

5th Sunday of Easter

Our unity with God and with each other enables us to produce the fruit of love.

Pruning is an essential gardening skill. Good gardeners know the vital importance of removing dead, diseased, or damaged stems as soon as they appear on a plant or tree. Dead stems invite diseases to develop, and endanger the life of the plant. It takes a lot of loving attention, knowledge and hard work to produce and maintain a vibrant, fruitful, colourful garden.

In today's Gospel Jesus uses an image from the garden to describe his relationship with the people of God. He speaks about the vine and the branches. If Jesus is the vine, then God is the vinedresser, and we are the branches. Only when the vinedresser, the vine and the branches are in a harmonious relationship is fruit produced.

And what is the "fruit" that Jesus speaks of? It is the love that members of the Christian community must have for one another. The fruitless branches are those within the Christian community who fail to love, while the fruitful branches are those who imitate Jesus' love.

Love is what binds us. When we fail to love, then, like rotting branches, we wither, we decay, we die. All we are good for is the pruning shears.

The image of the vine and the branches points us to several sets of relationships.

First of all, our relationship with God. This is our primary relationship. If we don't have a relationship with God, then we cut ourselves off from the vine and from the Christian community. Listening to God's word and keeping it is how we develop a relationship with God. It means praying every day and being aware of God's presence with us at all times.

Second, our relationship with our family. According to the Second Vatican Council: "The family, is so to speak, the domestic church." The Christian family is a microcosm of the church because it is in the context of the family that we first learn who God is and seek to know God. Even from the time of the early Christians, the family home was viewed as the place where children learned to be good followers of Christ. All families experience setbacks and problems, upsets and disagreements. In order to produce good fruit and remain connected to the vine, members of the family must have a willingness to forgive, to talk, to listen, to spend

time together, to pray, to encourage, to appreciate each other.

Third, our relationship with our parish community. Through baptism we are intimately connected to Christ and to each other, and we depend on each other to thrive and grow. This means that we support each other in living the Christian life, that we try to be active in our parish, and that we are conscious especially of those in our community who are struggling or in need of help. A fruitful parish community is one that has the strength of Christ at its centre.

Fourth, our relationship with the universal church. In the Gospel Jesus presents a model in which all his followers are equal, are connected in relationship to him, and glorify God by bearing the fruit of his love to the world. The model Jesus offers is one based on a radical equality. Irrespective of their place or status in the church, all members of the church are co-responsible for one another and to one another.

May Eve -Land blessing tradition go out May Eve and gather armfuls of yellow flowers known as May Flowers. These are strewn at the gate of every field, outside the doors of homes and out-houses and even on the housetops. It is considered that these would keep away ill-luck, evilspirits and disease. Did you take the time to shake holy water in each corner of your fields on Friday night? The old custom of using holy water to ward off bad luck and protect against piseogs on May Eve may have died out in some areas but the tradition is alive and well in others. It was believed that shaking Easter water or blessed water from 'Cumann na dTrí nUisce'-- any place where three waters, three parishes, three townlands or even three drains meet - was particularly powerful, but any water that had been blessed was enough to ward off bad luck. The aim is to protect your boundaries from bad luck in the form of piseogs. East Clare resident, well-known storyteller Eddie Lenihan says piseogs can be described as simply old superstitions but they have a more sinister side that he says is the working of badness on your neighbours or the taking away of his luck to add to your own luck," he says. Piseogs were often associated with certain families and certain parishes.

May the Month of Mary the mother of God It's common for parishes to have the daily recitation of the Rosary during May, and many have a special May altar with a statue or picture of



Remembered In Mass

Donoughmore



Sat 1st	7 pm	Patsy O'Connell
Mon 3rd	10 am	Public Holiday
Tue 4th	10 am	
Fri 7th	10 am	
Sat 8th	7 pm	
Knockea		
Sun 2nd	11 am	Michael & Jim Madden
Wed 5th	11 am	
Sun 9th	11 am	Gerard Burke. Tommy & May Hartigan
Roxboro		

Mary as a reminder of Mary's month. The atmosphere is beautifully captured in Canon Sydney MacEwan's singing of 'Bring Flowers of the Rarest'. *O Mary we crown thee with blossoms today! Queen of the Angels and Queen of the May. O Mary we crown thee with blossoms today, Queen of the Angels and Queen of the May*
Churches reopening May 10th for public Mass capped at 50 . We look forward to welcoming you back to our safe environment with our stewards taking care of you. As we continue to work within the guidelines to ensure safety at all times.

Sacramental Celebrations 2021 Confirmation / First Holy Communion liturgies will take place in the diocese of Limerick after the 1st of July this year. Bishop Brendan requests that ceremonies be scheduled after the end of the school term, so as to reduce the risk of spreading the virus afterward. Thank you for your patience and coopera-

Parish of Donoughmore/ Knockea/Roxboro



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Sacristan

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The Eircode for St. Patrick's Church, Donoughmore is **V94 V6T3**.
Knockea is **V94 D938**.

tion as we all navigate our way through this.



www.dkrparish.ie the weekly newsletter / mass leaflet you can find in the "Parish Info" section on our web-

site You can also access our FB page through the website.. **Easter Dues:** People have been very generous in returning their Easter Dues for the support of the clergy. We appreciate your generosity very much.

South Liberties Underage Academy started back on Friday 30th April.

May Bank holiday South Liberties fundraiser promoting Mental health awareness, helping your Club to invest in your future, 5km/walk/Run/Cycle/Crawl, Donate €20 Adult, €10 Juvenile through the link bit.ly/SouthLibs fundraiser towards our Club and donation will be made to JIGSAW Limerick

Mass Cards / Get well cards / Certs available parish office Sat. 11am - 12.15pm

