

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 97)

ANTIPHON: The Lord has revealed to nations his saving power.

RESPONSE: The Lord has revealed to nations his saving power.

LECTOR: Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. **R.**

LECTOR: The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. **R.**

LECTOR: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

Or

Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord said: I will not leave you orphans. I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

TODAY'S READINGS Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 John 4: 7-10; John 15: 9-17

NEXT WEEK (Ascension of the Lord, Year B) Acts: 1:1-11; Ps 46; Ephesians 1: 17-23 or 4: 1-13; Mark 16: 15-20

Brighten up
your day with
The Majellan

Figuring out Families

The teenage brain is an interesting topic of discussion as most parents would agree. Author, parenting expert and CEO of Win Win Parenting, Rosina McAlpine says teens tend to be socially and emotionally immature during their teenage years. This podcast provides a fascinating insight into the teenage brain and despite what many teenagers believe, parents are not trying to curb their fun. Rosina says it's all about love and connection. Go to majellan.media/parenting-sessions/

Happy Mother's Day to all mums! You are indeed special

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Jesus' generous love



9 May 2021 6th Sunday Easter Year B

What constitutes a Christian community? What makes it authentic? St John's gospel tries to answer these questions. Jesus uses a simple agricultural image – a vine and its branches – to illustrate his teaching on community.

Just as branches on a vine derive their life and fruitfulness by being attached to the vine, so do Christians live by being in union with God and produce godly fruit. God's inner life in the trinity is one of union in mutual love. This union spills over to creation. We and all of creation are the fruit of this love. Jesus, in today's gospel passage develops the practical consequences of being branches attached to the vine. Jesus insists that his followers are to imitate this loving inner life of the Trinity. We are to love one another as fully and freely as God loves us. Moreover, we are instructed to use this love to benefit society. It is by performing acts of love that distinguishes us as true disciples of Jesus.

Many years ago, I heard a priest tell a story that has stuck in my memory. He spoke of a pumpkin farmer who was inspecting his harvest in the early stages of the crop's growth. Near the edge of the crop, he found a large glass jar that had been abandoned by a passer-by. On a whim, he placed a small pumpkin inside the jar while being careful not to damage its attachment to the vine.

Months later, the crop was ready to harvest. The farmer rediscovered the plant he had placed in the jar. The pumpkin filled all the space in the jar but it was miniature compared to the rest of the pumpkins in the crop. It was unable to grow beyond the confines of its glass prison.

In the gospel, Jesus reminds us that his love for us is a love that is unfettered. He gives himself totally to us. He loves us to death. He regards each of his disciples as his intimate friend. He regards this friendship as reciprocal. He expects us to love him in return and to love one another in the same unfettered way he loves us. Regrettably, we often behave like the pumpkin in the glass jar.

We remain connected to the vine, but we allow external circumstances and the cares of life to constrict our growth in love. Jesus' generous love for us both inspires and calls us to allow love to grow to full maturity in us. It asks us to put aside any obstacle that chokes the expression of God's love. It tells us that Christian community is the place where unrestrained love is given, received and put into practice.

We are his chosen friends but only if we do what he commands us: to love one another without reserve.

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