

First reading 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.

The Word of the Lord *Thanks be to God*

Responsorial Psalm *R: You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.*

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

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

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

Second reading 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.

The Word of the Lord *Thanks be to God*

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

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*

REGINA COELI (to be said during Eastertide at 12pm - at the end of 11am Mass)

V. Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia. *R. For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.*

V. Has risen, as he said, alleluia. *R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.*

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia. *R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.*

Let us pray. *O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*

THE PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY, BOURNEMOUTH

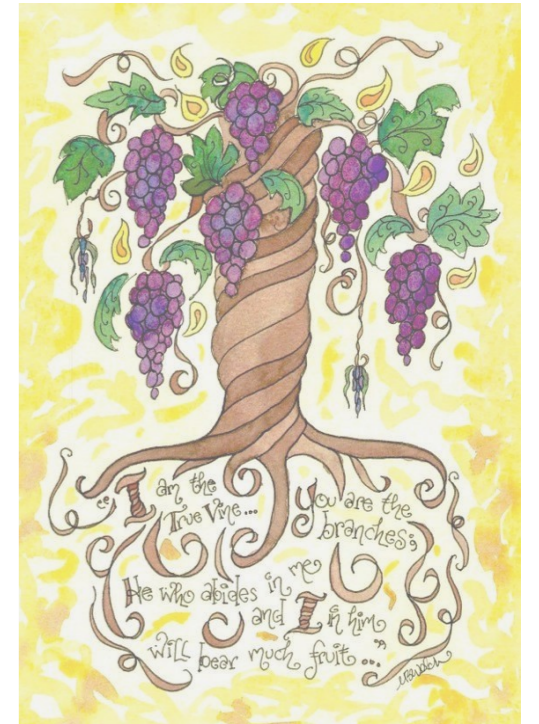
incorporating the churches of Christ the King, Kinson & St Bernadette's, Ensbury Park

The vine had long been a beloved symbol of Israel. It was used by Isaiah 5.1-7 to express the LORD's complaint at the unresponsiveness of Israel. It was used by Ezekiel 15 in his painstaking unpicking of the proud symbols of Israel. It was used by Jesus in the parable of the Wicked Vine-dressers (Mark 12.1-12) to shame the irresponsible current leaders of Israel.

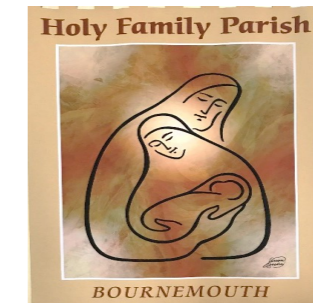
Now, in the Last Supper discourse, on the way to Gethsemane it acquires a new dimension, the pain of pruning. However, the suffering of Jesus is not the principal point here: disciples of Jesus must be prepared to bear the pain of pruning.

The image is a powerful one. To an uninstructed onlooker the wretched, seemingly lifeless twigs left on the vines appear totally unable to burgeon in a few months into the rich harvest of grapes. The most powerful of all the aspects of the symbol is the sap pulsing through those apparently dead branches.

There is all the difference in the world between those docked shoots and the dead twigs scattered on the ground. Investigation into the heresies and divisions, the trials and persecutions symbolised by such pruning is all very well, but adherence to the vine, to Christ himself, alone gives life to the Church.



Together we are Church, together we are community, together we are Christ



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Feast Day of St Phillips and St James—Friday 3rd May

On this east day, we honour two early disciples of Jesus who were among the original Twelve Apostles. Their lives exemplify the transformative power of God’s grace and the call to holiness.

Saint Philip, one of the Twelve Apostles, was likely a follower of Saint John the Baptist. When Jesus encountered him, Philip immediately obeyed the call to “Follow me” (John 1:43). His first act of evangelization was to share the news of finding the Messiah with his friend Nathanael. Despite Nathanael’s scepticism, Philip responded, “Come and see” (John 1:46). Through this simple invitation, Nathanael encountered Jesus and professed his faith.

At the Last Supper, Philip asked Jesus to reveal the Father, to which Jesus gently replied, “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father” (John 14:8–14). Philip’s journey from doubt to unwavering faith reminds us that encountering Christ transforms our hearts.

Saint James the Less, also known as James the Lesser, was the brother of the Apostle Jude Thaddeus. He, too, followed Jesus and witnessed His ministry. James teaches us that even in our limitations, God’s grace can work wonders. His intercession reminds us that holiness is possible for each of us.

Together, Saints Philip and James inspire us to embrace our unique vocations and trust in God’s plan. May we, like them, become the saints we were created to be!

English Martyrs — Saturday 4th May

On this day, May 4th, we commemorate the English Martyrs and their unwavering commitment to their beliefs, even in the face of persecution and death.

These brave souls, including St. John Houghton, St. Robert Lawrence, St. Augustine Webster, St. Richard Reynolds, and Blessed John Haile, stood firm against the tide of religious turmoil during the Protestant Reformation. Their crime? Refusing to accept the legitimacy of Henry VIII’s adulterous union with Anne Boleyn and his self-proclaimed supremacy over the Church of England.

St. John Houghton, the first to face the executioner, bore witness to the ultimate sacrifice. His heartrending words echo through time: “Good Jesu, what wilt Thou do with my heart?” These martyrs, clad in priestly vestments, faced the horrors of hanging, drawing, and quartering with unwavering faith.

The storm unleashed by Henry VIII’s schism reverberated for generations. St. John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, and St. Thomas More, former Lord Chancellor of England, also paid the price for their fidelity to conscience. The flames of persecution consumed countless lives, both Catholic and Protestant, as the struggle for religious identity raged on. Yet, amid the darkness, these martyrs shine as beacons of faith. Their legacy challenges us to examine our own convictions. How steadfast are we in our beliefs? Would we, too, choose fidelity over compromise?

As we reflect on the English Martyrs, let us pray for the strength to stand firm, even when the cost is high. May their courage inspire us to live out our faith with unwavering devotion, regardless of the challenges we face.

All Holy men and women—pray for us....

POPE’S INTENTIONS for May 2024 For the formation of men and Women, religious and seminarians

Let us pray that men and women, religious and seminarians grow in their own vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual community formation, that leads them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS

Noel Harris, Sheila Shelley Margaret Simpson, Tony Bateman, Les Netherton, Anna Browne, Frances Smith, Joceleyne & Peter Cotrel, Margaret Place, Frances & Tony Herbert, The Carter family



GIFT AID The Parish needs funds and by gift aiding your contributions, it makes a huge difference. Please complete a form at the back of church and return it to the office.

If you would like to pay by standing order/ direct debit, there are forms to set this up at the back of the church. You may wish to make an offering via the Parish QR code



DAY	CHURCH	TIME	CELEBRATION or FEAST DAY/ MEMORIAL
Sat 27			NO MASS
Sun 28	CtK StB	9.30am 11am	MASSES of the Fifth Sunday of Easter
Mon 29			NO MASS
Tues 30			NO MASS
Wed 1			NO MASS
Thur 2			NO MASS
Fri 3			NO MASS
Sat 4			NO MASS
Sun 5	CtK StB	9.30am 11am	MASSES of the Sixth Sunday of Easter <i>11am Mass Int: Mrs B J Roskilly RIP</i>

DIOCESAN QUIZ

We are the reigning champions!!

Come and join in to see if we can retain the Cup against other parishes in the Diocese

- WHEN?** Friday 10th May
- WHERE?** CtK Parish Room
- WHY?** To raise money for Plymouth Catholic Childrens Society
- WHAT?** Quiz is set by the Diocese!
- HOW?** Teams of up to 6 - can be formed on the night!
- COST?** £2pp plus raffle on the night!

Bring your own drinks and snacks !
Enjoy the fun!
Contact Mike 07519932238
malaika13@yahoo.co.uk

FAITH DISCUSSION GROUP

will be meeting
Tuesday 30th April
7.30pm in St. Bernadette’s Parish Room.

If you haven’t been before, come along for a friendly chat over a cup of tea or coffee!
contact Jenny 01202 572941.



Pentecost Sunday 19th May

There will be a joint Parish Mass at St Bernadette’s 10am
There will be tea and cake afterwards in the hall

For your Diary



28th April Sunday	1 Samuel 15-16
29th April Monday	1 Samuel 17-18
30th April Tuesday	1 Samuel 19-21
1st May Wednesday	1 Samuel 22-23
2nd May Thursday	1 Samuel 24-25
3rd May Friday	1 Samuel 26-27
4th May Saturday	1 Samuel 28-31

Welcome to Father Tony Pennicott who is celebrating Mass this Sunday for the Parish

Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse – 30th April 2024



If you have experienced abuse and would like to speak to someone about this please contact:
The Safeguarding Office
01364 645430
Mon to Fri 9:00am to 4:30pm for a confidential conversation.
Or Safe Spaces - 0300 303 1056
A free and independent support service for anyone who has experienced abuse, however long ago.
E: safespaces@firstlight.org.uk
www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk

caritas
diocese of plymouth
TACKLING MODERN SLAVERY

Tues 30th April
10.30-12.30
Church Hall,
St Marys, Poole
To register, email caritas@prcdtr.org.uk or use the QR Code



Youth Adventure Residential
24th – 26th May 2024,
Buckfast Abbey
aged 10 – 14?

adventures include **caving and bushcraft**, with many other challenges and activities threaded throughout the weekend.
There is a recommended contribution of £100 to cover costs.

For further information contact, Saskia:
youth@prcdtr.org.uk
or speak to Michelle