



The Pruning Process

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

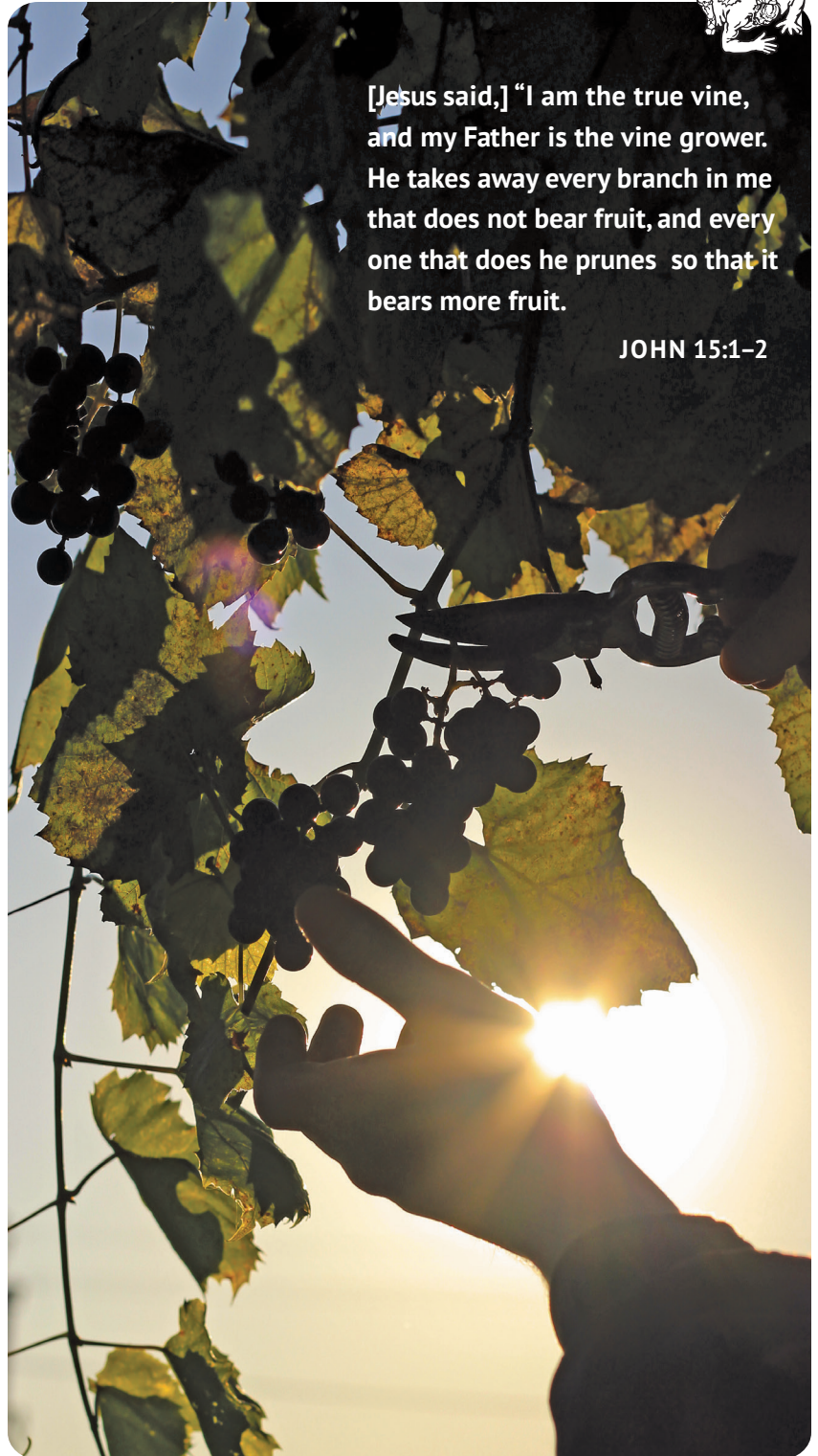
The common myth is that we receive a new body every seven years as cells die and are replaced. However, stomach cells are renewed every two days or so because of acids and enzymes. Skin cells are replaced every two to three weeks. Bone cells last about ten years, and our brain cells stay with us for 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. MICHAEL'S PARISH

53 South Road, Paget PG 03 | P.O. Box HM 727, Hamilton HM CX

Pastor: Reverend Joseph F. H. Morley • Cell: 705 0236

Email: stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com

Weekend Masses: Vigil: 5:00pm, Sunday: 10:15am

Baptisms: by appointment 3 weeks in advance

Weddings: by appointment 6 months in advance

www.facebook.com/stmichaelpaget & “LIKE” us | Diocesan Webpage: www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

Parish Administrator:

Karen Marsh
email: karenmarsh.bda@gmail.com
(c) 799 0842

Pastoral Council Finance Chair:

Robert Mason
email: rjm@logic.bm
(h) 292 3178

Pastoral Council CCD Coordinator:

Patricia Carreiro
email: pcarreiro1976@gmail.com
(c) 737 1047



Mass Schedule & Intentions

We welcome our parishioners and visitors who have come to St. Michael's to worship this weekend. May you be blessed by your presence here today.

MINISTRIES...

April 27/28th - THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

5:00PM Lector: Alberta Canonneir EM: Sara Peniston
10:15AM Lector: Willie Forbes EM: LaVerne Lau
Collection: Pat Robinson, LaVerne Lau

MAY 4/5th - THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

5:00PM Lector: Kathy Anderson EM: Alberta Canonneir
10:15AM Lector: Pat Robinson EM: Willie Forbes
Collection: The DeFrias

MASS INTENTIONS...

April 27/28th - THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

5:00PM Adelina & Jose DeFrias ++
Mary & Benjamin Botelho ++
10:015AM The Intentions of St. Michael's Parishioner

MAY 4/5th - THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

5:00PM Theresa Ramdass +
10:15AM The Intentions of St. Michael's Parishioner



You are welcome to attend Morning Masses at
St. Theresa's - 7:30AM Mon.-Fri.

St. Anthony's - 8:00AM Tues.-Fri. | St. Patrick's - 8:00AM Mon.-Fri.

ST. THERESA'S 7:30am Masses are live streamed via the Diocesan Website and their Facebook Page



April 20/21ST Collection: \$595.00

MAINTENANCE Collection: \$244.00

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE
to St. Michael's Church's

BNTB Account # 2000 6060 081824 100.

YOUR Weekly, monthly or quarterly transaction is appreciated.

When making your online transaction, be sure to include your name and "collection" as your memo on your banking transaction.

Thank you to those parishioners who continue to answer our call for stewardship to St. Michael's.



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.

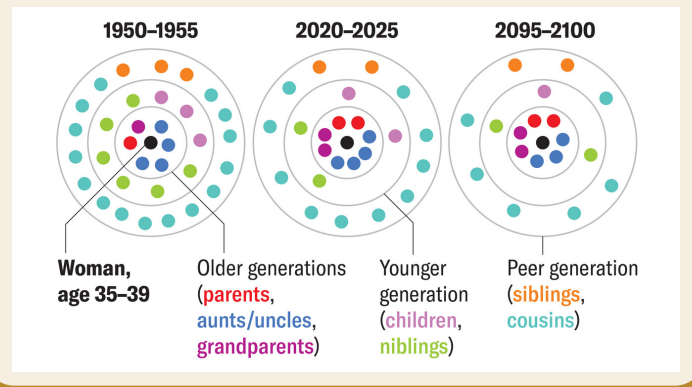
Three changes have been observed:

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!

Wes Jurevalle
Bishop Wes





COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God, constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us, that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism may, under your protective care, bear much fruit and come to the joys of life eternal.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING – Acts 9:26–31

When Saul arrived in Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. Then Barnabas took charge of him and brought him to the apostles, and he reported to them how he had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus. He moved about freely with them in Jerusalem, and spoke out boldly in the name of the Lord. He also spoke and debated with the Hellenists, but they tried to kill him. And when the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him on his way to Tarsus.

The church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria was at peace. It was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord, and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit it grew in numbers.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM – Psalm 22:26–28, 30–32

R. I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

I will fulfill my vows before those who fear the Lord. The lowly shall eat their fill; they who seek the Lord shall praise him: “May your hearts live forever!” **(R)**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; all the families of the nations shall bow down before him. **(R)**

To him alone shall bow down all who sleep in the earth; before him shall bend all who go down into the dust. **(R)**

And to him my soul shall live; my descendants shall serve him. Let the coming generation be told of the Lord that they may proclaim to a people yet to be born the justice he has shown. **(R)**

SECOND READING – 1 John 3:18–24

Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.

Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts before him in whatever our hearts condemn, for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us,

we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us. Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit he gave us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

Remain in me as I remain in you, says the Lord.

Whoever remains in me will bear much fruit. Jn 15:4a, 5b

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL – John 15:1–8

Jesus said to his disciples: “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 everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

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

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. ●



Around the Diocese . . .

- **ST. THERESA'S 12:10 MASS** is celebrated each Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Come join us.
- **ST. PATRICK'S:** The Rosary takes place every Wednesday morning at 10am. Everyone is welcome.
- **ST JOSEPH'S FILIPINO MASS** is celebrated by Fr. Dandy on the third (3rd) Saturday of each month at 11:00am.
- **STELLA MARIS FILIPINO MASS** - Join Fr. Dandy Traje, CP and our Filipino community on the last Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm .
- **ST. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP:** Opening hours are Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10am to 2pm.
- **LECTIO DIVINA** takes place every Monday evening at 7pm via Zoom. Franz Wohlmuth is the contact person, gwohlmuth@logic.bm. You will receive a Zoom link contact number along with the following Sunday readings. Monday evening meetings are led by Bishop Wes.

St. Patrick's Church



\$5 per ticket
Includes One Bingo Card

Tickets will be available at the door! We are happy to welcome walk-ins on Sunday as well. See you there.

Sunday, April 28th,
from 3pm - 5pm
at St. Patrick's Church

Call St. Patrick's
T: 236-9866
E: stpats@logic.bm

EVENTS in our Catholic community...

- 5th of May, Sunday: 1:30pm - Senhor Santo Cristo Feast at St. Theresa's
- 13th of May, Monday: 7:00pm - Our Lady of Fatima Feast at St. Patrick's
- 19th of May, Sunday: 2:00pm - Confirmation Mass at St. Theresa's
- 12th of June, Wednesday: 57th Anniversary of the Establishment of our Diocese
- 13th of June, Thursday: St. Anthony's Parish Liturgical Feast



Our Parish News . . .

MASS schedule change for the western parishes...

SUNDAY MASS NOW AT 10.15am until further notice

- **EMMAUS BIBLE STUDY** each Tuesday, at 3pm. All are welcome.



Coffee Fellowship

Dear Parishioners,

We as the **St Michael's Parish Pastoral Council**, (PPC, the members names are listed below), invite you to a Coffee Social on **MAY 19, AFTER THE 10:15AM MASS** to be held in the church hall. The purpose of this get-together is for the congregation to get to know who serves on the PPC and likewise for parishioners to be able ask questions pertaining to the overall running of the church. We, the PPC feel that the most effective way for you to get feedback and direct answers to your questions is to have a social, an informal setting. If you wish to donate to the function, please bring a savory or sweet dish or even both!!!The PPC members will do the same. We will also provide tea and coffee.

Looking forward to meeting you on the above named date and time.

Lucy Attride-Stirling, Patricia Careirro, Willie Forbes, Karen Marsh, Rob Mason, Cherry Ramdass, Pat Robinson

OUR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION celebration is just a little over a month away, on June 2nd. Please continue to pray for our Communicants, listed below and their families. Please also pray for their teachers Mrs Violeta Lightbourne, Mrs. Annabelle Cooper and our CCD Administrator, Mrs. Pat Carreiro.

Isabelle Cole	Zealand Herrick	Finn Sapelza
Mary Clare DiLoreto	Sienna Jagoda	Robin Sapelza
Nea Fosker	Caroline Kenahan	Tessa Smith
Alanna Frawley	Lawson Kizer	Lyla Smith
Logan Frawley	Luke Linden	
Christopher Hayne	Fiadh Lynch	

NEEDED NEW REFRIGERATOR

We are making preparations for cleaning and bringing our Hall Kitchen up to Health department codes. In reviewing the appliances, the Refridgerator no longer works. If anyone would like to donate towards a new or gently used refridgerator, please email stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com



SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY HEAD & TOE DRIVE

Be the sunshine in someone's life by donating new or clean men and/or women

SUN HATS/CAPS AND SOCKS

to 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 your parish church will be a box/container for you to deposit your generous donations.

The cut off date to donate these items will be May 12th.

These will be given to the clients that attend Loaves & Fishes on May 19th just in time for the May 24th holiday!

"Your kindness can make a world of difference."



NEEDS OUR HELP!

TEDS are open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10-2; and on Saturday 10-12:30 to drop off your donation and are located at 64 Middle Road, Warwick. The white building, adjacent to the PHC gas station, ask for Clare Mello.

PLEASE CHECK BULLETIN BOARD FOR ITEMS THEY REQUIRE

ANYTHING you can provide is gratefully appreciated.