

5th Sunday of Easter

28th April 2024



Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. John 15



The words of this Sunday's Gospel encourage and console us today as they did Jesus's apostles when he spoke to them the night before his death. Living a truly Christian life is never easy. We have always the attraction and temptations of the world to make that life less easy still.

Having the ordinary comforts of life and the possession of some of this world's goods is not wrong or anti-Christian, but the natural temptation is to get more and more of these comforts and riches, and the point is soon reached where this can become the only purpose in life. It is indeed hard to swim against the current; it is so much more pleasant to allow oneself to be carried along without effort by the rushing tide. Our Lord has warned us today, as he warned his first followers, to abide in him, to remain closely united with him, as is the branch to the vine, if we hope to bear fruit worthy of heaven. He promises us that if we remain closely united to him, that is, if we strive daily to keep his commandments, he will be ever ready to answer our requests, and to heed all our prayers.

The sincere prayer today of all those of us trying to lead a Christian life is for the grace to overcome these temptations. Let us take courage, then that Christ has promised to remain beside us during life if only we stay close to him. While we remain healthy branches of the vine, Christ, we will be on the road to heaven. Our daily tasks, our work as well as our prayer, our recreation as well as our rest, our joys as well as our sorrows, will give glory to God and prove that we are worthy to be called disciples of Christ.

This week let us pray for:

- ◆ the light of the Easter message shining across the world;
- ◆ strength and support for all those facing difficulties;
- ◆ all those who are feeling isolated;
- ◆ all those connected to our community who are unwell, upset or mourning.



“We proclaim the resurrection of Christ when his light illuminates the dark moments of our existence.” - Pope Francis

A Prayer for SS Philip and James—3rd May

O God, who gladden us each year
with the feast day of the Apostles Philip and James,
grant us, through their prayers,
a share in the Passion and Resurrection
of Your Only Begotten Son,
so that we may merit to behold You for eternity.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
who lives and reigns with You in the unity
of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

An Easter Prayer

Dear God,
Thank You that You make all things new. Thank You for the victory and power in Your name. Thank You that You hold the keys over death, that by Your might, Jesus was raised from the grave, paving the way for us to have new life with You. Thank You that You had a plan, that You made a way.
We confess our need for You...fresh...new...again. We ask that You renew our hearts, minds, and lives, for the days ahead. We pray for Your refreshing over us. Amen