

St. Mary of the Angels Geelong

Monday 4th May 2026

Saturday 9th May 2026



Daily Reflections

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

MONDAY 4TH MAY 2026

5th Week of Easter

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

Reflections: Come Holy Spirit

Today's first reading describes a rather remarkable event that happened in Lycaonia. The pagans hear Paul speak and they are deeply moved. They conclude that Barnabas and Paul are gods. They call Barnabas Zeus and Paul Hermes. Paul and Barnabas are horrified and insist that they are only human beings. But perhaps we can understand the people's mistake, especially in the case of Paul. In Greek mythology, Hermes is the messenger of the gods, and Paul is certainly a messenger of God to the people. The 'hermeneutics', which refers to the interpretation of sacred texts, derives from the word Hermes. And Paul was a great interpreter of sacred texts. But perhaps, more than anything, the people saw the indwelling God in Paul and Barnabas. As Jesus says in today's Gospel, the Father and I will make our home in all who love God and keep God's word. Let us pray that the people who see our good works will recognise in us also the presence of the indwelling God.



TUESDAY 5TH MAY 2026

5th 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.

On their missionary journey Paul and Barnabas revisit some of the communities and put fresh heart in the disciples, telling them that 'we all have to experience many hardships before we enter the kingdom of God.' How could these words encourage the disciples and put fresh heart in them? Surely they would be disappointed to know they will face many hardships. What Paul and Barnabas are doing is assuring them that the hardships they are experiencing are normal. Some of the people may have thought that once they were baptised everything would be wonderful. Discovering that they still faced difficulties led them to wonder whether their baptism had worked or whether they were doing something wrong. May Paul's words give us heart also. Let us never forget that for the disciple, as for the Master, there is no other way to glory than the way of the cross.

*Let the peace of Christ rule in your
hearts, since as members of one
body you were called to peace.
And be thankful.*

Colossians 3:15



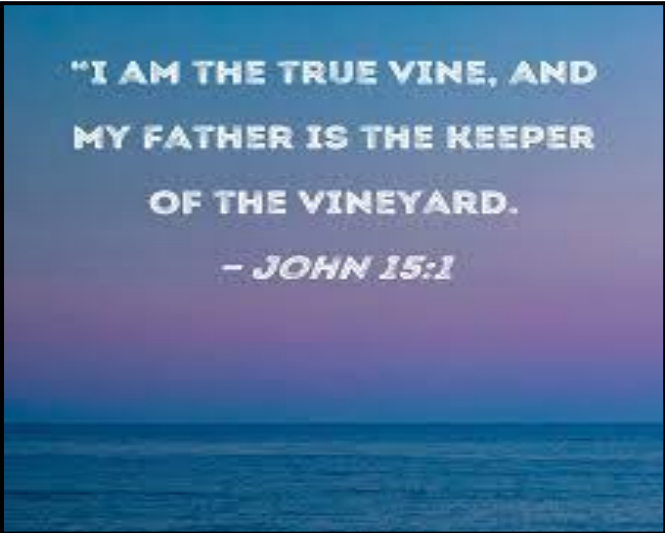
WEDNESDAY 6TH MAY 2026

5th 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.

The image of the vine and the branches provide a rich metaphor for our relationship with Jesus. Just as the branches bear fruit only if they are joined to the vine, so we will bear the fruits of love, joy, goodness, peace, compassion and patience only if we are united with Jesus. As the branches can bear much fruit only if they are pruned, so too we must be pruned periodically of all that is not of God. Pruning is often painful but necessary for our continued growth in Christ. Ultimately it is our union with Jesus, and our commitment to hearing his voice and following his will, that make us true disciples. As the early Christians came to realise, external rituals such as circumcision have little meaning if they are not accompanied by a commitment to cling to Jesus and bear fruit in him.



**"I AM THE TRUE VINE, AND
MY FATHER IS THE KEEPER
OF THE VINEYARD.**

- JOHN 15:1

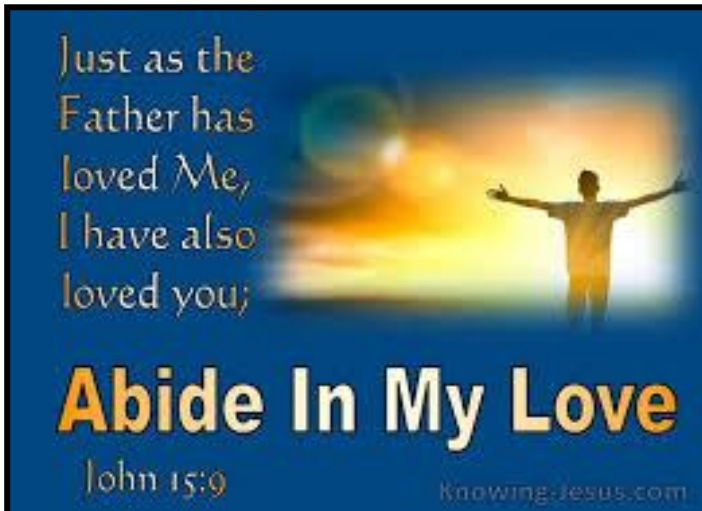
THURSDAY 7th MAY 2026

5th 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.

Today we begin to listen to Jesus' great discourse on love. We can view this discourse as a meditation about love. We can reflect that love is a divine quality caught up in the relationship of the Father and the Son. The word 'remain' reminds us that love is something that endures, not a fly-by-night emotion. Love needs to be expressed in action, in keeping God's commandments. Tomorrow's Gospel will remind us that true love always involves sacrifice, laying down our life for others. These are all very good and helpful reflections about love. But to see this discourse as only a reflection about love is to miss its central point. What Jesus is saying is 'I love you', and that is very personal. To allow Jesus to love us is to allow him into the depths of our being, and that can be very frightening but also transforming. Quietly, this day, hear Jesus say, 'I love you.' Open your heart to receive his love.



FRIDAY 8th MAY 2026

5th 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.

Jesus continues his discourse on love by giving us his great commandment- to love one another as he had loved us. He will repeat this command to love one another two more times in this Gospel passage. The word 'command' is very significant. Jesus' teaching on love should never be seen as a recommendation, or a hope, or an exhortation. It is a command; indeed, the only command Jesus gives us in John's Gospel. Let us remember that love is often expressed in small and simple acts. Today, we are each invited to reflect on how we are fulfilling Jesus' command to love one another in our present situation. Have we made someone's life better by a simple act of kindness? Did we ignore someone in our insensitivity and in doing so make their life a little sadder? How aware are we of our loving, or un-loving, responses and actions?



SATURDAY 9th MAY 2026

5th Week of Easter

Acts 16: 1-10, Psalm 99: 1-3, 5.R.v.1, John 15:18-21

Reflection: Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

Today's first reading brings into focus the leadership of the Holy Spirit in the community's missionary endeavours. Paul and his companions planned to cross over into Bithynia, but the Spirit said 'no', so they had to return by a different route. The Holy Spirit can direct us also along unexpected paths. Sometimes we think a particular way is the best way to go but the Holy Spirit say, 'no, don't go that way'. These 'no's' can be very surprising as it seems the way we planned to go was the best way. Like Paul and his companions, we too must bow to the wisdom of the Spirit and humbly admit that, for whatever reason, this was not the right way for us to move forward at this time. The Spirit's direction is often mediated through the cries of people, often heard directly but sometimes also in dreams. May we have the grace to hear what the Spirit is saying to us and the wisdom to follow the Spirit's promptings.



6th Sunday of Easter

