



## BISHOP RICHARD'S WEEKLY REFLECTION

Dear brothers and sisters,

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus is very clear about the call to his disciples to bear fruit – something that is simply impossible unless we remain close to Him, "part of the vine."

As the nation looks to emerge from a long period of restrictions and lockdown in this time of pandemic, the Lord's call to each of us to bear fruit, to be His disciples, is a call to action to every one of us. This action grows out of our prayer, our experience of the Eucharist and our encounter with the Lord as we see him present in others.

St John, in his First Letter, expresses it another way: "our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active." This is the measure of our discipleship – the proof that we are children of the truth, co-heirs with Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life.

At the beginning of Lent, we heard the words of St Paul: "Now is the favourable time, this is the day of salvation." This same sense of urgency is with us each and every day as we seek to do the Lord's work – and, I suggest, with us even more in these present times.

We have also begun the month of May, the month of Mary. She intercedes for us on our pilgrim way as we serve her Son. Let us look to her, for her response to God's call is a model for us. Her closeness to her Son calls us to remain in

Christ, disciples bearing fruit in service and builders of the Kingdom.

+ Richard



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