

## Reading Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May

### John 15 1-8

#### Jesus the true vine

Today's reading is another way Jesus explains to his disciples, his relationship to his Father, and the disciples relationship to Him and his Father. He uses the Vine, something that all the disciples would be very familiar with.

He talks about himself as the Vine, and his Father as the vine-grower. He firstly talks about removing every branch that bears no fruit, and later says that these branches will be thrown into the fire and burnt. I find this quite easy to accept, that those who do not accept Jesus ( those who do not abide in him) will not remain with him. How do you feel about this?

Jesus then talks about pruning the vine. So how do we understand this ? I think of the difficult times in my life when I have felt not quite so close to Jesus. I feel maybe I have had to go through these to become even closer to Jesus. I can then compare this to the vine being pruned to produce more fruit. We could say it is necessary to go through these times, and therefore, although difficult, they prove to be very valuable. Maybe, you feel the same way ?

Jesus concludes by telling his disciples that if we abide in Him, he will provide for us. He also tells us that if we bear much fruit, and become his disciples, his Father will be glorified by this. I find this encouraging but also a challenge to continue to work for him. If we do continue to work for him (if we bear much fruit), he will be glorified by what we do. Quite a challenge !

Take care and stay safe.

With love and blessings      Jill Gollins xx