

Gospel for Sunday 2nd May, 5th Sunday in the Easter Season

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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.

For you to think about: Jesus was very good at using images from life around him to explain how much we are loved by God and how we in turn need to love God and one another. In last week's Gospel it was the image of the Good Shepherd who cared so much for his sheep that he was willing to give his life for them. This week it is an image taken from a vineyard! We read that the vine branch cannot remain alive if it breaks away from the tree and it is no good of course if it doesn't produce grapes. So what does then mean for us: We need to remain connected with the church to keep hearing the message of Jesus. And what is the 'fruit' we need to produce? We need to show God's love of others through our actions!

