



Holy Trinity Catholic Church

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Holy Trinity is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

Sunday 28 April 2024 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Readings: Year B

Dear Parishioners

"I am the True Vine". These words of Jesus are the seventh and final time he uses the "I am" introduction in the Gospel of St John. His listeners would recognise these two words as a self-description of the Lord God of Israel, to Moses, when he asked at the burning bush...who are you? "I am who I am". From that point, "I am" marked for the Jews the Divine, the Unknowable, the Unutterable. When Jesus says it of Himself, the people would know exactly what was being claimed. Nothing less than equality with God. "I am the True Vine". Jesus goes on to point out what we all know that for a plant or tree to be healthy and bear fruit, sap-life must flow through all parts. If a branch is broken off...then gradual but inexorable death follows. "Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away...he withers." What is the end of that broken branch? "these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt." Not a happy ending!

Jesus is trying to make his hearers understand that without a living connection, a relationship, with Him, they will die spiritually. Like any friendship, no interaction brings no future. The relationship withers and it will die. How do we maintain this connection with the Lord? The first and most vital way is through the Holy Eucharist, when we share in His Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity. Prayer is another vital life-line when in the words of St Teresa, "we talk with a friend". Works of mercy, serving those less fortunate with our money, time or talents is a third channel of grace for us. Three simple steps to a healthy, dynamic spiritual life, one that manifests itself in joy, peace, generosity of person and the fruits of the Holy Spirit of which St Paul writes.

As you know Daniel Lawson prepared well for his walk of the Camino and was helped enormously by Sonia (Anne and Carl's daughter) who completed her walk a while ago. A big thank you to Daniel and Sonia for their excellent collaboration and Camino talk on Friday. Phew! What a marathon! Truly inspirational reflections from both of them. Thank you to all who prepared food, set up the Lady Chapel and Parish Room and cleared away at the end.

Thank you also to all who are working behind the scenes with cleaning, flowers, newsletters, finance and general upkeep of our lovely churches. How blessed are we to have two beautiful places of worship.

God bless all Father Clive

Parish Notices

Masses next week: 9:15, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. 9:15 Friday Rosary for Peace.

Confirmation Class Tuesday 5 pm We continue our Confirmation preparation. May 8th will be on us soon when Canon Paul Fitzpatrick, our Episcopal Vicar, will be leading our Confirmation celebration.. This year we have 12 young people for this Sacrament, five from our school and seven from the parish. Please keep them in your prayers.

A reminder of Upcoming Parish Events:

Saturday 11 May Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham Please let Johnny know as soon as possible if you will join us as we need to arrange transport from Church.
johnnyhulme@me.com or call 0777 0433290

21 June at 7pm Wine Tasting (always competitive!) at the home of James and Juliet Byrne. More details to follow, including price of ticket to raise funds for CAFOD. Food will be served.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for April 2024: For the role of Women. We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognised in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world. Amen.

Please continue to pray for our sick, housebound and frail parishioners of both our Parishes: Carol Wilson, Tom Cantwell, Bridget Kennelly, Audrey Nellis, Richard O'Farrell, Mary Ward, Paula Biggs, Lynette Murphy, Betty, Ania.

In addition to your own daily prayers please remember: All those who mourn the loss of loved ones: The repose of the souls of those who have died: People whose anniversaries occur at this time: The people of the Middle East, Morocco, Ukraine, Turkey and Syria.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is **Tammy Lawson**. Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

