 AM, 05-05-21

Reader Carmen Camilleri  
Eucharistic Min. Elizabeth Delacruz

### Thur 9:00 AM, 06-05-21

Reader HE School  
Eucharistic Min. HE School

### Fri 9:00 AM, 07-05-21

Reader Helen Maddela  
Eucharistic Min. Catherine Bartolo

### Sat 6.00 PM, 08-05-21

Lit. Coordinator: Reno Attard  
Charlie Pace  
Commentator: Violeta Montoro  
Reader: Anita Foase  
Junior Tufuga  
Eucharistic Min. Anthony Naidu  
Carmen Camilleri  
Edith Gauci

### Sun 9.00 AM, 09-05-21

Lit. Coordinator: Monica Lomen  
Commentator Wilma Marmur  
Readers: Mini Eddy  
Pam Norris  
Eucharistic Min. Monica Lomen  
Helen Maddela  
Wilma Marmur

### Sun 10:30AM, 09-05-21

Lit. Coordinator: Taoete Afano  
Commentator Rita Martin  
Reader Jayden D'Souza  
Phung Thien Dong  
Eucharistic Min. Rita Martin  
Cristina Pedroso

### Sun 6.00PM, 09-05-21

Lit. Coordinator Xuan Duong  
Commentator Larnie Mendoza  
Reader Lani Laririt  
Kelechi Kelechi  
Eucharistic Min. Xuan Duong  
Larnie Mendoza  
Lani Laririt

## CHOIR GROUPS

### Saturday 8 May 2021

\* 6pm – Samoan Choir

### Sunday 9 May 2021

\* 9am - Charlie Schembri

\* 10.30am - Osana Choir

\* 6.00pm - Youth For Christ Choir

## CLEANING ROSTER

Week Beginning 5th May 2021,  
Group 11: Ed & Jo Cablaio & family,  
Jinky Monteros & family.

### LET US PRAY FOR

#### The Sick

Toni Antonowicz, Linda Ratbone,  
Anna, Maria Kim, Yulette Tanner,  
Jessie Spiteri, Stella Sandle, Frank,  
Doris Carabott.

#### Recently Deceased

Mary Bonnici, Rosa Di Sante, Martin Tolhurst, Maria Huong.

#### Anniversaries

Anthony Ranasinghe, Soma & Emile Ranasinghe, Olga & George Kroon, Maryse Ranasinghe (nee Kroon), Luchy Ellawala, Jan & Elizabet Danicek, Marija Lojdova, Jan Vala, Maria Vu Thi Yeu Thuong, Peter Disco, Frank Kreuger, Richard Curmi, Iro & Jessie Vella, Anthony Gatt, Nazareni Spiteri, Antonio Mifsud, Philip Gauci, George & Angela Bugeja, Wayne Camilleri, Bartolo family, Brincat & Galea family, Vincent Duong Kham Su, Mary Camilleri & Family, Joseph, Frank & John Xerri, Charlie Xerri, Lewis Spiteri, Raymond Abela and All Souls.

### SAFETY FOR ALL

Holy Eucharist Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*Holy Eucharist parish respectfully acknowledges the Wurundjer people as the traditional custodians of the land on which we reside and worship.*

### VOCATION VIEW

“Who shall come forward to explain the love God has for His people who should be one in faith? We need more faith-filled, prayerful and spirited people to make the Vine and the Branches One again. How about you?”

All information used in accordance with the terms of our privacy policy.