

FAITH @Home

Diocese of Waterford & Lismore

Celebrating and supporting faith, hope and love in the heart of the family!



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5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Year B

Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading:

Acts 9:26-31

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 21(22):26-28,30-32

Second Reading:

1 John 3:18-24

Gospel:

John 15:1-8

"Cut off from me you can do nothing"



Christ the True Vine icon (Athens, 16th century)

Hear

Grab your Bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries, you can find this week's readings [here](#).

Young children will enjoy [this animated video](#) which explains this week's Gospel and readings.

Pray

Go on a nature walk. Make a special effort to take in and notice everything around you - the colours, sounds, animals, weather. Reflect on the beauty of creation, God's gift to you. We are to be good stewards of God's gifts and care for all creation. God in His deep love and mercy created us. Each one of us is unique and beautiful and we possess many gifts and talents. Notice how each tree and its leaves are different, unique, and beautiful - just like you!

Talk

Together pray and reflect on the commandment of Jesus to "Love one another as I have loved you." Quietly reflect on how you show love to others throughout your day at home, with your family or your friends. Think about how you reflect the love of God to others by your actions (being a good friend, being kind, being of service to others). Ask God to help you see more opportunities in your day to be a "branch" of God reaching out to others and showing them God's love. Share with your family what comes to mind.

Family Challenge!

As you go on your nature walk this week why not take a small bag with you and pick up any rubbish you see on your walk. Put it in the proper bin when you get home



Kids' Corner

Check out page 3 for a picture to colour from this week's readings!

Mission: This week's Gospel teaches us the importance of staying close to Jesus. The closer we stay to Him, the more like Him we can be! Make a big effort this week to bring Jesus everywhere with you, when you're at home, at school, with your friends!

Song of the Week!
EVERY MOVE!
MAKE

Please email us at faithathome@waterfordlismore.ie [or click the [subscribe](#) button] if you would like to receive Faith@Home direct to your inbox each week!

"To the Heights" Post-Primary / Youth Version also available: click [SUBSCRIBE](#) / email youthministry@waterfordlismore.ie

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STAY IN TOUCH WITH JESUS

Today's Gospel offers us an image of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. The first disciples of Jesus were very close to Him. They knew him personally as a friend and teacher. They spent time in His presence listening to Him and observing Him. They allowed themselves to be taught and transformed by Jesus because they believed He was who He said He was – the Son of God – and they knew He deeply loved them. In this week's Gospel passage, Jesus teaches His disciples that His relationship with them will not end after His death. He promises to remain with them always. Jesus continues to be present with his people through His Church and in a special way through the Sacraments.

Each one of the Sacraments draws us deeper and deeper into a relationship with Jesus. They initiate us in the faith (Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Communion). They bring healing to our souls (Confession and Anointing of the sick) and they give us the grace to go out and share God's love in the service of others (Marriage and Holy Orders). The seven sacraments touch all the stages and all the important moments of our life. Jesus calls us to a life of constant communion with Him. Our communion with Jesus is strengthened by our prayer life and especially by the Eucharist. Through the Eucharist, Jesus dwells in us, remains with us, and transforms us so that we might bear fruit in his name. In the Eucharist, He is able to come and make His home in us. We are able to receive and welcome Him into our hearts and love Him in a way that no one else can.

Jesus wants us to know that in Him we have everything. In Jesus we are complete. It is impossible for us to have a need that He cannot meet. We have a BIG and infinitely powerful God. He is bigger than any problem or worry that we have. His ways are always higher than ours but so often we limit God and liken his ways to finite human thinking. Jesus wants us to talk with him about our lives and especially about our feelings. Our ultimate goal should not be to fix and control everything but to remain in Him, with He in us. A successful day is one in which we have stayed in touch with Jesus.

EVENTS

Quo Vadis: Catholic Zoom Series for Young Adults aged 18-35. Sundays 7-8pm, April 11th - May 2nd. "Sr Clare: Alone with Christ Alone!" A four-part series on the inspirational of Sr Clare Crockett, presented by the Servant Sisters of the Home of the Mother. **Contact events@waterfordlismore.ie or [click here](#)**

"Rooted": Lectio Divina Zoom Series for adults who would like to learn to read and pray with Scripture. Wednesdays 8 - 9.15pm from May 5th - June 16th. **Contact events@waterfordlismore.ie**

REVIVE Live-streamed event for Youth
Friday 30th April: 7.30 - 8.30 livestreamed on www.holyfamilymission.ie
More info: www.waterfordlismore.ie/youth-ministry

Family Prayer

Stay with me, Lord, for it is necessary to have You present so that I do not forget You. You know how easily I abandon You. Stay with me, Lord, because I am weak and I need Your strength, that I may not fall so often.
[Prayer of Padre Pio - [click here for full prayer](#)]

Carlo's Corner *Acutis*
JESUS, WANNA COME WITH?
If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. Jn 15:5



Can you imagine getting a new plant, and then deciding never to water it, or keep it in a dark room without sunlight? Cut off from nourishment and light, there's no hope it could thrive, or even survive. Sometimes, we shut ourselves off from Jesus, His light and His nourishment for our hearts, minds and souls. Sometimes we think we don't need Him, that we're doing just fine on our own. Yet, inside there can be a restlessness, or a sadness, or a feeling of lacking purpose or direction, or an emptiness that we don't always like to admit, even to ourselves. Jesus knows this can happen; that's why He warns us in today's Gospel of the dangers of separating ourselves from Him. What can we do about it? A simple start is to take a few minutes every day to talk and to listen to Him. Maybe we've gotten out of the habit of regular prayer. So start again! Consciously unite yourself to "the true Vine". Ask Jesus into your daily activities, even with a simple prayer like, "Jesus, I'm starting my study now, wanna come with?!" Stay united to Him, and He will fill you with every grace you need!

- [How to practice the presence of God](#) (Fr Mike Schmitz)
- [Great are You, Lord](#) (All Sons & Daughters)
- Use the attached [handout](#) to help you pray.

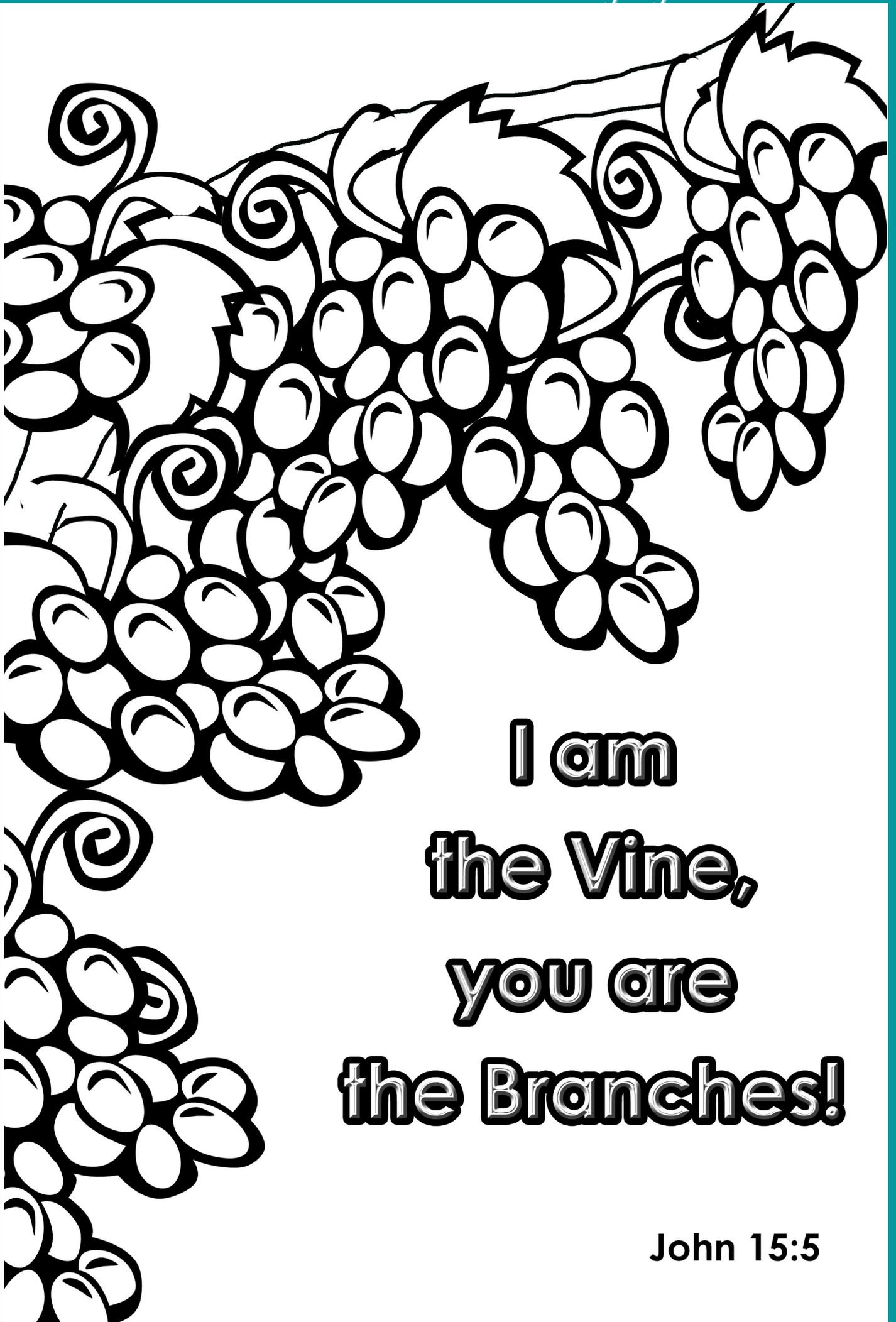


CHECK IT OUT: DIAL-A-PRAYER



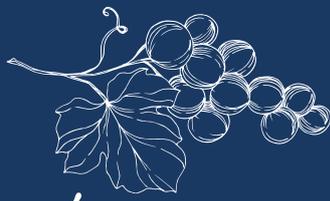
085 7611822 BETWEEN 2 - 3PM EACH DAY

The Sisters of Mary Morning Star in Waterford City offer Dial-a-Prayer for anyone who would like the Sisters to pray for their intentions. Phone 085 7611822 between 2 - 3pm each day with your intentions. The Sisters promise to bring the intentions, thoughts and prayers of people in the Waterford and Lismore Diocese to the Lord in their adoration and daily Mass. Check out the website for the [Sisters of Maria Stella Matutina](#).



**I am
the Vine,
you are
the Branches!**

John 15:5



CLICK HERE FOR SOME
RELAXING
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC



Doodle Prayer



Allow yourself some space to sit and reflect. You might prefer to play some music in the background, or just sit in silence. Reflect on Jesus' words, **"If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."** (John 15:5) and pray with them. Allow ideas, thoughts and images that come to you as you pray to form part of your doodle prayer. What are the areas of your life you need to invite Jesus into? What situations, relationships do you need His help with? What decisions do you have to make? Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your heart and your thoughts.

This is a particular space you are creating for God in your life today. Speak, and listen.

Remain in Me

