



LITURGY

First reading: Acts 9:26-31

Response to the Psalm: You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly

Second reading: 1 John 3:18-24

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: John 15:1-8



Dear Parishioners

THE LORD IS RISEN INDEED

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA.

In today's Gospel, Jesus is using an agricultural image that the people of his time could easily understand and it is one that most of us can also appreciate. Jesus compares himself to a vine, with each of us being a branch. Faith is what binds the branches to the vine. If we maintain our faith in Jesus, we can bear much fruit in the world. However, if our faith in Jesus withers, we will not produce much fruit for the kingdom of God.

There is one part of the Gospel that I don't like to contemplate: Jesus says, "Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned." This may be one of the places where we get the idea that Hell is a hot place.

Jesus *will* prune us and give us the opportunity to bear more fruit for the kingdom. This is where free choice comes in. God always invites us and we have free will to accept the invitation or not. Some of us are very independent and we do not want anyone telling us what to do. But the consequences of saying 'yes' or 'no' are so dramatically different. We can remain in Jesus and bear much fruit, or we will become a withered branch that will be burned.

All of us become pruned during our lives. Each of us is on our own personal journey of faith and will be pruned in different ways and at different times. Pruning usually involves some kind of suffering, be it physical, mental, or spiritual. Each pruning is an opportunity to draw closer to Christ. We must examine each pruning to discover what we have learned and to not consider recovery from the pruning as just one more personal conquest of adversity. God is working in each of our lives, even when we are totally ignorant of him doing so.

God Bless
Fr. Benedict OSB

St Mary's Roman Catholic Church

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This parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham and served by the

Benedictine Monks of Douai Abbey

Parish Priest: Fr. Benedict Thompson O.S.B

Rev. Deacon Peter Griffiths



5th Sunday of Easter (Year B)

Week commencing Sunday 28th April 2024

Parish Safeguarding: Mrs. Helen Woodhouse

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Helen Woodhouse. She can be contacted at: sg.stmarys.studley@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern

Masses

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sat 27 th April | 5.00pm | 5 th Sunday of Easter | Patricia Reardon RIP |
| Sun 28 th April | 10.30am | 5 th Sunday of Easter | People of the Parish |
| Mon 29 th April | | | |
| Tues 30 th April | | | Private Intention |
| Wed 1 st May | | | |
| Thurs 2 nd May | | St. Athanasius (mem) | |
| Fri 3 rd May | | SS Philip & James (F) | |
| Sat 4 th May | 5.00pm | 6 th Sunday of Easter | Eugene McLaughlin RIP |
| Sun 5 th May | 10.30am | 6 th Sunday of Easter | People of the Parish |

Mass is celebrated privately daily except on Monday.

If you would like a mass offered for a particular intention, please email the parish or put a note through the door of the presbytery, *please do not place it in the collection bag*. Thank you.

Those Who Have Asked for Prayers:

Derek Sollis, Dolores Flynn, Fred Chadfield, Alan Clatworthy, Chanel Mullings, Clive Rickhards,, Jill Spurrell, Stan Phipps, Judith Baylis, Jackie Gannon, Mick Sollis, Tim Harrison.

Those who have recently died: .

Mary Judith Smith (nee Hewitt), Wyn Varley, Raimondo Gemeli, Anthony Woodhouse, Barbara Woodhouse, Kathleen McLoughlin, Peter McGoldrick, Anthony Roache, Lionel Quigley, Keith John Francis Cotterell, Anna Rose McGoldrick, Mary Baker, Georgette Cowell, Anthony Mathew, John Knox and all those we have been asked to pray for.

INFORMATION

Sunday Coffee

Do please come and join us after Mass near the end of each month. **The next coffee morning is this Sunday April 28th**. Please come and enjoy a coffee, Biscuits, cake and a chat.

Second Collection

The weekly second collection will normally be for help towards the payment of the diocesan levy and the upkeep of the house and church buildings. Both the church and the house are Grade II listed so any work done has to be to a high standard as set by the requisite authority.

Missio

The 'Red Box' has been around for over 100 years. Whether you still have one at home, or remember having one growing up, we would love to hear from you as we plan for the future. Would you be happy to speak with us? If so, please complete a short form to show your interest and to find out more at: missio.org.uk/research or scan the QR code. If you cannot access the form online you can call 020 7821 9755. Thank you!

Please could you bring in your red boxes asap and leave them on the front bench of the church after Mass. Thank you.