

5th Sunday of Easter 28th April 2024



*I am the vine; you are
the branches. If a man
remains in me and I in him,
he will bear much fruit;
apart from me you can
do nothing. – John 15:5*

**Take me
Home !!**

Rector's Tidings

Much more than a set of truths to believe in, our faith is a union with a living person, a unity of life with Jesus our Lord. His words and actions are our guide in life; our heart is attuned to his heart, and his serving love of God and people is our inspiration and model. We cannot think of him and pray to him all the time, but we can, with his help, try to live his life. That is how we can live in him, remain in him, be one with him as he is one with the Father. Let us be intensely one with him here in this eucharist and in everyday life.

In many ways we differ from one another. Thanks to God for the riches of this variety. How sad our world would be if we were all the same, for we would see only our own image. We differ in our faces, our characters, our personalities and occupations, our language and culture, in so many things. Yet there is one thing that brings us here together. We belong to Christ, we are united in him. He wants this bond to be a close union: like branches on a tree, on a life-giving vine. We are one in him with one another. We pray that this union may be close and effective.

Fr Hugo

Entrance Hymn:

244 Thou whose almighty word

Collect:

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading: A reading from Acts (9:26-31):

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.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm (22):

R./ I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

I will fulfill my vows before those who fear the LORD. The lowly shall eat their fill; they who seek the LORD shall praise him: "May your hearts live forever!" **R/**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of the nations shall bow down before him. **R/**

To him alone shall bow down all who sleep in the earth; before him shall bend all who go down into the dust. **R/**

And to him my soul shall live; my descendants shall serve him. Let the coming generation be told of the LORD that they may proclaim to a people yet to be born the justice he has shown. **R/**

Second Reading: A reading from 1 John (3:18-24):

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 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.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn:

103 Immortal, invisible

Gospel Reading

Hear the The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (15:1-8):

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, bless the Church with the knowledge of your indwelling presence. May we learn to abide in you and know that you are in us. Give wisdom to all who go out in mission and all who preach your word. We pray for the young in the faith, that they will be given the opportunity to grow and bear fruit. We remember all study groups, Bible classes and Sunday schools.

Lord, you abide in us;
we ask that we may abide in you.

We remember the nations of the world and especially those who are not at peace at this time. We ask your guidance on all who care for the world's poor, refugees and war-torn peoples. We pray for the time when the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of Christ our Lord.

Lord, you abide in us;
we ask that we may abide in you.

We give thanks for all who have shared their faith with us. In our turn may we also bear fruit and bring others to the love and presence of our God. Lord, bless our homes with the glory of your presence. Help us to live in and share your peace.

Lord, you abide in us;
we ask that we may abide in you.

We bring before you all who doubt or despair, all who are surrounded by darkness or illness. May they come into the light of your love and know that you are with them. We ask you to bless all who have been involved in accidents or in violence this week. Give courage and hope to all who seek to bring your healing and peace.

Lord, you abide in us;

we ask that we may abide in you.

Lord, you abide with us through life and we abide with you through death. In your love you have given us eternal life through Christ our risen Lord. We give you thanks for this great gift. We ask that you bless all our loved ones departed with the joy of your love and your presence.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Intercessions

- **For the Church:**

For Justin, our archbishop, Christopher and Martin our bishops and for the bishops, priests, deacons and people of the Diocese of The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East.

For everyone at Christ Church and St Matthew's

- **For the world:**

Zimbabwe, Russia and Ukraine, the Holy Land.

- **For our community:**

The Charity Shop and Food Cupboard. For Indiebride. The Halls Trust and Co-op business centre . Christ Church Primary School, Van Gogh Primary School and Reay Primary School. For our local services, including the post delivery.

- **For the Sick and Bereaved:**

Alice, Anastasia, Bangori, Chester, Christina, Fay and family, Gladstone, John, Julie, Kandy & Benji, Karen, Kenneth, Maria, Neville, Pam, Ruby, Robert, Ron and Stephen.

Offertory Hymn

9 Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks

Communion Hymn

149 Love divine, all loves excelling

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

2 Abide with Me

Services This Week

Sunday 5th May Bubble Church, 9.45am - Eucharist, 11am
& Spanish Mass, 6pm

Next Baptism Preparation Session

Our next FREE preparation session for all those exploring children's baptism will be on Saturday 18th May from 9.30-10.30am. We will share breakfast together, sing and have a bible story with puppets and go through parts of the Baptism service looking at water. Children, parents/guardians, grandparents, other family members and potential godparents are all welcome to attend. Don't worry if you missed the first one, and coming to the session doesn't commit you to the July 7th Baptism but it is a way to explore and find out more about what Baptism is and whether it is right for your children or grandchildren.

Next Bubble Church

Sunday 5th May, 9.45am

Regular Giving

We welcome online donations, which you can make via scanning the QR code. Many thanks for your generosity.



Daily Bible Verse Reflections

Monday 1 John 1:5 - **Tuesday** Acts 14:22 - **Wednesday** Acts 15:3 - **Thursday** Acts 15:12 - **Friday** 1 Corinthians 15:1

Vacancy: Fundraising Officer

We're looking for a part-time Fundraising Officer to join our team. This is a really important role so please do share the information with anyone who might be interested. Applicants should send a CV to John Diego (dop@stmatt.co.uk)



• CHRIST CHURCH •
P A R I S H
C R I S T O S A L V A D O R •

Welcome to

Chat & Prayer Corner

Join us on Thursdays from 12.30pm to 1.30pm to chat over coffee and biscuits and have prayer afterwards (if you like)
Starting May 16th 2024



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