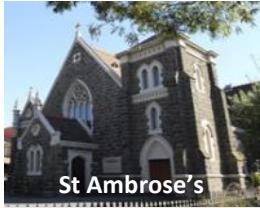


# BRUNSWICK MORELAND CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



St Ambrose's



OLHC



St Joseph's



St Fidelis

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B**

**SUNDAY 28TH APRIL 2024**

### MASS TIMES

#### OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS (OLHC)

Friday 10:00am

Saturday 5:00pm

Sunday 9:00am

#### Communion Service

Wednesday 10:00am

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation

First Saturday:

10:30am—11:00am

#### ST AMBROSE'S

Thursday 10:00am

Sunday 10:30am

#### Communion Service

Tuesday 10:00am

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Second Saturday:

10:30am—11:00am

#### ST JOSEPH'S

Wednesday 10:00am

Sunday 9:00am & 5:00pm

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Third Saturday:

10:30am—11:00am

#### ST FIDELIS

Tuesday 9:15am

Friday 9:15am

Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 11:00am

#### Italian Mass:

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 9:30am

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Fourth Saturday:

10:30am—11:00am

### BRUNSWICK MORELAND CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Office: 287 Sydney Road, Brunswick 3056

New email: [bmcc@cam.org.au](mailto:bmcc@cam.org.au)

New website: [bmcatholiccommunity.org.au](http://bmcatholiccommunity.org.au)



Until I spent time on a vineyard ten years ago, I always heard the parable of the vinedresser as a tough, 'shape up or ship out' message. I always imagined God as the vinedresser having a field day lopping and cutting my dead branches, trimming my unproductive stems and uprooting all the rot that undermines my fruitfulness. It always felt like a violent activity. It was a pleasant surprise then, to actually see a vinedresser in action. Far from an act of violence, the care paid by the dresser to each stem is extraordinary. He or she carefully inspects the branch, delicately cutting only the smallest amount so that the vine will be healthier and more productive. A good vinedresser pores over the vines and from experience knows that to cut too much or too little will render the vine without its distinctive character. Every cut is measured and aimed to prune back only the diseased branch, so as to bring about greater growth for the whole vine and a bigger yield for the vineyard. The vinedresser is not violent with the vine, but extremely tender. The first hearers of today's Gospel would have known that this metaphor is anything but a 'shape up or ship out' message. This parable is a profound insight into the Christian life. We can claim to belong to the Christian family all we like. We can come to Mass every Sunday. But if the fruit we produce is bitter and poisonous, if we are unforgiving, unjust and uncaring, we cannot claim to be on the vine of Christ's love. And if that's the case we are in desperate need of the gentle hand of the vinedresser, who only wants to see us bring forth the yield we are capable of achieving. Rev Billy Graham once said, 'Being a member of the Church no more makes you a Christian than living in a garage makes you a car.' That's the point of today's Gospel: God will not judge us by what we say or the public face of goodness we can turn on, we will be judged by our acts of love in and through our kindness and compassion. This metaphor also reminds us that we are connected to each other. There are moments in our life of faith when we hear or see other Christians saying or doing things we cannot countenance. We can try to disown them by retreating into our denomination, but we are all connected in Christ's vineyard. We need the courage to tell them the truth as we see it, and charitably point out the problems we have with what they think is right. And we need the humility to listen when they challenge us. It's even harder when the diseased part of the vine is in our own Catholic section of the vineyard. Our first instinct can be to lop off the branch, just to get rid of it. But as any vinedresser knows this is the last resort. Whether we find it easy or not, Christ calls us to limited surgical interventions over amputations every time. This is tough love. Even though there are people within our community who have committed terrible crimes and betrayed our trust, the Gospel calls us to hold on to them until it's clear that no matter what intervention we make, they are dying on Christ's vine already. And even then, we hope and pray that our action towards them might see a new growth within them which could be the beginning of a possible grafting back on to us in the future.

In the face of the world's 'shape up or ship out' principle, today's Gospel challenges us to hang in there with each other, in season and out of season, because as the old folk hymn sings, 'They'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.'

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## Fifth Sunday of Easter Year B

### 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.

### 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.

## 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.'

### Communion 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.

### SINCERE CONDOLENCES

*Our thoughts and prayers are with  
Fr. Linh Pham and his family during this  
difficult time as they mourn the passing of  
their loving father  
Joseph Luan Pham.*



*We also keep Fr. Greg Bourke and his  
family in our prayers during this difficult  
time as they mourn the passing  
of their loving Brother  
Vincent Bourke.*

**Rest in Peace**

### INFORMATION SESSION FOR THE PERMANENT DIACONATE



#### ARE YOU BEING CALLED TO SERVE?

The Permanent Diaconate is open to single and married men, aged between 30 and 60 years, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. COME & SEE! An Information Session about the Permanent Diaconate will be held on **4 May 2024 Saturday**, 10:00 -11.45 am at the Catholic Theological College (CTC), 278 Victorian Parade, East Melbourne. For more information: The Vocations website for the Archdiocese is available. The links below are a source of additional information.

**Watch:** Melbourne's Deacons <https://youtu.be/q2RhNDbtTS0>

**Watch:** Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for Deacons and video <https://youtu.be/NuG99HD1LaY>

**Visit:** Archdiocese of Melbourne permanent diaconate webpage <https://vocations.melbournecatholic.org/about/what-is-a-vocation/permanent-diaconate>

**Read More:** [Brochure] <https://www.cam1.org.au/permanent-diaconate>

**Contact:** Office of the Permanent Diaconate  
(Phone) 03 9412 3357 (Email) [diaconate@cam.org.au](mailto:diaconate@cam.org.au)

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT ST AMBROSE'S: LEARN ABOUT THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

Children and teens are invited every Sunday to the 10.30am mass at St Ambrose church for a short session during mass.

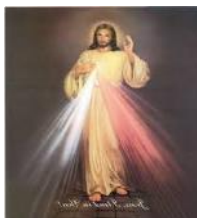
To talk about the meaning of the gospel reading and share how we can make it real in our daily lives.

Held during school terms. All welcome from all schools!

St Ambrose's is a child-safe place with trained

Children's Liturgy leaders.

For more information please contact the office 9380 1023 or contact: Elisa: [ronzonielisa@gmail.com](mailto:ronzonielisa@gmail.com)



### ST. JOSEPH'S DIVINE MERCY PRAYER

**Every Friday at 3pm.**

You are invited to join us for a Holy Hour.

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



An hour prayer before blessed  
Sacrament and Benediction at

St. Fidelis  
every Thursday 7:30—8:30PM



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**5.05% p.a.**  
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to open an account and for disclosure details, or scan the QR code.



**PARISH PRIESTS**

Fr Linh Pham  
Fr Tho Tran

**PARISH STAFF**

Enza Briganti  
*Parish Secretary*

Jenny Di Valentino  
*Finance Administrator*

Enza Cannizzo  
*Pastoral Care*

John Maulden  
*Facilities Manager*

**OFFICE**

287 Sydney Road, Brunswick 3056

**OFFICE HOURS**

Tue-Fri 9:30am-2:30pm  
Ph: 9380 1023  
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Ph: 9380 4789

**Email:** [bmcc@cam.org.au](mailto:bmcc@cam.org.au)

**AFTER HOURS OR EMERGENCY  
please call Mob: 0452 180 037**

**St Joseph's, West Brunswick**  
183 Hope Street,  
West Brunswick 3055

**St Fidelis, Moreland**  
49 Clarendon Street,  
Coburg 3058

**St Ambrose's Brunswick**  
287 Sydney Road,  
Brunswick 3056

**Our Lady's East Brunswick**  
49 Nicholson Street,  
East Brunswick 3055

**JOIN US FOR A CUPPA AT ST. AMBROSE'S PARISH**



Next weekend is the first Sunday of the month Cuppa!. All welcome to join in after the 10.30am mass.

**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION**



The Brunswick and Moreland Catholic Community, congratulates all the Children receiving the sacrament of Confirmation at **St. Joseph's Parish**, administered by Bishop Terry Curtin on Friday 26th April at 7pm.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**



The Brunswick and Moreland Catholic Community welcome with joy through the sacrament of Baptism this weekend at **Our Lady Help of Christians;**  
**Aubrey Hince, Jack James Hussey,  
Maxwell Sanguinetti**

**PRAYERS OF INTENTION**

	ST AMBROSE'S	OLHC	ST FIDELIS	ST JOSEPH'S
<b>SICK</b>	Damien Stutz			Helen Bourke
<b>RECENTLY DEC'D</b>				Carmela Rischitelli Ermana Mancini
<b>ANNIVERSARIES</b>	Leonardo Giramida Co-Co Rosozzio	Raffaella (Mirella) Tonel	Bishop Joe O'Connell Ida Maria Mercuri	

**Please Note:** We invite all Parishioners to access the newsletter via our website <https://bmccatholiccommunity.org.au/parish-newsletter>

Anniversary requests or Newsletter items is required by 12pm Wednesday's.

*We hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and all vulnerable people, as a central and fundamental responsibility, of our parishes. The Parish Statement of Commitment and the Reporting Process, are on display in all churches, and all Parish Policies are available, on the website: [bmccatholiccommunity.org.au](http://bmccatholiccommunity.org.au)*