



*Light and
Love in the
darkness*

CELEBRATING AT HOME FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

*Jesus, true vine
through fellowship with him
the branches bear much fruit (Jn 15:1-8)*

This resource is presented by the Carmelites of Australia & Timor-Leste at a time when we cannot gather together as we usually do to celebrate the Eucharist. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

Being Mother's Day in many parts of the world, you may also like to include photos of the mothers who are part of your family.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

CELEBRATING AT HOME

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord is here, present among us.

**We are gathered with the whole Church in
this moment of prayer.**

Preparing to hear the Word

Lord Jesus,
you are our Way.

Lord Jesus,
you are our Truth.

Lord Jesus,
you are our Life.

Risen Christ,
give us the courage and strength we need
to be your living presence in the world.
Amen.

Scripture Reading (John 15:1-8)

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘I am the true vine,
and my Father is the vinedresser.
Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts
away, and every branch that does bear fruit he
prunes to make it bear even more.

You are pruned already, by means of the word that
I have spoken to you.

Make your home in me as I make mine in you.
As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself,
but must remain part of the vine,
neither can you unless you remain in me.

I am the vine, you are the branches.
Those who abide in me, and I in them,
bear fruit in plenty;
for cut off from me you can do nothing.
Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away
like a branch and withers;

these branches are collected and thrown on the fire,
and they are burnt.

If you remain in me and my words remain in you,
you may ask what you will and you shall get it.

It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear
much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.

Reflection - *Jesus, true vine bearing fruit in us*

We are still on the Easter journey. After the three
day roller-coaster of emotions - from Jesus’ supper
with his disciples, through trial and crucifixion, to
the wonder of the women at the empty tomb - we
now prepare ourselves to celebrate the coming of
the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

During these fifty days, our journey is steadied and
enlightened by the words of the First Letter of St
John. It has a central message made clear in today’s
reading: we are asked to believe in Jesus and love
one another. We are then assured that we are not
alone in this challenge: “We know that he lives in
us by the Spirit that he has given us.”

The poet Gerard Manley Hopkins echoes this in *As
Kingfishers Catch Fire*:

“For Christ plays in ten thousand places,
Lovely in limbs, and lovely in eyes not his.”

This idea of Christ living within us is explored in
today’s Gospel where Jesus likens himself to the
“true vine.” He tells us: “Whoever remains in me,
with me in him, bears fruit in plenty.”

Through the gifts of the Holy Spirit we can hold
Christ within us, not only in our thoughts, our
ideas, our actions, but deep within ourselves, in our
souls and in our hearts. We are helped by prayer
and by reflecting on the words of scripture, maybe
meditating on the images, or by spending time with
the phrases that we particularly notice. Or we can
sit still and simply open our hearts and listen. Jesus
says: “If you remain in me and my words remain in
you ...”

Prayers of Intercessions

We pray for the whole Church and its leaders.
May we draw our life from you and bear the fruit of the kingdom.

We pray for genuine love among ourselves;
prompt us through free, honest and open discussion, to put aside our differences peacefully.

We pray in thanksgiving for the gifts, talents and skills unique to each of us;
help us to dedicate our gifts to the good of our human family.

Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus, we pray:

**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.**

Closing Prayer

Gracious God,
in the resurrection of Jesus
you share with us his risen life.
Transform our darkness, fear and isolation
with your comforting presence
so that we can be your calm, loving,
healing presence to each other.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing

May your blessing be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our trust in you.

