

Reflection

by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today we reflect on the way salvation brings an ecclesial community into being. This community is joined to Jesus as branches are part of the vine. It is a multi-faceted community, devoted to good works and to prayer.

The image of the vine and the branches is an intimate characterisation of the community of believers who share the same divine life. This community thrives on Christ's resurrected life that surges through all of its members. The early church was a multi-ethnic community. It included inhabitants from Jerusalem, Judea, Galilee, Samaria, and even Damascus. Some of these people were firmly rooted in Jewish customs, others were more Greek in their culture. It was the fulfilment of the promises made so often in the past, that the saving power of God would reach the whole world.

Our own ecclesial community of believers is also multi-ethnic. Where formerly parishes or liturgical assemblies might be made up of people of only one ethnic identity or economic status, today there is much greater diversity and rapid change of character. Like the early Christians, we too are often suspicious of newcomers. In the face of all of this variety, we are called to open our hearts to the various manifestations of God's power and to fashion a community that gives glory to God. Today's readings remind us that we demonstrate their love for God and for each other in the way we live. Joined to Christ as branches are part of the vine, we too are enlivened and thereby bear fruit in abundance.
from Liturgyhelp.com

He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make more fruit.'

Is that so true in our own life journey? Let us sit, be silent and contemplate this day. What have I done? What have I said? Am I the person that you wish me to be? Do I have regrets about things that I could have done better? Things that I shouldn't have said? Things that I ought to have said?

Empathy and sympathy? Or thoughts that were unjust, ignorant or cruel? Were there hasty decisions? Then again, what did I do well? What gave me that spring in my step, that fresh air in my lungs, that feeling of, 'I've done well'?

Maybe we should work on removing some of the old stubborn traits, imperfections, habits and fears from ourselves and foster, explore and cultivate those aspects which are rich in justice, kindness and love.

Lord, we thank you, for you continue to usher the way for us to be the finest person that we can be.
from Daily Prayer online

THE CHURCH CARE MINISTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP!



Our wonderful church cleaners are looking for extra help. Please call Marilyn or Patricia at the Office if you can assist!

LOOKING FOR CUPBOARDS

If you have a 6ft x 3ft cupboard (or 2), you no longer need, the Flower Committee are looking for storage cupboards for the new flower room. Many thanks. Please see Marilyn or Patricia or call the Office on 4787 8540.

Parish Working Bee Saturday 23 May from 8am

Jobs to be done:
fixing the driveway & weeding.

A big thank you to Family First Credit Union

for their donation of \$500 as part of their Community Support Programme 2009. The funds will go towards shelving for the Flower Room in the Church.

COMMON WORD CONFERENCE

and launch of

Companions in Dialogue

Date: Thursday, 28th May

Venue: Cathedral Hall,
St Patrick's Cathedral,
1 Marist Pl, Parramatta

Time: 6.30pm for 7pm start

Cost: Free - donations welcome.
Refreshments available.

RSVP:

companionsindialogue@gmail.com

Spirituality in the Pub "Blessed Unrest"

Wednesday ~ 13 May

7.30pm to 9.00pm at the Gardners Inn,
255 GW Hwy Blackheath.

Guest Speakers:

Catherine Hammond

Writer, Editor, Educator, Philosopher

Terry O'Connell

Order of Australia recipient,

Terry's projects have been the focus of
ABC documentaries on restorative justice.

Enquiries: Elizabeth ~ 4787 6198

Tour to Turkey October School Holidays

Fr Wim is still looking for 4 more people to make the Tour a definite and so the deposit date has been extended. If you were thinking about going, it's not too late. For those unable to access the website www.stpatscathedral.com.au where details may be found, Fr Wim is happy to send out a brochure. Ring him on 8839 8420. The basic price is \$5,490 which includes economy airfares to and within Turkey, 13 nights' hotel accommodation with all meals, a dedicated English speaking tour guide, transfers, tours to Patmos and Bosphorus cruise and transportation. There are some extra costs which are not included, and they can be found in the brochure.
Thank you.

Fr Wim Hoekstra, Dean
St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta.

MARIST FAMILY REFLECTION DAY

When: Saturday, 23 May, 10am-2.30pm

Where: The Colin Library, Marist Fathers,
1 Mary St, Hunters Hill

What do I bring? Your lunch.

Tea & coffee available.

A small donation to cover costs is welcome.

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