



DAY	FEAST	READINGS	TIME
Mon 29	5th Week of Easter Psalter Week I St Catherine of Siena	Acts 14: 5-18; Jn 14: 21-26.	5:30 PM
Tue 30	5th Week of Easter Psalter Week I St Pius V	Acts 14: 19-28; Jn 14: 27-31.	5:30 PM
Wed 1	5th Week of Easter Psalter Week I St Joseph the Worker	Acts 15: 1-6; Jn 15: 1-8.	5:30 PM
Thu 2	5th Week of Easter Psalter Week I St Athanasius	Acts 15: 7-21; Jn 15: 9-11.	5:30 PM
Fri 3	SS. PHILIP AND JAMES	1 Cor 15: 1-8; Jn 14: 6-14.	12: 15 PM
Sat 4	5th Week of Easter Psalter Week I	Acts 16: 1-10; Jn 15: 18-21.	5:30 PM
Sun 5	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Psalter Week II	Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 Jn 4: 7-10; Jn 15: 9-17.	8:00 AM 5:30 PM

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28th April 2024

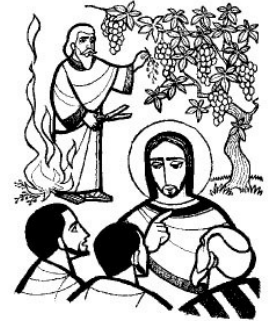
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Year B

Reading I: Acts 9: 26-31;

Responsorial Psalm: 21: 26-28, 30-32;

Reading II: 1 John 3: 18-24;

Gospel: John 15: 1-8.



Revised Roman Missal:674; Bahasa: 597.

REFLECTION

The deep meaning of the allegory of the vine and the branches is the **mystical union between Christ and believers**. The trunk, branches, and fruit suggest many things to those who listened to Jesus. The stability of the trunk evokes the certainty of faith. Fruitfulness opens horizons for Christian hope.

1. **The Paschal cycle ends and the risen Christ has left key messages today and the previous Sundays:** He is the Good Shepherd who gives his life for his sheep, is the master who teaches us the commandment of love, in which we are the branches that receive life and produce fruit if we are united to the vine. We cannot ignore the invitation to remain in the fold of Christ, and still less, become united to the vine which gives much fruit.

The allegory is clearly a life of communion with Christ. Grace is communicated to us through the sacraments and gives fruits of holiness and apostolate if we remain united to God. In contrast the separation from Christ produces fruitlessness and death. "Without me you can do nothing."

2. **The disease most prevalent in our day is loneliness, say psychologists.** This is found mainly in countries of higher living standards. Many children suffer from loneliness because their parents are too busy doing other things. Many young people feel misunderstood. They are married living in solitude.

Those living in communities of consecrated life can also live solitary lives, if they have not found friendship with Christ and vegetate unenthusiastically amid the turmoil of their occupations. The elderly especially suffer from loneliness, neglect, abandonment, and are considered a burden. These people have done much in their lives and now may be surrounded by everything but love.

3. **The loneliness is unbearable for anyone who is surrounded by thousands of people who are unrelated and unknown.** Our cities are home to multitudes of people we do not know. Among those that are known, few are real friends. The relationships are superficial and can be short-lived. The interior pain is externalized in depression and anxiety, which can bring more than one to suicide. Our sophisticated and technical world does not favor the deep relationships between people as such.

When John says, "you remain in Christ!" he is asking us not only to live "as" or follow "behind", or that we live "as" or walk "with" him, but live "in" Him. Our program of life should be in communion with God. Certainly to "remain in" is not interpreted passively, but is a dynamic and compromising program.

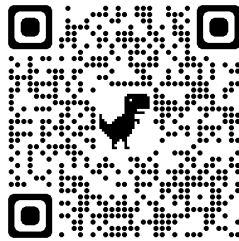
God is the answer to the problem of loneliness. His knowledge of us is intimate, personal, and profound. He knows our weaknesses, needs and wishes, even before being displayed. I invite you to begin to live like the branch, together with the true vine which is Christ the Lord.

8 Day PILGRIMAGE to KYUSHU, Japan (7 - 14 October, 2024)

Christianity first came to Japan in 1549, when the Portuguese missionary Francis Xavier arrived in the country. The same year he gained permission from Shimazu Takahisa, the feudal lord of Kagoshima in southern Kyushu, to establish a Catholic mission. Takahisa was hoping to start a good trade relationship with Europe, by allowing the Christian mission. The idea was at first supported by the Shogunate, who saw it as an opportunity to create some counteraction for the strong Buddhist movement in Japan. Christianity spread quickly through Japan, especially southern Japan, and the Shogunate started to oppose the Christian presence in Japan. The twenty six Martyrs of Nagasaki became famous as they were the first to die in Martyrdom, but many other cases followed. In 1632, fifty five Christians were also executed in Nagasaki – an event which has been dubbed the Great Genna Martyrdom.

TOUR COST - \$ 3,968 (PER PERSON, TWIN SHARING)

Our itinerary will cover the martyrdom sites, churches and memorials of the Christians during this period. More details can be found via the QR code on the right.



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Second Collection

The Second Collection today will be for the **Seminarian Fund**.

New RCIA Classes

If you know of anyone who is interested in becoming a Catholic or would like to know more about the Catholic faith, please get them or help them to register online for the 2024-2025 RCIA class. The English RCIA class will start on Monday, 6th May 2024 at 7:30 PM. The Bahasa RCIA starts on 2nd May at 6:00 PM. The Iban RCIA will start on 13th May at 8:30 PM.



Flores de Mayo (1st & 31st May)

Flores de Mayo will be held this year on the 1st and 31st May. We will recite the rosary and offer bouquet of flowers to the Virgin Mary after the 5:30pm Mass. You can also consider honoring our Blessed Mother in this way on your own or with your family on other days too.

Fr Robert's birthday potluck (4th May)

There will be a potluck celebration on Saturday, 4th May at 7 PM, for Fr Robert's birthday. All are invited to join.

Sunday School Family Mass (5th May)

The next Sunday School Family Mass will be on Sunday, 5th May at 10:30 AM. Attendance for students is mandatory and will be taken. Parents, families and teachers are encouraged to join.

PPC Meeting (8th May)

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council members will be on Wednesday, 8th May at 7:30 PM in Fr McClorey's room.

Ascension of the Lord (9th May)

This Holy day of Obligation, commemorates Christ's Ascension into Heaven from Mount Olive 40 days after He rose from the dead (Mark 16:14-20). The Mass on this day will be at 6:00 PM.

Novena to the Holy Spirit (10th—18th May)

The Novena to the Holy Spirit will begin on 10th May and end on 18th May. The novena will start immediately after the daily Mass. For Sunday, it will start at the end of the 5:30 PM Mass. Please note that there will be no Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help on May 11th and May 18th. The Holy Hour on May 10th and May 17th will also be cancelled.

Infant Baptism (11th May)

The next Infant Baptism will be on Saturday, **May 11th at 2:00 PM**. Please register your child with the Parish Office. The pre-baptism class for parents and godparents will be on Tuesday, May 7th at 7:30 PM in the Parish Office meeting area.

Mass cancellations (13th—17th May)

There will be no Mass from Monday May 13th to Friday, 17th May when the priests of the vicariate are away for their annual retreat. Please keep them in your prayers. They will be joining the Sarawak priests retreat in Sibu.

Jesus is the True Vine

Jesus says that He is the vine and we are the branches. Branches grow out from a vine and receive their food from the main stem. They grow leaves and bear fruit.



Our souls get their life from Jesus. When we stay united with Him then our souls are healthy and able to do good works, like the grapes that grow on a healthy vine.



Doing a serious sin is like cutting oneself off of the main vine. The nutrition can't flow into the branch because it's cut off! The branch can't grow leaves or fruit and it withers and dries up. Even though you can't see it, that is what happens to a soul that doesn't have God's life coming into it.

Sometimes a branch of a vine needs to be pruned. A bit gets cut off, but then it grows even better where it was cut. In the same way, sometimes God lets us suffer, but then our souls can grow even stronger and bear more good fruit. Next time you are suffering, remember that God might be using this time to make your soul stronger!

