



focus on sunday



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 28th April 2024

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters.....
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

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.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,

we proclaim your Death, O Lord,

until you come again.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,

Lord, I am not worthy that you

should enter under my roof, but only say

the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the true 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.

CONCLUDING RITE

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.

Jesus describes his relation to us like the closeness of a branch to a tree. We are brought to life in him, grow in him as people who can love each other, and become in him a people of eternal hope.



'I am the true vine...'



'Abide in me'

Thanks to the incredible scientific discoveries of the past century, humanity is beginning to realise just how deeply interconnected everything is in our universe. Every atom of carbon in our muscles, calcium in our bones and iron in our blood was created inside a star before the Earth was born. Despite appearances, we share the essential components for life with our fellow creatures, we are deeply embedded in, part of, this web of life and all of creation shares in this creative Mystery together. St. Paul tells us that if we want to understand God more fully, then we should look at God's creation (Romans 1:20). Pope Francis reiterates this in *Laudato Si'*, 'to contemplate creation is to hear a message, to listen to a silent voice' (LS, §85).

Jesus constantly evokes images from the natural world to teach us something about God. 'He often stopped to contemplate the beauty sown by his Father and invited his disciples to perceive a divine message in things' (LS, §97). The grapevine image, a common biblical symbol of God's relationship with God's people, shows us that there is no separation between the human and the Divine, we belong to each other. 'Abide with me' reminds us to not lose sight of the reality of this intimate connectedness. We are being invited to rediscover God's earthly dynamic all around us, so that the fruits of the vine can express the reality of God's presence in our world. Perhaps this week, you can spend more time in nature. What do you find there? What is God saying to you through creation at this time? Jesus says that his followers are pruned by his Word. What is your experience of allowing God's Word to shape your life, to speak into your experiences, to shape who you are becoming?

Extract from The Deep End – A Journey Through the Sunday Gospels in the Year of Mark, Messenger Publications, 2023, Jane Mellott & Triana Doherty.

Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey



Jesus liked flowers, mountains, beautiful clouds and silvery water. Today Jesus is looking at the vine and its branches. The seed goes into dark, cold earth and it will be fed with sunshine and water. Jesus sees us like seeds of God. God Our Father gives us breath and life, and helps us to grow beautifully, like leaves on a tree. Every leaf is different. We learn to use our hands everyday. We hug, play

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.

GREETING

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

You bring pardon and peace to the sinner: Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

You bring light to those in darkness: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us....

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,

we give you thanks for your great glory,

Lord God, heavenly King,

O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

you take away the sins of the world,

have mercy on us;

you take away the sins of the world,

receive our prayer;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father

have mercy on us;

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.



OPENING PRAYER

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....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Acts 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

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.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps. 21:26-28. 30-32

R. You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly. or Alleluia!

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 1 John 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.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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



GOSPEL John 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.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

All bow for following three lines:
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.