

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**O Sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.**

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, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

9:26-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join
the disciples, but they were all afraid of him:
they could not believe he was really a
disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of
him, introduced him to the apostles, and
explained how the Lord had appeared to
Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and
how he had preached boldly at Damascus in
the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go
round with them in Jerusalem, preaching
fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after
he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued
with them, they became determined to kill
him. When the brothers knew, they took him
to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to
Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee
and Samaria were now left in peace,
building themselves up, living in the fear of
the Lord, and filled with the consolation of
the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 21

Response: **You, Lord, are my praise in the
great assembly.**

1. My vows I will pay before those who fear
him.

The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek
him.

May their hearts live for ever and ever!(R.)

2. All the earth shall remember and return to
the Lord,
all families of the nations worship before
him.

They shall worship him, all the mighty of
the earth;
before him shall bow all who go down to
the dust. (R.)

3. And my soul shall live for him, my
children serve him.

They shall tell of the Lord to generations
yet to come,
declare his faithfulness to peoples yet
unborn:

‘These things the Lord has done.’ (R.)

SECOND READING

3:18-24

A reading from the first letter of St John

My children,
our love is not to be just words or mere talk,
but something real and active;
only by this can we be certain

that we are the children of the truth
and be able to quieten our conscience in his
presence,
whatever accusations it may raise against us,
because God is greater than our conscience
and he knows everything.

My dear people,
if we cannot be condemned by our own
conscience,
we need not be afraid in God's presence,
and whatever we ask him,
we shall receive,
because we keep his commandments
and live the kind of life that he wants.

His commandments are these:
that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus
Christ
and that we love one another
as he told us to.

Whoever keeps his commandments
lives in God and God lives in him.
We know that he lives in us
by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Make your home in me, as I make mine in
you.**

**Whoever remains in me bears fruit in
plenty.**

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

15:1-8

*A reading from the holy Gospel according
to John.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘I am the true vine,
and my Father is the vinedresser.

Every branch in me that bears no fruit
he cuts away,

and every branch that does bear fruit he
prunes

to make it bear even more.

You are pruned already,
by means of the word that I have spoken to
you.

Make your home in me, as I make mine in
you.

As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself,
but must remain part of the vine,
neither can you unless you remain in me.

I am the vine,
you are the branches.

Whoever remains in me, with me in him,
bears fruit in plenty;

for cut off from me you can do nothing.

Anyone who does not remain in me
is like a branch that has been thrown away -
he withers;

these branches are collected and thrown on
the fire,

and they are burnt.

If you remain in me
and my words remain in you,
you may ask what you will
and you shall get it.

It is to the glory of my Father that you
should bear much fruit,
and then you will be my disciples.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who by the wonderful exchange
effected in this sacrifice
have made us partakers of the one supreme
Godhead, grant, we pray,
that, as we have come to know your truth,
we may make it ours by a worthy way of
life.

Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**I am the vine and you are the branches,
says the Lord. Whoever remains in me,
and I in him, bears fruit in plenty,
alleluia!**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Graciously be present to your people, we
pray, O Lord, and lead those you have
imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass
from former ways to newness of life.
Through Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL REFLECTION



**IF YOU
ABIDE IN ME
YOU WILL BEAR
MUCH FRUIT —**

**What does it mean to you to really live
your Christianity? Are you ever tempted
to observe rather than live a Christian
life? Why or why not?**

Is a decision to follow God's will a choice
you can make of your own free will? Can
you always make a choice to stop following
God's will if you so desire?

**What do these images mean to you: the
Father is the vinegrower, Jesus is the vine,
and we are the branches? Does this make
your relationship with God a very direct
relationship? How?**

If you abide in Jesus, can you accomplish
more through him than you could by
yourself? Why? How might a choice to
follow enhance our ability to have a fuller
life and accomplish more?

**How does following Jesus give us the
chance to really be who we are?**

GOSPEL ACTION

*Sit down this week and make a list of the
different ways you try to be a better person.
How does your faith help you in these
endeavours? Pray for the strength to follow
Jesus more closely.*

Readings – 6th Sunday of Easter Year B

First Reading: Acts 10:25-26.34-35.44-48

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-10

Gospel: John 15:9-17

Homily

2nd May 2021 – 5th Sunday of Easter, Year B

Dear friends, last week we reflected on Jesus as the Good Shepherd who loves and cares for each one of his flock and who laid down his life for us.

This week we have another of the 'I am' sayings of Jesus, we hear part of the final discourse of Jesus when he is speaking to his apostles on the night before he is going to die and he says to them, **'I am the vine and you are the branches.'** This was one of the images he used to describe the community that he had founded. The image of the vine would have been a familiar one to them and Jesus used the simple image to illustrate the unity, interdependence and closeness of himself to that community and members of the community to one another.

The branches of a healthy vine are loaded with grapes, but they are only able to produce fruit because they are connected to the vine. If they are cut off from the vine they quickly wither and die. In the same way as the branches need the vine so we too need Jesus in our lives, because cut off from him we have no life and are unable to bear fruit.

However, the vine also needs the branches to produce fruit, which means that Christ also needs us because we are his branches. Vine and branches need each other, there is an interdependence and together they form a unity. I think the image of the vine and the branches is a good one to help us understand how closely interconnected we are with Jesus and indeed with one another. We need Jesus, Jesus needs us and we all need each other.

Jesus depends on us to produce fruit in our world, he depends on us here in Holy Apostles & Martyrs parish to be fruitful by using the gifts and talents that we have been given with others, this is how we become fruitful.

In the Second Reading John reflects on the commandment of love. John tells us that we must love one another as Jesus taught us. It is this active charity of loving and serving one another that makes us fruitful branches of Christ.

Any healthy vine needs constant pruning; I wonder what are the branches in our lives that are in need of pruning, to help us bear rich fruit? What are the branches that are keeping us from loving and being able to accept love in our lives; perhaps branches of bitterness, hatred, judgement, criticism, cynicism, fear, jealousy, apathy....branches that all need to be pruned and cut away to enable us to bear rich fruit.

Homily

2nd May 2021 – 5th Sunday of Easter, Year B

Pope Francis this week has called the Church across the world to pray for an end to the pandemic with the recitation of the Rosary during the month of May. All Catholics are being called to be part of this spiritual initiative and a chain of prayer will be formed across the world. Next week we will have details of when the Rosary will be publicly prayed in the parish, but let's try this month to pray the Rosary at home in union with Pope Francis' request.

Sending my love and prayers, **Fr Phil x**

Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion

2nd May 2021 – 5th Sunday of Easter Year B

Let us bring all our prayers before God Our Father.

For Pope Francis, Bishop Mark and all the leaders of the Church: may they be true shepherds to the flock of Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For ourselves and all Christians: may we be fruitful branches of the vine reaching out to all, particularly those in most need;

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For peace in the world and an end to war, violence and hatred everywhere.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all those who are sick, housebound or struggling in any way: that they may experience the healing love and grace of Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For our parish and our local community: that through the grace of God we may hear the urgent cry of the earth and of the poor and be inspired to respond at this crucial time. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all our young people who will be receiving Our Lord in First Holy Communion over these next few weeks. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all the faithful departed especially **Vera Ruane** and all those who have died recently: **“Eternal rest grant unto them...”**

For all those who mourn the loss of loved ones; may Christ’s message of hope in eternal life bring them comfort and consolation.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We ask Our Lady and all the Saints to join their prayers with ours as we say: **“Hail Mary...”**

Loving Father,

We offer these and all our prayers to you,
through Jesus the vine,
who is Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion

2nd May 2021 – 5th Sunday of Easter Year B

Spiritual Communion

Prayer of St Alphonsus

My Jesus,
I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.
I love you above all things and
I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come spiritually into my soul
so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever.
Amen.

CAFOD Prayer for Glasgow

Creator God,
We cry out to you
The earth is damaged and in chaos
People in poverty are suffering the most
Greed and consumerism are a disease
And your Church is too often asleep

Merciful Lord,
Protect your people and restore your earth,
Embolden governments to take action,
Awaken Church leaders
Give the youth influence
And guide businesses to change

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord
May we unite and be bold
Take heart and find hope in you,
Worship you with our lifestyles
Walk in your truth
and see justice and renewal in the earth

Amen