

Sunday 3rd May 2021
I Am The True Vine

Gather Together...

Take time together as a family, find a quiet space, perhaps play some music, light a candle and sit comfortably.



Make the Sign of the Cross

Listen Together...

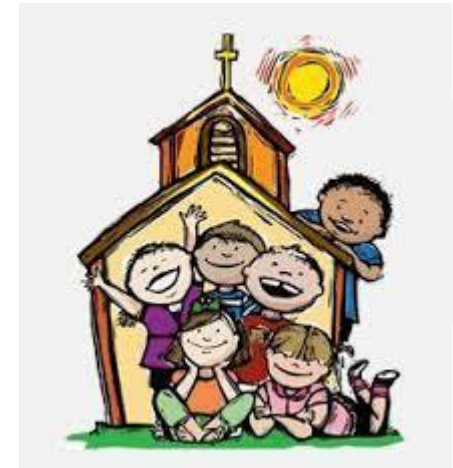
Listen to this week's scripture, from the Gospel according to John...

Jesus told his disciples, 'I am the true vine and my father is the gardener who tends the vine. Any of my branches which don't bear fruit are cut away and the branches which carry fruit are pruned by him so that the following year they will produce even more.

Because you have listened to and understood my message, you will bear much fruit. A branch that is cut off the vine will wither and die without producing any fruit. If you stay close to me and carry me in your heart then you will bear much fruit and truly be my disciple.'

Respond Together...

- A gardener's job is to make sure that the plants which he or she tends to are healthy and strong. One way they do this is by pruning. Do you know what pruning a plant means? Pruning means cutting away any dead, damaged or weak stems or



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branches of a plant or tree. Pruning encourages new growth by making the other buds and shoots grow strong and healthy. By careful pruning, the good gardener keeps his plants strong and healthy and every year they will produce more and more fruit.

- In the Gospel today who was the vine and who was the gardener? Jesus described himself as being like a vine with us as the branches. God was the gardener who took care of the vine and its branches.
- What do you think Jesus was trying to say by telling this story? Jesus used this story to explain that we are all part of him. It is through Jesus that we all have life and through the work of his father (the gardener) that we flourish and grow strong. God 'prunes' away the things in our life that make us weak or stop us from growing strong in faith and love.
- What are the fruits that Jesus wants us to bear? Jesus is living and working in our lives, in our thoughts, our actions and in our words. By being kind and loving, ready to forgive and honest and generous, the fruits of his love are there for all to see.

Pray Together... Lord, fill us with your life and love so that we will produce much fruit and a rich harvest for your sake. Amen.

