



St. David's Parish  
Monastery Road, Pantasaph,  
Holywell. CH8 8PE



**APRIL 28, 2024**

## **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

### **Mass Timings**

Saturday Vigil Mass      4.00 Pm  
Sunday Mass                      10.00am  
Weekdays                      9.00 am    In Denbigh House

### **READINGS**

First Reading -                      Acts 9:26-31  
Second Reading -                      1Jn.3:18-24  
Gospel -                                      Jn 15:1-8

### **REFLECTIONS**

**The first reading**, taken from the Acts of the Apostles, testifies to the abundance of spiritual fruits yielded by the apostles because of their close bond with the risen Lord. The reading tells us how the Lord pruned Saul of Tarsus, who had persecuted the Church, to produce a fruit-bearing branch called Paul, the zealous Apostle to the Gentiles.

**In the second reading**, John, in his first letter, explains that only if we remain united with Christ by putting our Faith in him and drawing our spiritual strength from him, will we be able to obey God's commandments, especially the commandment of love.

**Today's Gospel** text is part of Jesus' "*farewell discourse*" during his Last Supper with his disciples.

There are numerous Old Testament passages which refer to Israel as a vine: "*The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel,*" sings the prophet Isaiah in his song of the Vineyard (Is 5:1-7). "*Yet I planted*

*you a choice vine*” is God’s message to Israel through Jeremiah (Jer 2:21). “*Israel is a luxuriant vine,*” says Hosea (Hos. 10:1). Israel the old vine produced bitter grapes and they are rejected by Yahweh. That is why Ezekiel says that it should be burned in the fire (Ez 15).

Since Israel has become a degenerated vine producing bitter wild grapes, Jesus makes the unique claim that he is the true and ideal Vine and his disciples are the living and fruit-producing branches. To be fruitful, one must be joined to the true Vine, Christ. This image of the Vine also helps us to understand the unity of the Church. St. Paul explains that we are Christ’s Mystical Body in which all the members are intimately united with the Head and united to one another (1 Cor 12:12-26; Rom 12:4-5; Eph 4: 15-16).

John describes that God the Father removes every branch that bears no fruit and prunes the other branches, so they may bear more fruit. This is a warning to the disciples that if they do not produce the fruits of the Holy Spirit they will be cut off from salvation. God prunes the believer and removes those attachments and behaviours detrimental to productive discipleship. This pruning is done through the Word of God.

An intimate union with Christ is essential to bear fruit. The Church provides necessary means to remain in such union through the sacraments. St. John alludes also to the fact that disciples always should remain in communion with the church, the body of Christ through which we get the life sap to produce fruits. Those factions and schismatic groups started emerging in the church during the end of First Century were not able to produce fruits of the Holy Spirit.

2) Let us abide in Christ and let Christ abide in us: The four Gospels teach us how to become true disciples of Jesus and how to abide in him as branches abide in the main trunk of the vine and how to draw their life from the vine. Personal and liturgical prayers, frequenting of the Sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation, daily and meditative reading of the Bible, and selfless, loving acts of

kindness, mercy and mutual loving forgiveness, all the fruits of God's Grace acting within us, assist us in abiding in Jesus, the true Vine, as fruit-bearing branches.

## **SUNDAY COLLECTIONS- APRIL 21, 2024**

Loose cash	£85.57
Gift Aid	£105.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£190.57</b>

### **SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION**

**Sacrament of Confession at 11.30 am on Saturday.  
ON EMERGENCY ANY TIME 0741-749-4277**

**Let us Remember the Sick in Prayer**  
Philip McGreevy, Antony Parry

### **GIFT AID ENVELOPE BOXES**

The Gift Aid Envelope Boxes for this year are ready for collection. The Parishioners are requested to collect them from the back of the Church. Those who have not yet signed a Gift Aid Declaration Form are requested to get one from Fr. Paul. 25% of the donation given by the taxpayers will be given back to the Parish by the Government, and it will be an extra source of income for the parish.

### **HOUSE BLESSING**

Fr. Paul and Fr. Jose will be most happy to avail themselves for the blessing of the houses of the Parishioners during the coming months. If anybody like the priests to come and bless the house, please approach Fr. Paul, and fix a convenient date and time.

## **FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

Patrick Nagle, who was one our devoted parishioner and a steward for many years, was called to eternal rest on April 15, 2024. His funeral is scheduled for April 30, Tuesday at 11.00 am. As a tribute to our beloved Paddy form the parish let us participate in the Requiem Mass followed by the interment in our cemetery. May his soul rest in peace.

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

Thomas Casson, Mary Richard, William Griffiths, Jim Keers, Mary Agnes, McGrath, Arnold Ravenscroft, Jnr, Edie Taylor Olley, Aldheim Parfitt, Eileen O'Brien, Alice Mills, Raymond Clarke, Fr. Edward Swarbrick, Fr. Mark Elvins OFMCap, Pauline Foster, Mary Fleming, Fr. Matthew Kelly

## **MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>OFFERED BY</b>	<b>INTENTION</b>
April 27, Saturday	Gerard Rhodes	Jim Keers RIP
April 28, Sunday		For the parishioners
April 29, Monday	Lee Gini	Reunion of the Children
April 30, Tuesday	Andree and Jeff Marrett	50 <sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary
May 1, Wednesday	Sharlet,Leiteo, Frank Dsilva Family	Ending court case
May 2, Thursday	Louisa Parry	Antony Parry
May 3, Friday	Louise Parry	Chris Healey

## **DONATIONS TO THE PARISH**

Account Name: Wrexham Diocesan Trust

Account Number: 08190771, Sort Code: 55-81-42

Website: <http://www.pantasaph.org>,

Email: [pantasaphstdavids@gmail.com](mailto:pantasaphstdavids@gmail.com)

Phone: 0741-749-4277, 01352 711053,

Registered Charity No. 70042