

Subject: Daily Prayer 13th April 2020 with reflection by Canon Simon Stephens

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Good morning everyone

Just a few moments of silence before we begin.....

Dear Lord

We thank you for the blessings which you bestow upon us daily

We thank you for the beautiful world in which we live

We thank you for friends and family

We ask you to bless all those people who are ill, frightened, hungry or oppressed in our world

We pray that you protect all of those who feel alone and forgotten

and we hold before you the weak and needy and ask that you may send the Holy Spirit that they may feel comforted and protected by Your love

In Jesus precious name

AMEN

John 15:1-8

Jesus the True Vine

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

And the devotion by Canon Simon Stephens

Wednesday 13 May 2020
John 15/vs 1 - 8
The Vine and the Branches

"I am the vine ; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit ; apart from me you can do nothing". Vs 5.

Good Morning! Across the Media, there is a preoccupation with how we invest our time during Lockdown. Qualified professionals from all disciplines, encourage safe guarding our physical and mental health, eating the correct diet and our daily exercises.

Newspapers provide us with recommended book-lists a mile long ; and by the end of the Pandemic, we will all be Cordon Bleu qualified chefs....but rarely if ever, does the care and cure of souls get a mention! There is criticism of both Church and Government for closing places of worship, but seldom if ever is space given to a theologian or Faith Leader, to help us navigate the darkness and uncertainty which surrounds us, so that we can find the light of hope.

This morning's Gospel invites each and every one of us, during this time of Lockdown to re-assess the quality and depth of our discipleship and to make amends. As my headmaster used to say to me, "Stephens there is room for improvement" - and I suppose the same can be said of all of us. How effective is our ministry, yours and mine, when we have proclaimed through Holy Baptism and Confirmation, that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Saviour ? We would do well to remember, that those who work in the vineyards of Mallorca, prune and destroy those branches that fail to bear fruit.

They are only given one chance - let us not squander ours! Have a good day!

Canon Simon Stephens

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen

An old Celtic blessing-

God's might to uphold you,
God's wisdom to guide you,
God's eye to look before you,
God'd ear to hear you,
God's word to speak for you
God's hand to guard you.

AMEN

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ
AMEN