



Wednesday 28th April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

All parents want to help their children to grow into the best people that they can be. Growing in goodness is for parents and children alike.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus uses an image that would have been familiar to people of his time and he reminds us that we all depend on God for life. We all make mistakes, but God is loving and patient and gives us time to grow into the people we were created to be.

God loves us, and wants us to live and grow in him – just like a branch grows on a vine – to be full of God's own energy. Keeping lively contact with Jesus helps us to grow in goodness and to live fruitful family lives, filled with peace, kindness and love.

Enjoy your week together – **GROWING** in God's love.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



To see this week's Parish Version of The Wednesday Word: wednesdayword.org – Parents' Pages – Lectio Divina with Fr Henry.

Jesus said, "I am the vine;
you are the branches."

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH
Sunday 2nd May 2021



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. 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."

Adapted from John 15:1-8
The 5th Sunday of Easter, Year B

You are warmly invited to learn more about
the Gospel through your local parish church.

**"May nothing keep you
from growing in friendship
with God."** Pope Francis



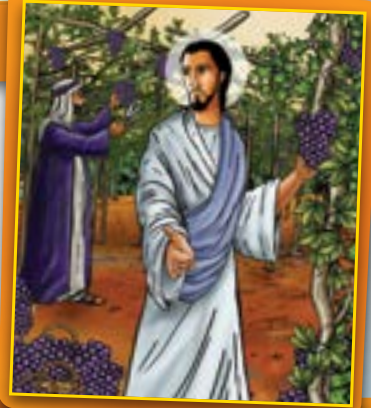
In this Sunday's Gospel, the fruit which gives God glory is not the type that grows on trees, but the goodness that grows inside each one of us (e.g. joy, love, kindness, patience, courage, generosity, peace and self-control). We are filled with these 'fruits' when we choose to stay close to Jesus.



1 Our Special Time Together

Enjoy reading the Gospel overleaf (or below for younger children)

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine and you are the branches. But just as a branch cannot produce fruit unless it remains joined to the vine, you cannot produce fruit unless you remain in me. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away. But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, then you will produce much fruit to the glory of God."



Where does Jesus say we should remain so that we can grow in goodness? Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? See the Gospel picture opposite. What does it make you think about?

2 Wednesday's Word is ...

GROWING

3 Loving God & Each Other

"Love is a fruit in season at all times, and within reach of every hand."

St Teresa of Calcutta

Ask your child what the word 'growing' means to them (other than increasing in height or weight). Ask them which one of the above 'fruits' (see the 'Good News for Families' section at the top of this page) would they particularly like to grow in. Why did they choose that 'fruit'? In what ways could growing in that fruit help them? Then tell your child how they've grown as a person (and in goodness) in recent months.

"We cannot grow up by ourselves; rather, we journey and grow in a community, in a family." *Pope Francis*

Each new day is an opportunity to grow in goodness. Regularly praying together is a powerful way for the family to keep growing in love. What else can we do to keep growing in goodness in this coming week? Perhaps we can: always try to be fair with others; avoid doing wrong and always try to do what is right; spend some time reading the words of Jesus in the gospels; try to be more patient.

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for the people who help us to **grow** in your love and please help us to keep **growing** in goodness. Amen.

Gospel Gallery

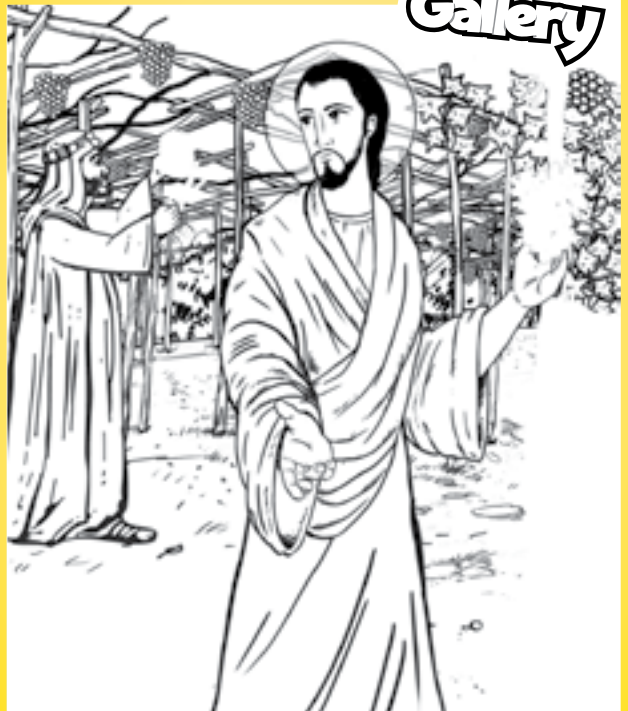
F C A N X S L S D N B E
 R J V M J S U L E R R J
 B O I **J E S U S** N V A S
 P I N T E R E M A I N H
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WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER **ACROSS** OR **DOWN**

- JESUS**
- VINE**
- PEOPLE**
- BRANCHES**
- REMAIN**
- JOINED**
- MUCH**
- FRUIT**

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS **BACKWARDS** OR **DIAGONALLY**



Search for at least three differences between this picture and the colour one. Then draw them in before colouring.

Cross out the letters **h b s** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

frubhits srehmabin Gsohbd ghlosrby

Jesus said, "If you _____ in me you will produce much _____ to the _____ of _____."

Growing in goodness helps us to be happy together.

We keep growing in goodness when we act upon what we learn about following Jesus. As we grow, we become more like Jesus: patient, loving and full of forgiveness.

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

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