

REFLECTION FOR WEDNESDAY, 5th WEEK OF EASTER

Acts 15:1-6 John 15:1-8

During his Last Supper discourse, Jesus uses one of his favourite images, the vine and the branches, to help his disciples understand the closeness of their relationship with him and the necessity of their maintaining it.

The image of the vine and the branches expresses the depth of his communion with his disciples, with all of us.

The Lord has taken the initiative to bring about this deep communion between him and us; he has laid down his life for us and poured the Spirit into our hearts.

We, for our part, must remain in communion with the Lord through faith, through prayer, and by and allowing his words to remain in us, by allowing his words to shape our lives.

We need pruning in our Christian life. Pruning which cuts out of our lives everything that is contrary to the spirit of Jesus and renews our commitment to Christian ideals in our lives every day.

A second kind of pruning is accomplished by practicing self-control over our evil inclinations, sinful addictions.

Let us abide in Christ and let Christ abide in us: Personal and liturgical prayers, frequenting of the Sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation, daily, meditative reading of the Bible and selfless, loving acts of kindness, mercy, and forgiveness, enable us to abide in Jesus, the true vine, as fruit-bearing branches.

If we abide in Christ, our lives will produce fruits of kindness, mercy, justice, charity, and holiness.

Fr Patrick