



**I am the vine, you are the branches:**

He that stays in me, and I in him,  
the same brings forth much fruit:  
for without me you can do nothing.

John 15:5

**WORDS FOR WORSHIP**

Lord Jesus, the one true vine, you call us to remain close to you: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Christ Jesus, fruit of the Father's love, you prune us to make us bear fruit in plenty: Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you tend and protect us keeping us safe for eternal life: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

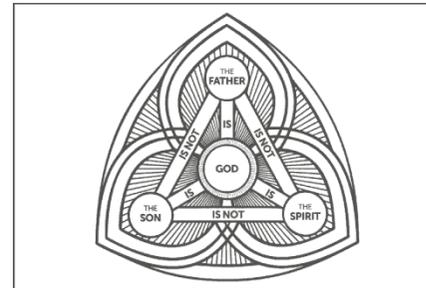
**St John the Evangelist**

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**Fifth Sunday of Easter, 2nd May, 2021. Cycle B**

**FAITH IN FOCUS: CHRISTLESS CHRISTIANITY?**



Have you ever watched the TV and seen a report about someone who is doing sterling work, helping people and making a real difference to the world around them? And then you find out they don't even believe in God? That's because you don't have to believe in God to do good and you don't have to be a Christian to make a difference to the world. But today Jesus tells us that only those who "remain" or "abide" in him will be following the Christian path. So what does it mean to "remain" in him?

A vine branch is lifeless and useless unless it remains attached to the vine. Inside it there is living sap that flows throughout the vine into each of the branches enabling each branch to produce fruit. For us to abide in the vine means that we are going to be people who are depending upon Christ and who are allowing the power and the Spirit of Christ to flow through us and in us. So, remaining in the vine means living our lives with the Trinity consciously present within us. And only if we do this will we bear fruit that will last as we become more and more like Christ. For when we "remain" attached to the vine, we become more like Jesus and we want to tell others about the source of our life. When we become more like Jesus we pray more and our approach to life changes: we treat people more like Jesus did, we talk to people like Jesus did and we are prepared to go that extra mile like Jesus did.

One of the great risks that we run is to think that by our own effort we can make ourselves better and that we can make a lasting difference to our world. Yet Jesus reminds us that we are only branches of the vine and that branches cannot bear fruit all by themselves. We need to be attached to the trunk of the vine itself. At the start of each day are we conscious of "remaining" in Christ? Do we speak to Christ during our waking hours? Do we ask for help and support in the decisions we make? Are our lives a go-it-alone affair or are they lived in God's presence?

Anyone who bears fruit is doing something good. But Jesus tells us that only if we "remain" in him and are part of the vine will our fruit last.



**Wirral Foodbank:** continues to **need your help and support.** Full details of how to donate to Wirral Foodbank can be found at <https://wirralfoodbank.org.uk/give-help>. People who need

emergency food and support at this time can contact the Wirral Emergency Food Hub on 0151 666 5050.

**The Irenaeus Project:** From 17th-21st May, 7-8.30pm, Fr Chris Thomas will be reflecting on the Acts of the Apostles and praying for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit – "I will pour out my Spirit on all humankind". To book, please email [jenny@irenaeus.co.uk](mailto:jenny@irenaeus.co.uk)



The Parish Newsletter & the Wednesday Word are available as you leave Church (via the front side door). Please take a copy for yourself and anyone else who would appreciate receiving this newsletter. There is some Lenten literature on the table at

the back of church. Please feel free to take this home with you also.

If you have a notice for the bulletin please email it to the parish email address or put it through the presbytery letter box.



JOHN 15:4

**ABIDE IN ME,  
AND I IN  
YOU. AS THE  
BRANCH  
CANNOT  
BEAR FRUIT  
BY ITSELF,  
UNLESS IT  
ABIDES IN  
THE VINE,  
NEITHER CAN  
YOU, UNLESS  
YOU ABIDE IN  
ME.**



<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>2nd</b>	5.00pm 9.30am 11.00am	William Halpin RIP Mary Griffin RIP St Luke's Parish
Monday	3rd		
Tuesday	4th	9.15am 7.00pm	Teresa Young RIP Novena
Wednesday	5th	9.15am	Mona Heaney RIP
Thursday	6th	7.00pm	Norah McCormick Anniv
Friday	7th	12.00pm	<b>Funeral Mass James Furlong</b>
Saturday	8th		
<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>9th</b>	5.00pm 9.30am 11.00am	Ints Mary Mulraney Ints Margaret Dunne St Luke's Parish

**Public Masses continue in our churches on Sundays and Weekdays . Please note that you still have to book in for Weekend Masses using the pink form available at the front of the Church or by sending an email to [stjohntheevangelist@gmail.com](mailto:stjohntheevangelist@gmail.com) by Saturday 10am.** Please remember social distancing at all times inside and outside the church, face coverings must be worn inside the church and please continue to use the hand sanitiser on entering and leaving. Please do not come to church if you are feeling unwell or have any Covid 19 symptoms

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the opportunity for socially distanced confession Saturday from 10.30am to 11.30am**

**Baptisms and Weddings:** Bookings are now being taken from July onwards. Please get in touch by [email stjohntheevangelist@gmail.com](mailto:stjohntheevangelist@gmail.com) or by phone

**Prayers for the Sick:** Please keep all our Sick & Housebound parishioners in your prayers and if anyone is in need of a visit please do let us know.



**In Memoriam:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of James Furlong.... Funeral Mass at St John's on Friday 7th May at 12 noon and Christopher Higgins ..... Funeral Mass at St John's on Friday 14th May at 11.00am. May they Rest in Peace.

*A Memorial Mass for Les Duff RIP will be celebrated at St Anne's this Monday at 10am. All most welcome*

**Canon Hoban's** Memorial Cards are on the table at the back of Church please take one

**The Month of May:** Pope Francis has requested that the church comes together to pray the Rosary every day throughout May for an end to the Covid 19 pandemic. So during this month the Rosary will be prayed 30mins before our weekday Masses and on Saturday evenings at 4.30pm. All most welcome.



**The Monthly Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour - this Tuesday at 7pm in Church.** All most welcome.

This is a special time of quiet prayer and reflection. If you have not been before I recommend you attend as I am sure you will find comfort and peace in these times.

**Last Weekend's Offertory Collection =£540.38p**

Thank you for your continued generosity. Please note that the offertory basket is on the table at the back of Church for your donations. You can also push offertory envelopes/donations through the presbytery letterbox or take out a standing order.

**Parish Accounts:** The Annual Financial summary for St John's Parish is displayed on the noticeboard at the back of Church. A big "thank you" to Carol Dalziel for preparing the accounts and for overseeing the counting teams & banking of the weekend collections throughout the year, thanks too to Steve Bell for all his hard work re the Gift Aid Scheme and the distribution of the Offertory Envelope boxes and thank you to every parishioner for your on-going financial support through the challenging year we have been through. St Luke's Parish is now making regular contributions towards the upkeep of St John's Church.....a cheque for £800 was received with thanks earlier this month and in this new financial year the Diocese has set up a monthly standing order from St

Luke's Parish to St John's Parish. As we move out of lockdown and with St Luke's on board further repairs and improvements will be made inside and outside the Church and presbytery. Fr Bernard is currently in discussions with the Diocesan Property Manager re the Parish Centre but for the time being the Parish Centre is out of use and therefore no one should enter it.

**In our Diocese of Shrewsbury on 16th July** at St Anthony's Wythenshawe Bishop Mark will ordain Patrick Breeze, Humphrey O'Connor & Stephen Roberts as priests for our Diocese. On 24th July Bishop Mark will ordain John McKay and Wilfred Mc Sherry as Permanent Deacons at St Michael & All Angels Woodchurch.



Bishop Mark and Fr David Long, Pilgrimage Director, have emailed to say that sadly what would have been the 70th Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes has had to be cancelled owing to COVID 19 restrictions. Like in 2020 they hope to hold a virtual pilgrimage and members of the pilgrimage management team will be working on this over the next few weeks. Once the plans are finalised we will let you have the information you need to participate in the virtual pilgrimage.



**Diocesan Vacancy:** Inter Diocesan Fuel Management Limited is a Catholic organisation currently recruiting an Administrator. The company purchases gas, electricity, fuel oil & biomass for the majority of Catholic Dioceses in England & Wales. The role is working with others in the department, processing invoices, collating data and general administration duties. This is a full time post 35 hours a week Monday to Friday based at the Diocesan Offices, 2 Park Road South, Birkenhead. Salary £16K to £19K dependent on experience. Closing date 28th May 2021. Please send cv to Pauline McCulloch at recruitment [@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:stjohntheevangelist@gmail.com) .