



## The Pruning Process

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**T**he common myth is that we receive a new body every seven years as cells die and are replaced. However, stomach cells are renewed every two days or so because of acids and enzymes. Skin cells are replaced every two to three weeks. Bone cells last about ten years, and our brain cells stay with us for our entire lives. In a sense, then, we might say that our bodies are pruned, part of us remaining long-term to nurture and sustain like the trunk of a tree, and part of us severed so that life may be renewed and continue on.

If so with our bodies, are not our spirits also pruned? There is a core part of who we are that wends its way throughout our lives. Yet that “who” has rough edges in need of being smoothed; barbs need to be dulled; and certain inclinations simply need to be severed. Spouses tend to prune one another, the grace of a loving marriage. Children sometimes keep parents honest. Life events may grind down our independence and self-sufficiency. Illnesses, aging, job loss, the death of loved ones—all forcing us to recognize that we are not in control of life. We are thus pruned, forced to surrender much of what we once thought we could control.

Where is God in all of this? If God is woven into the warp and woof of all life, then all the events and rhythms of life can draw us closer to God, pruning us into goodness and fruitfulness. ●

### Reflect

***How have you been pruned and has this pruning led to new growth, new life?***



[Jesus said,] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit.

JOHN 15:1–2



## St. Joseph's Church

was consecrated on the 29<sup>th</sup> January, 1928.  
It is the oldest standing Roman Catholic Church on the island.

Address: 45 Somerset Road, Sandys MA 03, Bermuda  
or  
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Telephone: (441) 234-2321  
Email: [stjosephbermuda@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephbermuda@gmail.com)

Pastor:



### Tentative Mass Schedule

Saturday afternoon at 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m.

### SACRAMENT RECONCILIATION

St. Anthony's – Saturday at 5:00 p.m., or by appointment  
St. Joseph's – Sunday morning 8:30 a.m. “ “  
St. Anthony's Mass times: Saturday evening at 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday morning at 11:30 a.m.  
BAPTISMS by appointment – one month in advance  
WEDDINGS by appointment – one year in advance (approx.)  
FILIPINO MASS – Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> May - 11:00 a.m.  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> May 9.45 a.m.  
Children's Mass – 28<sup>th</sup> April  
Pastoral & Finance Council Meeting – TBA  
Monthly Coffee Social – 28<sup>th</sup> April – Grace's Team

### DIOCESE HAMILTON IN BERMUDA

Most Rev. Bishop, Wieslaw (Wes) Śpiwak  
[www.romancaholicbermuda.bm](http://www.romancaholicbermuda.bm)

### Parish Team Leaders

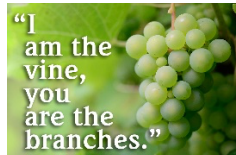
**Mrs. Elizabeth Card** – Pastoral  
Council Chairperson  
**Mrs. Annette Barclay**  
St. Vincent de Paul  
Society Representative  
**Walette Cross**  
Stewardship Representative  
**Mrs. Sue Moench**  
Religious Education  
Coordinator  
**Mrs. Mary Harvey** - Parish  
Administrator & Finance  
Committee Team Leader  
**Mr. Tony Bari**  
Music Ministry



### Today's Hymns

Entrance: Christians Let Us Love One Another #717  
Offertory: I Love You Lord (Children)  
Communion: Into My Heart (Children)  
Recessional: Glory & Praise to Our God #574

Leader of Song: Aidan Stones



We extend a warm welcome to our visitors,  
and hope that your stay will be a pleasant one.



Sunday – 5<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Proclaimer of God's Word  
Opening/Closing of the Church  
Eucharistic Minister  
Collection Counters  
Altar Servers  
Music

Stefano Ausenda  
Kathie Ausenda  
Jane Bermingham  
Joanne Smith  
Alessia Vianello  
Tony Bari

**Prayers:** Please keep our sick and shut-ins in your prayers, especially Mary Maybury, Ilene Bremar, Eleanor Correia, Bernie & Eileen Davies, Jenny Woods; Jose Garcia, Elena Domondon and Evelyn Pinlac, and for Petra Caesar who is still in the hospital.

### MASS INTENTIONS

For the People of St. Joseph's

### ATTENDANCE & COLLECTION

	Attendance	Collection
Filipino Mass		
16 <sup>th</sup> March	52	\$106.00
20 <sup>th</sup> April	48	\$168.00
20 <sup>th</sup> April	7	85.00
21 <sup>st</sup> April	37	<u>310.00</u>
		<u>\$669.00</u>

Thank you for your kindness and generosity, it is appreciated. Banking information: St. Joseph's Parish – Account Number: 20006060757062100 – Bank NT Butterfield

During this morning's Mass, **Giovani Vianello and Matteo Bortoli**, our First Holy Communion candidates, will observe their **Belonging Celebration**. Please keep Giovani and Matteo in your prayers, as they continue their 'faith journey.'

Children in the Religious Education class will also be participating in today's Mass.



After the Mass this morning, please join us in the Parish Centre for our monthly coffee social. It will be hosted by Grace and her team.

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances: for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-18.

If you are unable to attend Mass on a weekend, please take a little time out to pray during the time of the Mass.

### BISHOP'S CORNER

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

A rapid worldwide demographic shift is expected to take place, and it might affect the care economy moving forward, according to a recent study published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

A team of researchers analyzed historical and projected data from the *United Nations' World Population Prospects* from 2022. Using mathematical models to represent the relationship between a person, their ancestors, and their descendants in a given period, the researchers developed more than 1,000 possible kinship configurations per country.

Three changes have been observed:

1. Families will get smaller. People of all ages will have fewer relatives.
2. Family structure configurations will change. The families will have more aging relatives, like grandparents and great-grandparents, and fewer relatives of the same generation, such as siblings and cousins.
3. The age gap between family members will expand. The difference in age between grandparents and grandchildren and parents and children will change, for instance. According to the study, family sizes are expected to shrink by 35% in the "near future," which could upend the family structure and care economy for aging individuals and children alike.

"This study does not suggest any reason to panic, in fact, it shows that children will see increases in the number of grandparents available to them and will increasingly be able to get to know their great-grandparents as well," say the authors. However, care for the aging population and future children who may not be able to receive care from elderly grandparents will be essential. Experts stress the need for structural changes, but those primarily fall on legislatures.

Have a nice and family-enjoyed weekend and a blessed week!

Bishop Wes

### Coming Events:

Sunday, 5th May: Senhor Santo Cristo Feast at St. Theresa's - 1:30 p.m.  
Monday, 13th May: Our Lady of Fatima Feast at St. Patrick's - 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday, 19th - May: Confirmation Mass at St. Theresa's - 2:00 p.m.

### Saint Vincent de Paul Society – Head & Toe Drive

Be the sunshine in someone's life by donating new or clean men and/or women's sun hats/caps and socks to the St. Vincent de Paul Head & Toe Drive. Your generosity will make a significant difference in the lives of those who receive these much-needed items!

At the back of the church will be a box/container for you to deposit your generous donations. The cut-off date to donate these items will be 12<sup>th</sup> May. The items will be given to the clients that attend the Loaves & Fishes on 19<sup>th</sup> May, just in time for the 24<sup>th</sup> May holiday!

"Your kindness can make a world of difference."

**ST. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP:** The gift shop has beautiful cards available, especially for the special occasions that will coming up in May and June – First Holy Communion, Confirmation, and Mother's Day. We also have a wide selection of other greeting cards - all at a great price!

Please support our little Gift Shop!

**SECOND-HAND CAR NEEDED:** If you know of someone looking to sell their car (TCD Classes A,B,C or D) please contact the Chancery Office at 232-4414 or email [orcc@northrock.bm](mailto:orcc@northrock.bm).



### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter - Steward Goodness

"Children, let us love not in word or speech but in, deed, and truth." - 1 JOHN 3:18

Regarding our Catholic faith, do you "walk the talk?" Do your actions reflect what it means to be a good **Steward**? Are you an active participant at Sunday Mass? Are you joyful when participating in parish ministry? Do you give gratefully and generously with your financial support, to your parish, and other Church needs? If not, it's not too late to start!

# Dear Padre,

**Several months ago my son died in a tragic car accident. Life, work, family, and even religion seem so meaningless now. How can I find my way back?**

You have suffered a great loss. When you are able, you can choose to live in a way that will respect both your son's memory and your own ongoing life. Here are a few gentle steps that might help.

- Expect to feel numb at first. This is nature's way of helping you deal with your loss. Keep following the normal patterns of your life and, eventually, meaning will return.
- Allow your friends to help. "Sorrows shared are sorrows lessened."
- If you are sad, let the tears come! Even Jesus cried at the death of his friend Lazarus (John 11:32–35).
- If you are angry, look for a healthy release. Focus the energy of your anger into productive work, even if it's just doing dishes or yard work.
- Use your experience to help others. While helping others, the Lord often reveals to us the meaning of our own losses.
- Don't be afraid to seek professional help. A therapist has the expertise to help you talk about your loss and cope with your grief.
- Pray for yourself, for your son, for all whose lives he touched, for all those who are grieving.
- After you have done everything you can, leave your loss in God's hands. The Lord will do for you what you cannot do for yourself. ●



ELINA SAZONOVA / PEXELS

**The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org**

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>
April 29 <i>St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church</i> Acts 14:5–18 Jn 14:21–26	April 30 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 14:19–28 Jn 14:27–31a	May 1 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 15:1–6 Jn 15:1–8	May 2 <i>St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church</i> Acts 15:7–21 Jn 15:9–11	May 3 <i>Sts. Philip and James, Apostles</i> 1 Cor 15:1–8 Jn 14:6–14	May 4 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 16:1–10 Jn 15:18–21	May 5 <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i> Acts 10:25–26, 34–35, 44–48 1 Jn 4:7–10 Jn 15:9–17



RICCARDO DE LUCA / SHUTTERSTOCK

## **A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS**

***Jesus needs us, like the vine with the branches. Perhaps to say this may seem bold to us, and so let us ask ourselves: in what sense does Jesus need us? He needs our witness. The fruit that as branches we must bear, is the witness of our lives as Christians.***

**REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 2, 2021**