



## 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. Theresa's Cathedral

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*Bishop Wes Spiewak, C.R. Diocese of Hamilton Bermuda*

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**IN RESIDENCE: Rev. Dandy Traje, CP., Rector Tel: 292-0607 Ext. 3**

**Mrs. Karen Scarth, Cathedral Administrator Tel: 292-0607 Ext. 2** Tuesdays – Fridays from 10:00am – 4:00pm

**St. Vincent de Paul Society Parish Rep:** Joanne Judd & Tommy Sinclair

**St. Theresa's Gift Shop:** 292-0416 **Shop Hours:** Tuesdays & Saturdays from 10:00am – 2:00pm

**Confessions:** Saturday at 5:30pm or by appointment

**Baptisms:** By appointment – 5 weeks in advance

**Weddings:** By appointment – 1 year in advance. Pre-Marriage Course is required for all weddings here or overseas

**Website:** [www.romancatholicbermuda.bm](http://www.romancatholicbermuda.bm) – Where you can find information about our Diocese.

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/CatholicDioceseBermuda](http://www.facebook.com/CatholicDioceseBermuda) – Visit our page & "LIKE" us to join our on-line community.



## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CANDIDATES

April 28th, 2023

We congratulate the CCD children who, for the first time today, will receive the Body of Christ during the 11:30am Mass celebrated by Bishop Wesley Spiewak at St. Theresa's Cathedral.

Their names are listed as follows:

**Jamila Arellano**

**Jared Arnante**

**Victoriablythe Kumarasekara**

**Krizxelle Lasri**

**Zarina Simmons**

**Mirica Soares**

**May God Bless You and Your Family on This Very Eventful Day!**

DATES	TIMES	INTENTIONS FOR
Sat. April 27th	6:30pm	Birthday wishes for Madi DeSilva
Sun. April 28th (Portuguese)	8:30am	+ Mr. & Mrs. Charles Soares & James Soares
	10:00am	+ Jose Fernando Pimentel, Antonio Pimentel, Joao Costa, Angelina Botelho, Padre Julio, & Alzira da Costa
	11:30 am	+ Arnold De La Cruz Francisco
	6:00 pm	St. Theresa's Parish Family
Mon. APR 29th	7:30am	Intentions of Kathy & Don Johann
Tues. APR 30th	7:30am	Thoughts and prayers for Harper & Cali DeSilva
Wed. May 1st	7:30am	+ William, Mary & Edward Paiva Rodrigues
	12:10pm	+ Mary Rego Souza
Thurs May 2nd	7:30am	Thoughts and prayers for Harper & Cali DeSilva
	12:10pm	Special Intentions for Michael Ingham
Fri. May 3rd	7:30am	+ Kimberly Greenslade-Wagget
	12:10pm	Healing prayers for Anthony Bertrand
Sat. May 4th	6:30pm	+ Pacheco Family & Maiato Family
Sun. May 5th (Portuguese)	8:30am	+ Antonio & Ernestina Rebello
	1:30pm	
	11:30am	Couples for Christ and Family Ministries
	6:00pm	St. Theresa's Parish Family

### NEXT WEEK'S MINISTRY SCHEDULE: May 4th & 5th, 2024

Time:	6:30pm	8:30am	11:30am	6:00pm
<b>Proclaimer:</b>	C. Powell	L. Scarth	F. Maxwell	E. Mosley
<b>Communion Ministers:</b>	C. Carreiro J. Judd	O. Scarth G. Lovecchio	A. Kelly J. Alcantara	Volunteers Needed
<b>Song Leaders:</b>	G. Medeiros	M. R. Mathias	M. Gravito	O. Anderson



The Gift Shop has beautiful cards available, especially for the special occasions during the next month - First Communion, Confirmation and Mothers Day. We also have a wide selection of other greeting cards - all at a great price!

***Do support our Gift Shop!***






**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT :**

The good steward lives the advice of St. John, loving in deed and in truth, rather than just talking about it.

Steward's Sharing of Treasure		
	Date	Actual
Collection:	Apr. 13th/14th	\$4,323.00
Electronic offering:	April 13th/14th	\$110.00
To Date:	Week 16	\$120,963.00

*Thank you for your support!*

**ST. THERESA'S CHAPEL**  
**April 28th–May 4th , 2024**



**Donation Given for**  
**Two 7-Day Votive Candles And 2 Roses**  
**Intentions of Grace Lovecchio**

**FEAST OF SENHOR SANTO CRISTO DOS MILAGRES (Miracles):**



The Senhor Santo Cristo Festival will begin on **Saturday, May 4th at 7:45pm**, with the transfer of the statue from the chapel to the sanctuary, followed by Mass and festivities in the MSA Courtyard. On **Sunday, May 5th**, the Festival continues with a solemn Mass in Portuguese commencing at **1:30pm**. A procession will immediately follow the Mass, followed by festivities in the MSA Courtyard, and a raffle draw at 8:00pm. The celebrant for these special Masses will be Bishop Wes with con-celebrant Fr. Luis Dutra from Pico in the Azores. All are invited to attend this special event!



**ST. 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 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 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."**



**Congratulations to Natalia Ilys Santos Stovell**, daughter of Terence Stovell and Selena Araujo, who is being baptized this **Sunday, April 28th, 2024. Welcome to the Church Family!**

**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) .

**THE 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:

- Families will get smaller. People of all ages will have fewer relatives.
- 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.
- 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*



**ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH BINGO!**

**Sunday, April 28th, 2024 3-5PM**

Tickets will be on sale after weekend masses from St. Patrick's Parish Council Members.

Desserts, Tea & Coffee will be served.

Soda and water will be available for sale.

\$5.00 per ticket (includes ONE Bingo Card)

# 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**