

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

The Fifth Sunday of Easter
10th May 2009



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Have you ever watched the TV and seen a report about someone who is doing sterling work, helping people and making a real difference to the world around them? And then you find out they don't even believe in God? That's because you don't have to believe in God to do good and you don't have to be a Christian to make a difference to the world. But today Jesus tells us that only those who "remain" or "abide" in him will be following the Christian path. So what does it mean to "remain" in him?

A vine branch is lifeless and useless unless it remains attached to the vine. Inside it there is living sap that flows throughout the vine into each of the branches enabling each branch to produce fruit. For us to abide in the vine means that we are going to be people who are depending upon Christ and who are allowing the power and the Spirit of Christ to flow through us and in us. So, remaining in the vine means living our lives with the Trinity consciously present within us. And only if we do this will we bear fruit that will last as we become more and more like Christ. For when we "remain" attached to the vine, we become more like Jesus and we want to tell others about the source of our life. When we become more like Jesus we pray more and our approach to life changes: we treat people more like Jesus did, we talk to people like Jesus did and we are prepared to go that extra mile like Jesus did.

One of the great risks that we run is to think that by our own effort we can make ourselves better and that we can make a lasting difference to our world. Yet Jesus reminds us that we are only branches of the vine and that branches cannot bear fruit all by themselves. We need to be attached to the trunk of the vine itself.

At the start of each day are we conscious of "remaining" in Christ? Do we speak to Christ during our waking hours? Do we ask for help and support in the decisions we make? Are our lives a go-it-alone affair or are they lived in God's presence?

Anyone who bears fruit is doing something good. But Jesus tells us that only if we "remain" in him and are part of the vine will our fruit last.

THE ANNUAL WEEF COLLECTION

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Westminster Ecclesiastical Education Fund last weekend. We raised £738.71 and all of this money will be used to both support those who are already preparing for the priesthood and to ensure that we maintain our seminary for future generations.

If you have not yet made a donation, please give as much as you can. You will find envelopes at the back of the church.

INTERNATIONAL PENTECOST CELEBRATION SATURDAY 30TH MAY 2009

The Pentecost Mass and Celebration Party will be taking place on Saturday 30th May at 6.30pm. We would like to invite you all to celebrate with us. What we need from you are flags, national dress, help with music, prayers, food and decorations for the party afterwards. To add your country to the Great Pentecost Celebration please contact Sharon on 07979 800 974 or Denise on 07966 077 529.

DIOCESAN YOUNG ADULT PILGRIMAGE TO TAIZE, FRANCE – 8-16 AUGUST 2009

Join Bishop John Arnold and other young Adults (18-30s) from around the Diocese on pilgrimage to this unique Christian Community. A 'Holiday' with a difference, meet other young adults from the diocese, meet other people from around Europe and the world, a time for prayer, space and reflection, spend time with the Taize brothers. Take time-out in 'sunny' Central France. Price: £200. For further details, contact Dave Burke, tel: 020 7798 9357, email: davidburke@rcdow.org.uk web: www.taizepilgrimage.wordpress.com.

PEDAL AGAINST POVERTY WITH CAFOD – SUNDAY 7TH JUNE

Join CAFOD for a sponsored bike ride to help raise funds for CAFOD's poverty-fighting work overseas. The family friendly sponsored bike ride will take place on Sunday 7th June in the beautiful Lee Valley Country Park, Hertfordshire. (10 or 19 mile routes available). For further details and a registration form, please contact CAFOD on 0208 449 6970 or email Westminster@cafod.org.uk. You can also download a registration form from CAFOD's web page www.cafod.org.uk/pedalagainstopoverty. Closing date for applications 22nd May.

NEW EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS ROTA

The New Rota is now available in the usual place in the Sacristy. Please collect a copy.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

My vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.
May their hearts live for ever and ever!

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,
all families of the nations worship before him.
They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;
Before him shall bow all who go down to the dust.

And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.
They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,
declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:
'These things the Lord has done.'

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Make your home in me, as I make mine in you,
says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty.
Alleluia!

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 9:26-31
Psalm 21:26-28.30-32
1 John 3:18-24
John 15:1-8
Mass Times

NEXT WEEKS' READINGS: Acts 10:25-26.34-35.44-48
Psalm 97:1-4
1 John 4:7-10
John 15:9-17

SUNDAY	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	8.30am 10.45am 12.15pm & 6.30pm
Monday		10.00am
Tuesday	Nereus & Achilleus	10.00am
Wednesday	Our Lady of Fatima	10.00am
Thursday	Matthias	10.00am
Friday		10.00am
Saturday		6.30pm
SUNDAY	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	8.30am 10.45am 12.15pm & 6.30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation –
Saturday 10.30 – 11.00am & 5.45 – 6.15pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
There is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Church each Friday morning from 9.15 to 9.45.

Offertory Last Week: £1,671.05
plus the regular Standing Orders. Thank You!

SVP

The SVP Group meets on Monday evenings at 8.00pm in the Sacristy.

LEGION OF MARY

The Legion of Mary meets in the Sacristy at 10.45 on Tuesday mornings.

RCIA

The RCIA Group will meet on Tuesday evening at 8.00pm in the Presbytery.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

There will be a meeting for all who are being prepared for Confirmation on Thursday at 8.00pm in the Church.

FIRST COMMUNION

The Parish will again be celebrating First Communion this Sunday, we pray for the children and their families. They will take place during the 12.15 Mass each Sunday. The Folk Group will "move" from 10.45 Mass to the 12.15 Mass each week!

There will be a meeting at 5.30pm in the Church on Friday 15th May for the children and their parents who are celebrating their First Communion on this coming Sunday.

BAPTISMS THIS WEEK

Sunday 10th May at 2.00pm Dominic Znakouas

SPRING FAIR RAFFLE

Please see the list of winners at the Church Entrances. Prizes can be collected from the church office. One of the raffle prizes was won by a Bridie Tinsley, from Surrey. Would the person who sold/bought the ticket please collect it.

MULBERRY MAGAZINE

The Allen Hall seminary magazine 'The Mulberry' are available at the church entrances. **They are free.**

'EVER ANCIENT, EVER NEW'

A weekend with a new community exploring the beauty of following Christ as a vowed religious in the 21st Century. For men and women aged 18-38, Friday 15th – Sunday 17th May 2009. For further details visit www.walsinghamcommunity.org or call 01277 373848.

FAITH SHARING GROUP

The Faith Sharing Group will meet on Thursday 14th May 2009 at 2pm in the Presbytery.

AYLESFORD PILGRIMAGE SUNDAY 7TH JUNE

The Knights of St Columba are organising a coach again for their annual pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St Simon Stock at Aylesford in Kent. The programme will be Holy Mass at 12 noon, followed by Rosary, procession and benediction at 3.00pm. Pick up 9.30am at Waltham Cross, adults £12, children £6. Please contact Richard 01992 440968 or John 0208 363 3721.

THE CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (WESTMINSTER)

The Catholic Children's Society (Westminster) is inviting everyone to celebrate 150 years of the Society by coming together with friends and family to hold a Giant Picnic on 14th June! If you would like to take part in this fundraising event, please register by Friday 29th May 2009 by contacting Elise on 020 8969 5305 or email elisech@cathchild.org.uk. You will receive a Giant Picnic pack with posters, ideas for games, food and fundraising.

WELCOME MASS FOR THE NEW ARCHBISHOP

Archbishop Vincent Nichols will be celebrating a Mass for all the parishes in Hertfordshire at 7.30pm on Tuesday 26th May. The Mass will be at SS. Albans & Stephen Church in St. Albans. All are welcome!

ST JOSEPH'S GAELIC FOOTBALL CLUB

There is Football Training every Tuesday evening at 6.30pm at Bulls Cross Pitch. All are welcome, aged 7-18. For more details, please ring Noel On 01992 424673.