

Resources on the Sunday Readings – Easter 5

Picture Reflection (p1), Bible Reading & Study Questions (p2)

See separate families' sheet.

Picture Reflection



Stay connected - John 15:1-8

Jesus says that he is 'the true vine' and that we should remain connected to him as a source of love in our lives. The metaphor of the growing vine suggests that we need to be active rather than sitting back and just resting. Let us explore these ideas this week.....

- Spend a few minutes with this image...what are your first impressions?
- What might have caused this to happen to the rosebud that has failed to live up to its full potential beauty?
- When might our feelings be shown like this? What can we do to prevent this happening?
- In what situations do we feel most connected to God? Where is the right place for us to receive God's love and grow?
- Reflect on the ways that we have been able to stay connected to one another and to God over the past yeargive thanks to God for those opportunities.....
- As we return to the 'new normal' are there more ways of connection to explore?

A prayer...

Creator God may your love flow through us so that we can grow and be fruitful. As we abide in 'the true vine' may we enrich the lives of those around us in our homes, our workplaces and our communities. Amen

Bible Study Questions.

Bible Reading – **John 15:1-8** NRSV

Jesus said: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

These words are part of a long speech known as the 'Farewell Discourse' (chapters 14-17) in John's Gospel. Jesus is speaking to his disciples at the Last Supper. He has arrived in Jerusalem to the cheering of the crowds for the Passover Festival. Now he prepares them for his death and resurrection although the disciples have very different expectations! He washes their feet and gives them the new commandment 'to love one another' and then he speaks to them at length.

- What do you think the disciples made of Jesus words here?
- How does the metaphor of the vine and branches speak to you?
- What do you think Jesus means by the words 'abide in me as I abide in you'? How do you abide in Christ throughout your day?
- How does your faith serve as your rootedness?
- In what ways do you think you need pruning? What do you need to let go of to live more fully and more fruitfully?
- In what ways do you currently bear fruit?