

Thought for the day – Friday 26th August 2022

By Revd John Ohen

The Vine

The Gospel of John 15 has more of a metaphor than a parable. The Vine (disciples) was an important symbol in Hebraic religious thoughts. Although we should not be talking of the vine in this dry weather. However, the vine symbolizes Israel, as stated in the Old Testament. Israel is the vine that has not born fruit and therefore must be pruned and cut back Psalm (80. 8 – 16, Isa. 5. 1-7, Jer.2. 21). Most of us will agree that unless an infected or unfruitful branch is cut out, there is a risk that the whole tree may be infected and may die.

What does this mean for us today in 2022 in our lives and the challenges we face each day? Jesus made it quite clear that, it is by our fruit in our lives that others will know that we are his disciples (Matthew 7. 20). The fruit of the Kingdom that we are to produce and cultivate is the fruit of the Spirit in (Gal. 5. 22 – 23). However, for us to be fruitful like the vine we need to be nurtured and fed. We bear fruit for the kingdom by remaining in Jesus and having our thirst quenched by him.

What does this mean practically? It means that we need to carve out time to be with the Lord in prayer, devote time in reading the Bible and commit ourselves to grow and mature in a sense of awe and amazement at Christ made present to us in Eucharist. What we all need is a new commitment for us to remain close to the Lord and know in our lives a spiritual renewal where Christ is proclaimed through our witness of Love and service.

Bible passage. John 15. 1 – 8.

PRAYER. Thank you, Lord, for the witness of all your saints, who produced great fruits in our lives. Strengthen us in all we do, until we see you face to face in your kingdom. AMEN.