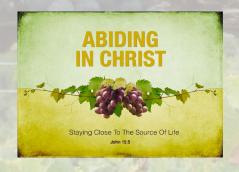
Abide in the Vine

2022





Acknowledgement of Count

We acknowledge all the country in which we minister in Catholic education in this Diocese. Our Ballarat office sits in Wudawurrung

country and each of us are located in culturally significant lands.

We acknowledge our first people who have nurtured and cared for Country for tens of thousands of years and we acknowledge that they have managed to survive and thrive demonstrating their strength, resilience and adaptability. We also acknowledge their elders as custodians of this land that was taken from them without consent, without compensation, without treaty, but not without resistance. We remember that this time of year carries its own pain and we pray that the work of truth-telling and reconciliation will finally carry the day in Australia.

We pay our respect to their Elders past, and present, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today, particularly those who are present with us.

Welcome

Every fresh new year brings its own energy, and in recognition of the new journey and new shape our staff takes this year, I light our staff candle as we make the sign of the cross, and place all that we do and hope for in this year before God.

We are reminded of our Dioscean Vision

As partners in Catholic Education,

open to God's presence,

we pursue fullness of life for all.



We begin our prayer with the sign of the cross...

We gather,
In the name of God who is Love
And of Jesus who showed us the way of Truth
And the Spirit of Peace alive in our world
Amen

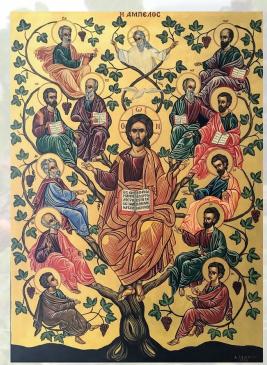


Tanja Butler, "Christ the Vine"

Gathering song:

The Fray - Be Still (Lyrics) https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=5nUuBjz4Vhc

Be still and know!



Christ the True Vine by Ljiljana Stojković

Opening Prayer

All: God of Love, We recognise Your presence in our journey together. As we gather here for the start of this year in Your name, open our minds to know Your voice. Open our hands to do Your work. And open our hearts to hold Your Spirit.

Amen



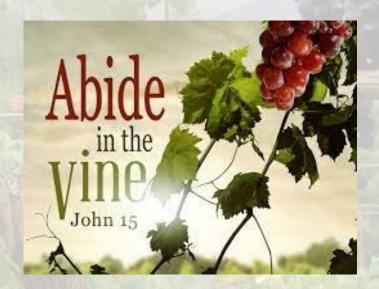
Ostap Łoziński (Ukrainian, 1983–), I Am the True Vine, 2015.

A time to listen

Be silent and rest in God's words

Be still and let God's love speak.

Be calm and trust in the Lord.



The Vine and the Branches John 15: 1-17

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, as I also abide in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain on the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you abide in me.

5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. **6** If you do not abide in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. **7** If you abide in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now abide in my love.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ



Reflection

Abide In Me - Andrew Marcus
(Lyrics) - YouTube
(to 2' 40")

In this quiet time, consider what might be the 'fruit' you produce or 'bear this year? What is your purpose this year?

Why is this important to you?
Who could you ask for support?

We pray...

As we have been immersed in the word of God, let us connect our listening with those intentions that are in our hearts.

For leaders, may they be attentive to the vine in order to reap a rich harvest of fruit. Lord, hear us...

For ourselves, that we may be open to sharing our hearts and minds abundantly to strive for our diocesan vision of fullness of life for all. Lord hear us...

For those we serve, may they feel valued, safe and nurtured through our work. Lord hear us...

For those who need our prayers, may they know the love of God through our words and actions. Lord hear us...

For the prayers that are unspoken in our hearts (pause). Lord hear us...

Final Prayer and Blessing

May God, Who loves and holds us all, let the Spirit guide all our days in the ways of compassion and justice,

All: Amen

May we reflect the heart of God, sure in faith, strong in hope, built on love

All: Amen



May we become all that we are called to be.

All: Amen

May God's grace, mercy and peace, Hold us and enfold us.

All: Amen

And may our journey lead us into God's gentle and almighty Presence.

All: Amen





2022 Theme

Share the Good News!

Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole of creation

Mark 16:15

