

# **St. Mary of the Angels, Geelong**

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2025**



## **Daily Reflections**

**<http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/daily.html>**

**MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025**

***5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter***

***Acts 14:5-18, Psalm 113B: 1-4, 15-16, R v 1: John 14: 21-26***

***Reflections: Come Holy Spirit***

In today's Gospel another Judas (not Iscariot we are told), asks Jesus how he will reveal himself to them when he goes to the Father. Jesus replies that it is in loving him through keeping Jesus' word that Jesus and the Father will be present to them. For the second time he mentions an 'Advocate' whom the Father will send. This one will teach them and remind them of everything Jesus had told them. It is this experience of the gift of the Holy Spirit that lies behind the thought and spirituality of this Gospel. We see the Spirit at work in other ways in Acts. Paul is able to help a crippled man, as Jesus used to do. Greek



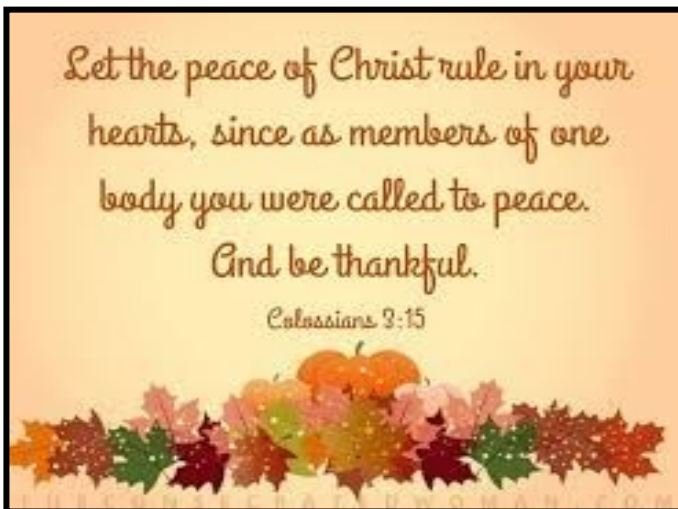
**TUESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025**

**5<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter**

***Acts 14: 19-28, Psalm 144: 10-13, 21. R. cf v.12-7, R. John 14: 27-31.***

***Reflection. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.***

Today as we celebrate St Bernardine of Siena, the fifteenth century Franciscan preacher, it is apt that we hear from the Acts of the Apostles of Paul's preaching experiences. Like Bernardine, Paul was a persuasive preacher but they both stirred up strong opposition. Paul was subjected to stoning, but wonderfully, survived. Paul not only brought people to faith in the risen Lord, but he set up basics of Christian communities, so that they could continue once he moved on. As we hear in the Gospel, Jesus also prepares his disciples to flourish when he is no longer with them physically. He gives them the peace he himself enjoys in his closeness with the Father. Even though, he warns them, the 'ruler of this world' is on the march, Jesus' peace will abide with those who love him by being of one will with him and the Father.



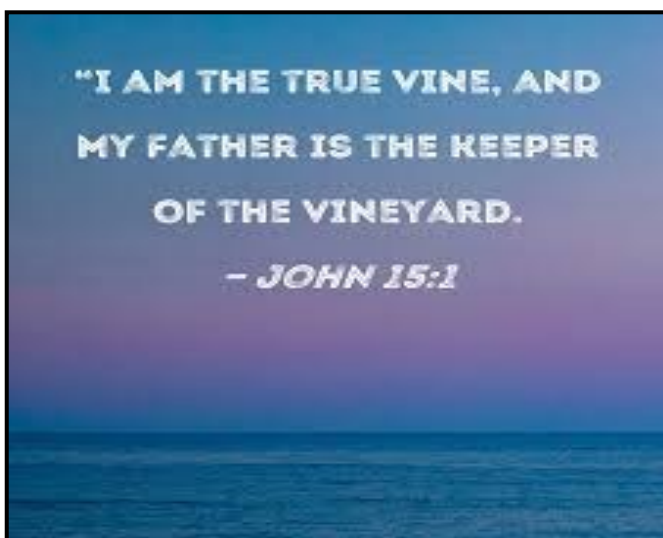
**WEDNESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2025**

*5<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter*

*Acts 15: 1-6, Psalm 121: 1-5 R. v. 1, John 15 : 1-8*

**Reflection** *Let us go rejoicing in the house of the Lord.*

Today we remember another priest and his companions, who were martyred for their faith. St Christopher Magallanes was a hardworking, generous priest in Mexico in the early 1900s who was killed in the course of a struggle over church and state rights. We see struggle of another kind in the Acts of the Apostles, where the large number of Gentiles coming into the new Christian community is resulting in intense religious and cultural conflict. Over the next two days we will continue to see how this first, major issue in the Church was dealt with, through talking openly and honestly about the situation. In the Gospel Jesus offers a rich image of unity: the vine that is present in its branches, bearing fruit. He emphasises that God, the vinedresser, wants his vine to produce abundant fruit. We, abiding in Jesus the vine and under the care of the vinedresser, can bear much fruit.



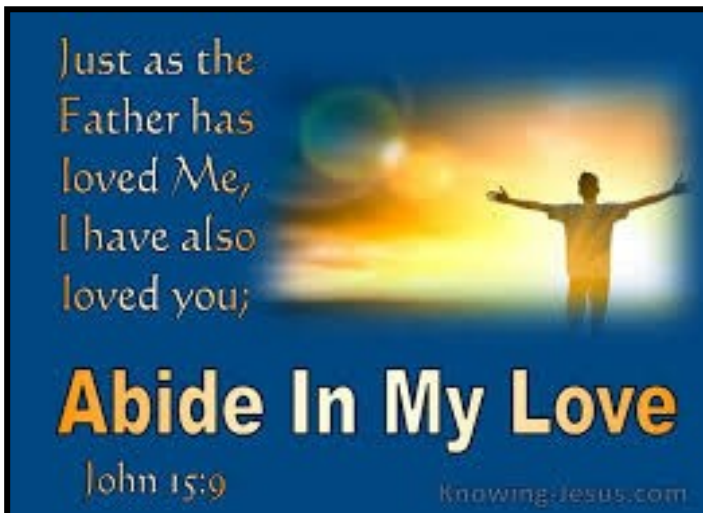
**THURSDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2025**

*5<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter*

*Acts 15; 7-21, Psalm 95: 1-3, 10. R. cf. v.3, John 15: 9-11.*

***Reflection Proclaim his marvellous deeds to all the nations.***

St Rita of Cascia was an Italian woman who lived a full life as a married woman with two sons. After her husband's death she joined an Augustinian convent where she was known for her devotion to prayer and her success in resolving family conflict. In the Acts of the Apostles, we hear the account of a momentous meeting in the early Church when the apostles considered the issue of Gentiles coming into the Church, without having to be circumcised as the Jewish believers were. Twice, we hear that 'there was much debate'. After Peter, Paul and Barnabas spoke, James, the Jerusalem community leader, announced a decision. Gentiles who were turning to God should not have obstacles put in their way. They should only be required to keep the commandments and not to offend Jewish sensitivity over blood. This first 'Council' models the kind of decision – making Pope Francis encourages today.



**FRIDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2025**

**5<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter**

***Acts 15: 22-31, Psalm Ps 56: 8-12. R. v. 10, John 15: 12-17.***

***Reflection. Jesus said , I command you to love one another.***

Our readings today talk about Christian love in its essence and in practice. In the Gospel reading, Jesus mentions three times, the connection between loving him and doing what he commands. To speak of love Jesus uses a word, *agapé* in Greek, which carries a strong sense of commitment to cherish someone. It is not so much the emotion of affection but a choice to value a person. Yet Jesus then calls his disciples 'friends', inviting them – and us – into the intimacy of his feelings. He is not just loyal to them; he personally loves them to the point where he has taken them into the inner circle of his relationship with the Father. In Acts we see what it takes to commit to *agapé* love in Church community, honest discussion and negotiations, respect for cultural and religious differences. Above all, God's will to save all people matters.



**SATURDAY 24<sup>th</sup> MAY 2025**

**5<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter**

***Our Lady Help of Christians***

***Genesis 3: 1-15, 20, Psalm 102, 1-4, 8-9, 11-12. R. v. 10,  
Ephesians 3: 14-19, Luke 8: 19-21.***

***Reflection May God give you strength through the Holy Spirit to do  
what is right***

Our Lady Help of Christians was made the patroness of Australia in 1844, at the first Provincial Synod that was held in Sydney, where the Cathedral is named in Mary's honour. The devotion to Mary under this title goes back to early days in Christian history, she has been appealed to successfully when Christians needed help against enemies and danger. Today we hear from the book of Genesis telling the famous story of the deception of the first couple, Adam and Eve, by the serpent tempter. The point of the story is the tragic choice of human beings to reject all the good God had given them in Eden, for a lying promise. In the story, the woman is called 'Eve, mother of all the living'. Christians call Mary. 'the new Eve' because she is the mother of Jesus and through Him of all of us to whom Jesus offers new life.



Almighty God, deepen in our hearts  
our love of Mary Help of Christians.  
Through her prayers and under her  
protection,  
may the light of Christ shine over  
our land.

May Australia be granted harmony,  
justice and peace.

Grant wisdom to our leaders and  
integrity to our citizens.

Bless especially the men and  
women of the Australian Defence  
Force and their families.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord.  
Amen



# 6th Sunday of Easter

