

## **FIRST READING – Baruch 3.9–15,32 – 4.4**

Hear the commandments of life, O Israel; give ear, and learn wisdom! Why is it, O Israel, why is it that you are in the land of your enemies, that you are growing old in a foreign country, that you are defiled with the dead, that you are counted among those in Hades? You have forsaken the fountain of wisdom. If you had walked in the way of God, you would be living in peace for ever. Learn where there is wisdom, where there is strength, where there is understanding, so that you may at the same time discern where there is length of days, and life, where there is light for the eyes, and peace.

Who has found her place? And who has entered her storehouses? But the one who knows all things knows her, he found her by his understanding. The one who prepared the earth for all time filled it with four-footed creatures; the one who sends forth the light, and it goes; he called it, and it obeyed him, trembling; the stars shone in their watches, and were glad; he called them, and they said, 'Here we are!' They shone with gladness for him who made them. This is our God; no other can be compared to him. He found the whole way to knowledge, and gave her to his servant Jacob and to Israel, whom he loved. Afterwards she appeared on earth and lived with humankind.

She is the book of the commandments of God, the law that endures for ever. All who hold her fast will live, and those who forsake her will die. Turn, O Jacob, and take her; walk towards the shining of her light. Do not give your glory to another, or your advantages to an alien people. Happy are we, O Israel, for we know what is pleasing to God.

*This is the Word of the Lord - Thanks be to God*

## **SECOND READING – 1 John 4.7-21**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loves us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one

another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

*This is the Word of the Lord - Thanks be to God*

## **GOSPEL READING – John 15.1-8**

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John - All: Glory to you, O Lord*

'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.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord - Praise to you,*

## Notices

**Mustard Seed Food Collection** – Today (Sunday 2nd May) we will be collecting for the Mustard Seed as usual, in the church car park here in Luz between 12 and 1pm, or alternatively you can bring anything you wish to donate to the 8am service 'in-church'. Thank you for your continued support and generosity to those in need.

**Services** - Hopefully you will all know that there are now two 'live' services a week that take place in the church. These are the Thursday service at 10.30am (although there is no Thursday service this coming week on the 6<sup>th</sup>) and the Sunday 8am services. If you would like to come to these then please let me know, as we need to keep the numbers below the allowed limit in church. The Sunday 10.30am Zoom service is still taking place as well. Thank you.

**This coming Thursday** – there will be no service this coming Thursday, the 6th May.

### **Collect**

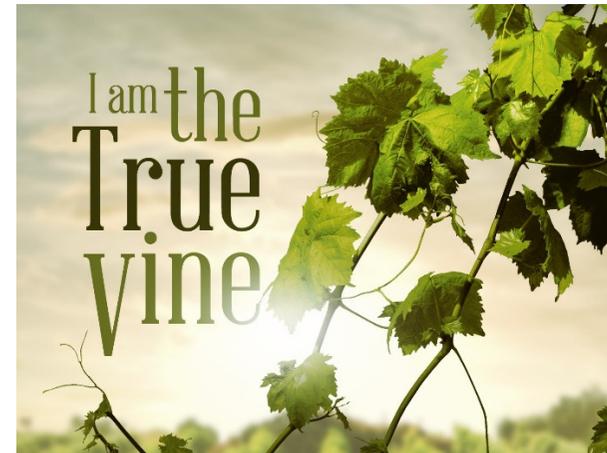
Almighty God, who through your only - begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.



**St. Vincent's Anglican Church, Algarve**

part of the Church of England, Diocese in Europe and the Anglican Communion

**SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> May**  
**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**



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