

5th Sunday of Easter(b) – 28th May 2024

Life in the Spirit – part V

Introduction

*leader: Greet the people and name the Sunday of the Year (see above)
 Acknowledge visitors and welcome them.
 Remind everyone about refreshments at the end of Mass ????
 Announce the theme of the liturgy (see next)*

Theme – fruitful disciples of Jesus are the glory of the Father!

*leader: In today’s gospel reading the disciples are imaged as branches growing from the Vine, Christ.
 The branches are tended and pruned by God (the Vinedresser).
 Wine is a symbol of happiness and love.
 This image links life in the spirit of the risen Jesus, with the role of the community of Christian disciples.
 The vine is the plant of love
 and the loving actions of a community united to Christ, show the unconditional living out the commandment to love!
 The good news of Easter is that through the risen Jesus others are empowered in the skills of living in new transforming ways!
 There is pain and sweat and the occasional failure.
 But this is the stuff out of which transformation happens.
 And it is the foundation of our deepest hopes for our world:
 (Announce the opening hymn:)*

Greeting

*presider: Ki te ingoa o te Matua, ✠ o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu:
 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose table we share, be with us:
 or
 Good evening/morning and the Lord be with you:*

*all: **And with your spirit.***

Penitential Rite *Invitation to Repentance*

either (confer with the Projectionist beforehand if you choose the: ‘I confess’.)

leader: Gathered together in Christ, let us ask forgiveness with confidence, for God is gentle and compassionate.

*all: **I confess: . . .***

and/or

*leader: "I'm the Vine," says the Lord, "You are the branches."
 We're not one with the Vine for refusing to love:
 - (pause) - Lord, have mercy:*

*all: **Lord, have mercy:***

leader: *"I'm the Vine," says the Lord, "You are the branches."
We are unproductive branches who deserve to be destroyed
because we set limits to our loving: - (pause) - Christ have mercy:*

all: **CHRIST, have mercy:**

leader: *"I'm the Vine," says the Lord, "You are the branches."
We run scared of being pruned by fair testings of our faithfulness.
We fail to realise our true potential to produce the fruit as witnesses to
justice and joy: - (pause) - Lord, have mercy:*

all: **Lord, have mercy:**

leader: *May almighty God, cleanse us of our sins and through the celebration
of this Eucharist make us worthy to sit at the table of God's realm.*

all: **Amen**

GLORIA *invitation*

either

leader: *With all the voices of heaven, let us sing praise, honour and glory to God.
or*

leader: *With peoples everywhere, let us glorify our God in joyful song.*

Opening Prayer

leader: *(Kia inoi tatou / Let us pray: ...) O God,
You graft us onto Christ, the true vine,
and, with tireless care, You nurture our growth
in knowledge and reverence.
Tend the vineyard of Your Church,
that in Christ each branch may bring forth fruit
to the glory of Your name;
the abundant fruits of faith and love.
Grant this through Jesus Christ:*

all: **Amen.**

Introduction to the first reading: *(Acts 9 : 26 – 31)*

leader: *The newly converted Paul, joins the disciples in Jerusalem and shares his
knowledge of Jesus' skills for living.*

Introduction to the second reading: *(1 John 3 : 18 – 24)*

leader: *The advice of the writer of the next reading is: there are many ways of
seeking God. However only an active love can assure us of communion
with the God who is love.*

Gospel Acclamation:

all: **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
My branches bear much fruit. Alleluia!***

Introduction to the gospel reading: *(John 14 : 15 : 1 – 8)*

leader: *Jesus at supper, before the Passover, had just given his friends the wine*

cup, symbol of his blood-poured-out in love (Jn. 13:4). Now Jesus presents himself as the true vine, which responds at last to the Vinedresser's care. The disciples are grafted on to this vine. One with it, they bear fruit. Cut off from the true vine, they will be burned. Pruned by trial, they will bear much fruit.

Homily Notes (presider)

- *God has given me life and all that comes with it – love, friends, beauty, opportunity and faith. I have already received in abundance. Beyond that, in the Resurrection, God has given me the promise of eternal life. My saying “Yes” to such generosity may be prudent, but it is certainly no credit to me. God should be glorified, not because of what I have done in responding to those gifts, but because of the offer of those gifts in the first place.*
- *The source of the gift is my union with Christ, a union described in the parable of the vine. In Baptism, I am as intimately united with Christ as branches are with the trunk and roots. This is not biological life which I have by virtue of being a breathing human, but the Christian life, a special form of human life.*
- *Today's second reading summarises Christian life. “We are to believe in the name of (God's) Son, Jesus Christ, and are to love one another as he commanded us”. The passage continues, saying that this is the way that we will remain united with Christ, remain part of the vine.*
- *But, what is it to believe, what is it to love? There is really no difference. The word “believe” comes from an old way of saying “Be in love”. To believe is to love. And love is not just an emotion. True, feelings are part of love, but at its most basic, love is a decision; a decision to act in a certain way towards another, towards others.*
- *That is the reason the second reading starts by calling us to action rather than nice words or good feelings. “Let us love one another in deed and in truth and not merely talk about it.”*
- *In the Acts, Saul shows what love calls for. He continues to proclaim the fact that he has met the Lord though no one trusts him and some even want to kill him. That is the basic vocation to which all followers of Jesus are called. We must show the world through our confidence in the face of frustration, threat and death that we are united to the true vine, the Risen Lord.*
- *We do this by public proclamation of our faith, uniting in prayer and worship with the community of those who follow Jesus. We do it by unselfish service of our neighbour. We do it by making our faith in Jesus the measure by which we make the day-to-day as well as the major decisions of our lives.*
- *Our objective is to draw others to union with Christ, so that they, too may share his vocation of showing his Father's love to the world. We have a tendency to think that living like St. Paul means that we have*

to be super-human. We feel guilty about not being like him, but at the same time, a bit relieved by the thought that we need not live lives that proclaim the Lord, because we are not super-saints.

- *God knows us, loves us and calls us just as we are. As John's letter says, we "are at peace before him no matter what our consciences may charge us with; for God is greater than our hearts and all is known to him".*
- *We need not be superior beings in order to live every moment of our lives as Christians. Neither does leading such a life make us into superior beings. When all is said and done, we are merely shoots from the true vine. Whatever we have comes from him, and without him, we are nothing.*
- *That is who God is blessed in whatever we do. It is the work of Christ in us, giving us his life, challenging us with his teaching. So, we move through life, being as faithful as we can, bearing what fruit we can, and rejoicing that God deserves the credit, but has chosen us to be the means by which the divine will is made real for the world.*
- *The Vine and branches image defines our liturgical action. Disciples are invited to think of their sharing in the once-and-for-all sacrificial death of Jesus, as their "pruning" in order to produce even more fruit!*
- *In the moment of worship we come to the threshold where the unfinished work of producing the fruit of the Spirit, can be renewed.*
- *Only the receivers of the gift of Jesus' spirit can determine the extent they permit the new awareness of God's saving reality, to prune back their old ways of living.*
- *The liturgy and its presenters provide the material for cutting away the deadwood. But permission to prune, belongs to the hearers of the liturgical texts.*
- *This precious moment must be hosted with patient awe. It makes serious transformation - the production of more fruits of the spirit - possible.*

Creed / Statement of Faith

Intercessions – 5th Week of Eastertide [Sun 28th April – Sat 4th May 2024]*invitation to pray:*

leader: *Friends in Christ, Jesus' rising from the dead gives glory to God and new vision to all who believe. With hearts full of joy, lets pray for the needs of the human family:*

1: *For modern disciples of Jesus. He has called us to bear fruit for the healing of the world. During this Easter season, O Lord, remind us of the gift of our baptism and renew our zeal in following You in Christ:*

- (pause) - *Divine vinedresser, hear us:*

all: **Divine vinedresser, hear us.**

2: *For those responsible for instructing the young. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to empower us. May we be ready to recognise and claim the gifts we have been given: - (pause) - Source of true Blessings, hear us:*

all: **Source of true Blessings, hear us, hear s.**

3: *For our Troubled World. May the Spirit of the Risen Jesus, inspire all who are working for a real and active Peace: - (pause) – Inspirer of Peace-makers, hear us:*

all: **Inspirer of Peace-makers, hear us.**

4: *For those government employees affected by the down-sizing of the public service, find sources of income and support:*

- (pause) - *God of Resourcefulness, hear us:*

all: **God of Resourcefulness, hear us.**

5: *For the sick: we pray for:*

Mangawhai: **Petronella ter Veer, Matteo Gray, Pamela Downes, Petronella Brom, Lorna Bockock, Geraldine Choromanski, Judy Perry, Veronica Grigg, Margaret Rissman, Roselle & Owen McGrane, Richard Henry, Bob Walters,**

Maungaturoto: **Trevor Brljevich, Tony Ruiterman, Bill Lewis, Beverly Simons, Bob & Julia Bland, Peter McHugh, Adolph Layec, Jeremy McCroskerey, . . .**

Wellsford: **Dallas Colville, Alec Colville, Lucille Jenneker, Rita McCurran, Wilma Jansen, Gerard McCurran, Iris Barrow, Lagi Sands, Tim Emberson, . . .**

Bless them for they share in Christ's passion through their suffering:

- (pause) - *Healer of the sick, hear us:* all: **Healer of the sick, hear us.**

6: *For those who have died in the current conflicts in our world and for our dead whose anniversaries occur around this time including: Ted McCudden, Maria Kok, . . Number them among Your saints: - (pause) -*

Lord of the Living and the Dead, hear us:

all: **Lord of the Living and the Dead, hear us.**

Concluding Prayer:

leader: *We make these prayers in Jesus' name:*

all: **Amen**

Prayer over the Gifts

*presider: (Kia inoi tatou / Let us pray: ...) O God,
through the wonderful exchange of this sacrifice
You have made us sharers in Your own divine nature;
grant that our daily lives
may faithfully reflect the knowledge of Your truth.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord:*

*all: **Amen***

Preface (*Christ is priest and victim*)

presider: The Lord be with you.

*all: **And also with you.***

presider: Lift up your hearts.

*all: **We lift them up to the Lord.***

presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*all: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

*Presider: It is truly right and just,
our duty and our salvation,
that we should always sing Your glory, Lord;
but we praise You with greater joy than ever
in this Easter season
when Christ became our paschal sacrifice.
By offering his body on the cross,
he brought to completion the sacrifices of old.
By commending himself into Your hands for our salvation,
he showed himself the priest, the altar, and the lamb of sacrifice.
Therefore, the universe resounds with Easter joy,
and the choirs of angels sing the endless hymn of Your glory:*

*all: **Holy holy holy!***

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER – II**Memorial Acclamation**

(the Eucharistic Prayer ends with the great 'AMEN')

Introduction to the Lord's Prayer

either

*leader: With trust in God, who nourishes us in the hour of need,
let us pray as Jesus taught us:*

or

leader: Let us pray for the coming of God's realm as Jesus taught us.

*all: **Our Father, . . .***

*presider: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil;
graciously grant peace in our days,
that by the help of Your mercy,*

*we may be always freed from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

*all: **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours,
now and for ever. Amen.***

Sign of Peace

*presider: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles:
'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you'.
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church
and grant us the peace and unity of your Realm,
where you live, now and always:*

*all: **Amen.***

presider: The peace of the Lord be with you:

*all: **And with your spirit.***

leader: Let us offer each other a sign of peace:

Lamb of God

*all: **Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us (x2)
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.***

*presider: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
who by the will of the Father
and the work of the Holy Spirit,
through your death gave life to the world;
free us by this your most holy Body and Blood
from all our sins and from every evil:
keep us always faithful to your commandments
and never let us be parted from you.*

*all: **Amen***

either

*presider: Behold the Lamb of God. Behold him who takes away the sins of
the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.*

or

*presider: This is the bread come down from heaven;
whoever eats this bread will never die.
This is the cup of eternal life;
whoever drinks of it will live forever:*

*all: **Lord, I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof,
but only say the Word and my soul shall be healed.***

Holy Communion

*presider: Ko te Tinana o te Karaiti:
(Ko nga Toto o te Karaiti:)*

Prayer after Communion

*leader: (Kia inoi tatou / Let us pray: ...) Lord,
remain close to the people
You have enriched with these heavenly mysteries,
and grant that we may pass from our former ways
to new life in the risen Christ.
We make our prayer in the name of Jesus, the Lord:*

*all: **Amen.**
(an opportunity for announcements/notices etc. ...)*

Dismissal

*leader: We are sent; in the name of God,
Tender Vinedresser, who touches the things of Earth
and makes them fruitful;
we are sent in the name of Jesus,
who prays in the Eucharist to unite the branches;
we are sent in the name of the holy Spirit,
the Living Sap that feeds the branches
to produce even more fruit;
We are sent as branches of God's true Vine,
in the spirit of the risen Christ,
to produce an abundant vintage;
the new wine of joy and justice,
until we gather again.*

*all: **Amen***

The Blessing

*presider: Kia whakapaingia koutou e te Atua kaha rawa,
e te Matua, e te Tamaiti ✠ e te Wairua Tapu.*

*all: **Amene***

*leader: The Mass has ended, go in peace
to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*all: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!***