



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.

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024

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



A Word from Pope Francis

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

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

## THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024



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 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, Year B

Getting to know Jesus makes life joyful.  
Learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church: all are very warmly invited.

2024 The Year of Prayer: Family Time Prayer & Share

Good News for Everyone

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.



# Good News for Families

## TOGETHER TIME



### 1 READ & REFLECT! Listen & Learn with Jesus, the Word!

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 word or words stood out for you in this Sunday's Gospel, and why? Spend a few relaxing moments pondering the picture together. Share any thoughts before moving on.

### Sunday Gospel Gallery

Imagine you are here with Jesus. What can you see? How do you feel? What does it make you think about?

### 2 SHARE & CARE! Growing in Goodness & Love: This Wednesday's Word...

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

## GROWING



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.

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 better listeners and more patient with the people around us.

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

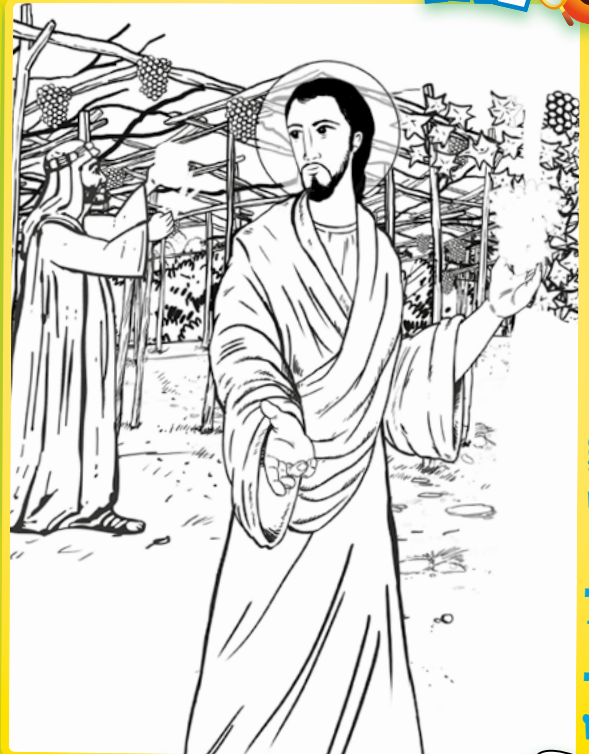


**WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH**

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>JESUS</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>VINE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>PEOPLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>BRANCHES</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>REMAIN</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>JOINED</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>MUCH</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>FRUIT</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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



Find and draw 5 differences, then colour the picture

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.



This week I will try my best to...

.....



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley