



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

3rd May 2015

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



**I AM THE
VINE.
YOU ARE
THE
BRANCHES.**

IF YOU
ABIDE IN ME
YOU WILL BEAR
MUCH FRUIT

Picture a vine and how it is looked after: barren shoots are cut off, and the healthy parts of the plant are pruned to stimulate more growth and produce more fruit. Obviously this only happens if the branch is part of the vine; cut off, it dies and is disposed of on the bonfire. This is a powerful metaphor for the relationship of Christ and us, the branches whose job is to bear fruit to give glory to God. Now look at how this picture might apply to the other readings. They both describe a growing community or a spreading vine. It starts abruptly with a totally new character, Saul, but we know who he is. The point is that from being an outsider, an unconnected branch, he is joined on to it by his meeting with Christ at Damascus, and now he is acknowledged as a branch of the vine and protected by it against people out to kill him. In the second part of God's Word we hear that the fruits that we bear are the keeping of the commandments - loving God and one another. If we do this we live in God and God in us - just as the branches live on the vine, with sap running through every sinew.

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Parish Office

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Also in Residence

**Bishop John Crowley
– Retired.**

SMILE LINES

A man was sitting quietly reading his paper when his wife walked up behind him and whacked him on the head with a magazine. 'What was that for?' he asked.

'That was for the piece of paper in your trouser pocket with the name Laura Lou written on it,' she replied.

'Two weeks ago when I went to the races, Laura Lou was the name of one of the horses I bet on. I bought you those flowers with the winnings,' he explained. 'Oh darling, I'm sorry,' she said. 'I should have known there was a good explanation.'

Three days later he was watching tv when she walked up and hit him on the head again, this time with a frying pan, which knocked him out cold. When he came to, he asked, 'what was that for?' 'Your horse phoned.'

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Did you know.....?

51% of British women under the age of 50 have never been married. Twice as many as in 1980.

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Loch Ness is deep enough and long enough to contain the entire population of the world ten times over.

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CONFESSIONS

Saturday: 10.30am - 11.00am and after the 6.00pm Mass.

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 2nd May

10.00am The People of the Parish
6.00pm Frank Lawson RIP

Sunday 3rd May

8.30am Raynah Watson RIP Anniv.
9.45am Molly, Monica & Ted Allen RIP
11.30am Dorothy Delaney RIP

Monday 4th May THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

9.15am Intention of Fr. James Fehrenbach

Tuesday 5th May

9.15am James Woods RIP

Wednesday 6th May

11.30am FUNERAL MASS
Bill Ramswell RIP

Thursday 7th May

11.00am Service of the Word

Friday 8st May

9.15am Jim Ryan RIP Anniv.

Saturday 9th May

10.00am Intentions of MB
6.00pm Imola Maldini RIP Anniv.

Sunday 10th May

8.30am Margaret Foulds RIP
9.45am Peter Vasquez RIP
11.30am Intentions of TB

QUOTE - Pope Francis

"Faced with this love of God, we experience great joy and we are open to gratitude for what we have received for free. However, it is not enough to contemplate and give thanks, but one must follow the Good Shepherd. In particular, those who have the mission as leaders in the Church - priests, bishops, popes - are called not to take on the mentality of 'manager,' but that of the servant, in imitation of Jesus who, stripping himself, has saved us with His mercy."