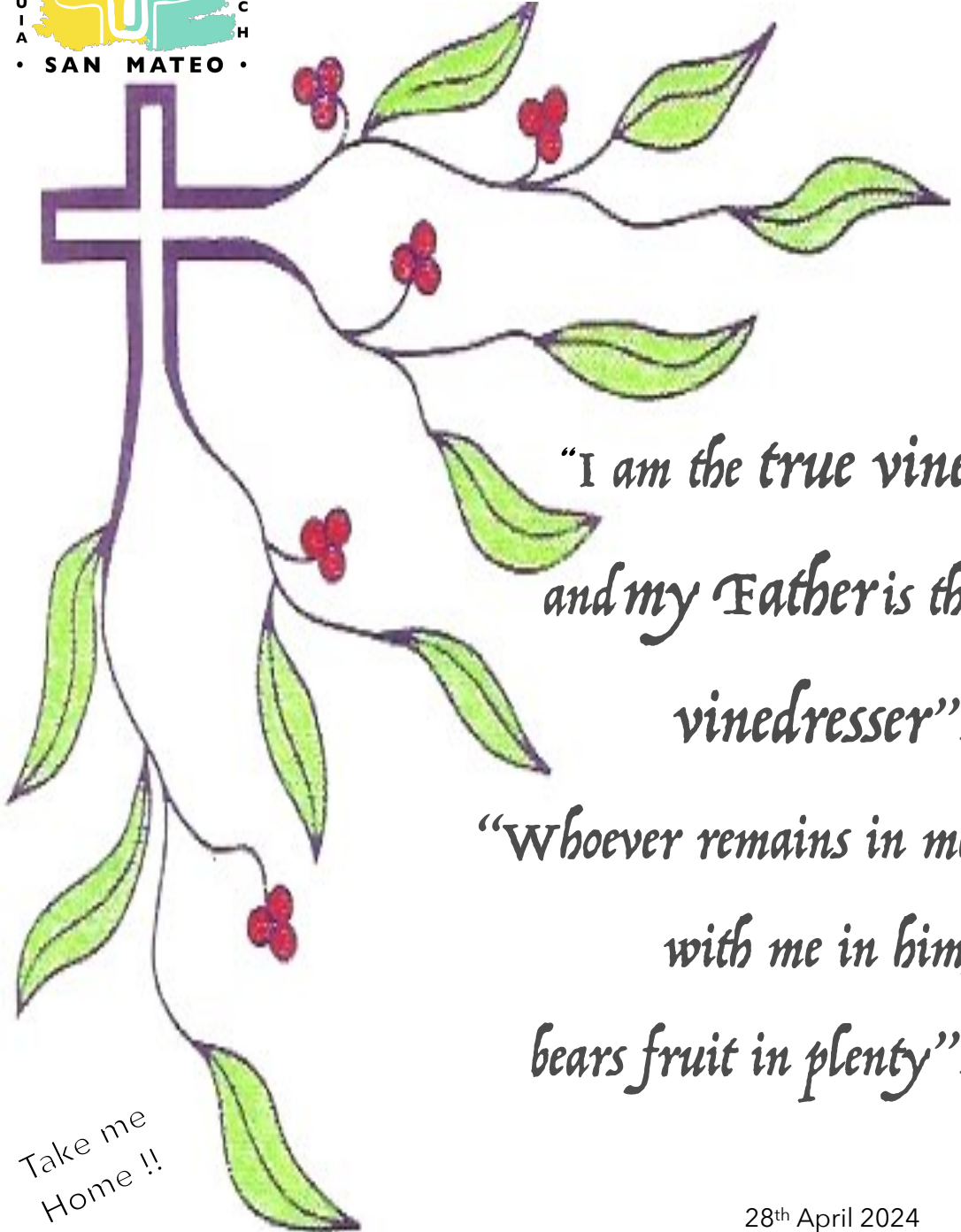


# V Sunday of Easter



*“I am the true vine,  
and my Father is the  
vinedresser”...*

*“Whoever remains in me,  
with me in him,  
bears fruit in plenty”...*

Take me  
Home !!

## Priest's Tidings

Much more than a set of truths to believe in, our faith is a union with a living person, a unity of life with Jesus our Lord. His words and actions are our guide in life; our heart is attuned to his heart, and his serving love of God and people is our inspiration and model. We cannot think of him and pray to him all the time, but we can, with his help, try to live his life. That is how we can live in him, remain in him, be one with him as he is one with the Father. Let us be intensely one with him here in this eucharist and in everyday life. In many ways we differ from one another. Thanks to God for the riches of this variety. How sad our world would be if we were all the same, for we would see only our own image. We differ in our faces, our characters, our personalities and occupations, our language and culture, in so many things. Yet there is one thing that brings us here together. We belong to Christ, we are united in him. He wants this bond to be a close union: like branches on a tree, on a life-giving vine. We are one in him with one another. We pray that this union may be close and effective.



*Fr Hugo*

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## H o l y C o m m u n i o n

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**Entrance Hymn:**

646 – God is working his purpose out.

### **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. **Amen.**

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### **First Reading:**

A reading from of the Apostles Acts (9:26-31):

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the

Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus. The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

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### **Responsorial Psalm: (22)**

**R./ I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.**

I will fulfil my vows before those who fear the Lord. The lowly shall eat their fill; they who seek the LORD shall praise him: "May your hearts live forever!". **R./**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; all the families of the nations shall bow down before him. To him alone shall bow down all who sleep in the earth; before him shall bend all who go down into the dust. **R/**

And to him my soul shall live; my descendants shall serve him. Let the coming generation be told of the Lord that they may proclaim to a people yet to be born the justice he has shown. **R./**

### **Second Reading:**

A reading from the first letter of 1 John (3:18-24):

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## Gospel Reading

Hear the The Gospel of our Lord Jesus according to John (15:1-8):

### Glory to you, O Lord.

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. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he 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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

### Praise to you, O Christ

### Prayers of Intercession



Lord, bless te church with the knowledge of your indwelling presence. May we learn to abide in you and know that you are in us. Give wisdom to all who go out in mission and all who preach your word. We pray for the young in the faith, that they will be given the opportunity to grow and bear fruit. We remember all study groups, bible classes and Sunday schools.

Lord, you abide in us;

**we ask that we may abide in you.**

We remember the nations of the world and especially those who are not at peace at this time. We ask you r guidance on all who care for the world's poor, refugees and war-

torn peoples. We pray for the time when the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of Christ our Lord.

Lord, you abide in us;

**we ask that we may abide in you.**

We give thanks for all who have shared their faith with us. In our turn may we also bear fruit and bring others to the love and presence of our God. Lord, bless our homes with the glory of our presence. Help us to live in and share you peace.

Lord, you abide in us;

**we ask that we may abide in you**

We bring before you all who doubt or repair, all who are surrounded by darkness or illness. May they come into the light of your love and know that you are with them. We ask you to bless all who have been involved in accidents or in violence this week. Give courage and hope to all who seek to bring your healing and peace.

Lord, you abide in us;  
**we ask that we may abide in you.**

Lord, you abide with us through life and we abide with you through death. In your love you have given us eternal life through Christ our risen Lord. We give you thanks for this great gift. We ask that you bless all our loved ones departed with the joy of your love and your presence.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### Offertory Hymn

704 – Let all the world in every corner sing.

### Communion Hymn

721 – Love divine, all loves excelling.

### Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### Recessional Hymn

Shackles – by Mary Mary

\_ Whoo  
It sure is hot out here  
Ya know?  
I don't mind thought  
Just glad to be free  
Know what I'm saying, uh  
Take the shackles off my feet so I  
can dance I just want to praise  
you  
(What ya want to do?)  
I just want to praise you  
(Yeah, yeah)  
You broke the chains now I can  
lift my hands  
(Uh feel me?)  
And I'm gonna praise you

(What ya gon do?) I'm gonna  
praise you  
In the corners of mind  
I just can't seem to find a reason  
to believe That I can break free  
Cause you see I have been down  
for so long  
Feel like the hope is gone  
But as I lift my hands, I  
understand  
That I should praise you through  
my circumstance  
Take the shackles off my feet so I  
can dance (I can dance)  
I just want to praise you (I just  
want to praise you)

I just want to praise you (I just  
want to praise you)  
You broke the chains now I can  
lift my hands (I can lift my hands)  
And I'm gonna praise you  
I'm gonna praise you  
Everything that could go wrong  
All went wrong at one time  
So much pressure fell on me  
I thought I was gon' lose my  
mind  
But I know you want to see  
If I will hold on through these  
trials  
But I need you to lift this load  
Cause I can't take it no more  
Take the shackles off my feet so I  
can dance (so I can dance)  
I just want to praise you (woo-  
hoo-hoo)  
I just want to praise you (yeah)  
You broke the chains now I can  
lift my hands (woah, yeah)  
And I'm gonna praise you (I'm  
gonna)  
I'm gonna praise you (I'm gonna,  
I'm gonna praise you)  
Been through the fire and the  
rain  
Bound in every kind of way  
But God has broken every chain  
So let me go right now  
Take the shackles off my feet so I  
can dance (so I can dance)  
I just want to praise you (woo-  
hoo-hoo)  
I just want to praise you (I wanna  
praise you)  
You broke the chains now I can

lift my hands (I can lift my hands)  
And I'm gonna praise you (praise  
you)  
I'm gonna praise you (praise you)  
Take the shackles off my feet so I  
can dance ('cause I just wanna)  
I just want to praise you ('cause I  
just wanna)  
I just want to praise you (yeah,  
yeah)  
You broke the chains now I can  
lift my hands (I can lift my hands)  
And I'm gonna praise you (praise  
you)  
I'm gonna praise you (c'mon (?)  
with me)  
Take the shackles off my feet so I  
can dance  
(I just want to praise you) I just  
want to praise you  
(Cause I'm free tonight) I just  
want to praise you (yes I'm free)  
You broke the chains now I can  
lift my hands (I can lift my hands)  
And I'm gonna praise you (yeah,  
yeah, yeah)  
I'm gonna praise you (yeah,  
yeah, yeah)  
Take them off, take them off  
What ya gonna do, yeah  
You broke the chains now I can  
lift my hands (broke off the  
chains)  
And I'm gonna praise you (what  
ya gonna do?)  
I'm gonna praise you (what ya  
gonna do?)

## Prayer and Meditation

Spend some time thinking about what it means for you to remain in Jesus. Consider too how his words can remain in you. How do you feel under God's correction or 'pruning'? Remember how much God loves you. Does it help to remind yourself that pruning will produce more fruit?.

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### Oratio

To pray today take a sheet of paper and a few coloured pens or pencils. Sketch a simple vine bearing fruit – lines and blobs will do. Draw in some roots too. By each root write the name of something that feeds your relationship with God. Imagine you are one of the branches. Forgetting modesty, as this is between you and God alone, try to name some of the fruit pictured on your branch. This is harder to do, but ask the Holy

Spirit to help you. On some of the other branches write the names of people who strengthen your relationship with Jesus. Consider this prayerfully. It may take a little time, but when you're ready offer it to God in thanksgiving and trust for future crops.

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### Contemplation

Acts 9:26-31 explains what being united to Jesus means: it means being united to his Church. Paul was transformed by his conversion. For him to bear the fruit God intended he needed to be reconciled with the Church in Jerusalem he'd previously persecuted. 1 John 3:18-24 is very practical: believe in Jesus and love your neighbour. Love for fellow believers should not be just words, rather 'it must be true love, which shows itself in action' (verse 18).

## What's happening in our Parish!

- **Sunday — Mass at 9:30 am**
- **Support St Matthew's Church:**

On our website ([www.stmatt.co.uk](http://www.stmatt.co.uk)) in the donations section, where you can donate by card.

- Make instant donations with our wireless contact less machine.
- Scanning this QR code to continue supporting us.



- **Communion**

We now offer communion in both bread and wine. If you do not feel comfortable drinking from the common cup, please receive in bread only or ask for a blessing. Please do not dip the bread in the wine

- **Next Mission Morning**

Our next Mission Morning is Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May, when we welcome the Revd Canon Wendy

Robins to talk to us about lay ministry and discipleship

• **Save the Dates:** Future Cultural Celebrations and Meals:

**Pentecost Sunday** 19th May 12.30pm Bilingual Service -

**English Cultural Celebration** Sunday 9th June 9.30am - **Summer Picnic** Sunday 14th July after the service - **St Mathew's Day** Sunday 22nd September 12.30pm Bilingual Service.

**CONTACT US:** Rector: Fr Hugo Adán rector@stmatt.co.uk @ 0759 331 0487 - Associate Rector: Fr Miguel Angel Pino assoc.rector@stmatt.co.uk @ 07547976623 - Curate: Fr Steve Jullien curate@stmatt.co.uk @ 07857 913 278 - Churchwardens: Ms Cynthia Grant churchwarden.eng@stmatt.co.uk Mrs Carolina Giraldo - churchwarden.esp@stmatt.co.uk - PCC Secretaria: Vacant pcc.secretary@stmatt.co.uk - Tesorero: Mr John Brent treasurer@stmatt.co.uk - Salvaguarda ni@s: Mrs Daliana Ruiz safeguarding@stmatt.co.uk - Registro Electoral: Mrs Carolina Giraldo electoral.roll@stmatt.co.uk - Youth worker Monica Pons Robles youthworker@stmatt.co.uk - Worship Director: Ubeimar Llantes worshipdirector@stmatt.co.uk. Parish Administrator : Monica Hernandez Ingles: admin.eng@stmatt.co.uk - Español: admin.esp@stmatt.co.uk Office Hours: 9:00 am to 4:00 - Address: Meadow Row . London SE1 6RG 07845084879 - @ 020 7357853

• **Bible Verses** this week

Fr Steve, is posting reflections on a Bible verse Monday-Friday, available on our website, and the WhatsApp group. If you would like to join the WhatsApp group, please let us know:

**Monday** 1 John 1:5 - **Tuesday** Acts 14:22 - **Wednesday** Acts 15:3 - **Thursday** Acts 15:12 - **Friday** 1 Corinthians 15:1.

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