

# BULLETIN 14 – CORPUS CHRISTI

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you are all keeping well and are living in safety as we gradually are freed from this lockdown. As predicted in last week's Bulletin we are now, from today, allowed to open our church for Private Prayer. Anyone who thinks, as I did, that it's a case of unlocking the door and allowing people to come and go as they please, is very much mistaken! There are guidelines, checklists, protocols and procedures that must be strictly followed. I am very grateful to Deacon Michael who has tirelessly researched and implemented the "guidance" for our parish. It is important that we all abide by these guidelines not just to remain within the law but more importantly that we have respect for our own health and that of each other. I found a lovely quote recently, "when we replaces I, then illness is changed to wellness", who said that? It was Vladimir Putin.

We are delighted that three of our parishioners have come forward to act as Church Stewards for Private Worship. As this number is limiting, we are initially only able to offer the opportunity for Individual Private Prayer on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11am to 12noon. Detailed instructions and a plan of our revised seating, ensuring correct social distancing, is attached and available on our web site. Might you be able and willing to serve your brothers and sisters by volunteering to be a Church Steward for an hour a week? If so please let Deacon Michael know.

This reopening the Church for Private Prayer is another small step, which alongside the increasingly popular live streaming, will help us to rebuild our Parish Family Life.

God Bless you all,

Fr. John

## CHURCH OPENING TIMES FOR INDIVIDUAL PRAYER

Sundays 11am – 12 noon  
Tuesdays 11am – 12 noon  
Thursdays 11am – 12 noon

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sun 14 – Corpus Christi	10.00 Mass 10.45 Benediction	People of the Parish
Mon 15 – feria	10.00 Mass	Jo Gallagher (INT)
Tue 16 – St. Richard	10.00 Mass	Jim Birchall (RIP)
Wed 17- feria	10.00 Mass 10.30 Rosary	George Hunter (RIP)
Thu 18 – feria	10.00 Mass 10.30 Adoration	Anthony Grant (INT)
Fri 19 – Sacred Heart of Jesus	10.00 Mass 10.30 Stations	Tess Hogan (RIP)
Sat 20 – Immaculate Heart	10.00 Mass	Norah Green (RIP)
Sun 21 – 12 of Year	10.00 Mass	People of the Parish

(Times in red will be live streamed)

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

*“My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.”*

The Solemnity of Corpus Christi complements the liturgy of Holy Thursday when Jesus instituted the Eucharist at the Last Supper. It arose in the Middle Ages as an expression of the faithful's devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. It was celebrated first as a local feast and then Pope Urban IV made it a universal feast in 1264. It became associated with processions through the towns and villages of Europe during which the monstrance which contained the sacred host was carried under a festive canopy and the crowds knelt as the Blessed Sacrament passed to receive the blessing.

The task of composing the liturgy for the feast was given to the great Dominican theologian Thomas Aquinas. He created the well-known antiphon to accompany the singing of the Magnificat. This antiphon, which begins with the Latin words *O sacrum convivium*, brings out some of the riches of this wonderful sacrament of the Eucharist especially as it relates to the past, the present and the future: “O sacred banquet / in which Christ is received, / the memory of his passion is renewed, / the mind is filled with grace / and the pledge of future glory is bestowed.”

We see these three aspects of past, present and future in our scriptures as they speak of the Eucharist. We are reminded in Deuteronomy how Israel in the past escaped from the slavery of Egypt and celebrated this freedom at the Passover meal. But God continued to feed them with manna as they made their hungry way through the desert to the promised land. And then later Jesus himself at Passover celebrated a meal with his disciples at which he gave them his body and blood, which looked forward to his sacrifice on the cross. At each Mass the past is remembered and Jesus' death is recalled.

But at the Eucharist Jesus' body and blood are really present now under the appearances of bread and wine. It is the crucified and risen Christ who is received in this sacred meal. In the Gospel Jesus emphasises the reality of this present food, “For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.” We receive life from Jesus, the life he shares with his Father. This food is a present reality; it feeds us now.

And, thirdly, the Eucharist looks to the future and points forward to that final banquet which we will share in heaven. A pledge of future glory is bestowed at every Mass: “Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.” We may proclaim after the consecration: “When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.” Then we are invited to the supper of the Lamb.

At this great feast of Corpus Christi we can reflect on the past, present and future riches of the sacrament and let our lives be filled with Christ's grace. We need to keep in the front of our minds the historical reality of the cross to remember how much Jesus suffered in his flesh for us. He left the Eucharist as a way of reminding us of the sacrifice he made. But in the Eucharist that sacrifice is made present for us today and

becomes a call for us to share our lives as Jesus did. He fed those who were hungry, he satisfied their spiritual needs with his words and then he gave himself to them, body and blood. Now he nourishes us with this bread from heaven. We go to Mass to show our devotion and to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. But we are also told to imitate what Jesus did. He still shares himself at each Mass and at each Mass he invites us to do the same: "Do this in memory of me."

And finally this feast can remind us that we are on a journey. We are pilgrims. Here is no abiding city. When we get too settled in our worldly ways and live as though this world is all that concerns us, the Eucharist reminds us of our true destiny. We hear the priest say, just before communion, that "we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ". We are called to share in that final heavenly banquet with God and all the saints. Even as we prepare to meet God we are given food for that journey. We receive the Blessed Sacrament as *viaticum*, food for the final journey.

THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY Mulberry Green  
PROCEEDURE FOR USING THE CHURCH FOR PRIVATE WORSHIP  
Commencing 14th June 2020

The days and times that the Church will be open for private worship will be available on our Website.

Please use the dispensers available at both entrance and exit as you enter and leave the Church.

A board in the porch will remind you of the routes you must take which as follows. ALL doors will be fixed OPEN

**ENTER: DO NOT USE THE SIDE AISLE TO ACCESS YOUR SEAT**

Please use the main doors only.

Walk up the central aisle only turn into any of the unoccupied pews and sit as near to the middle as possible. (Blue arrows)

**EXIT: DO NOT RE CROSS THE CENTRAL AISLE TO EXIT THE CHURCH**

Please walk to the outer aisle nearest you. If you are on the right walk towards the front, across the foot of the Sanctuary and exit by the side door. If you are on the left simply walk along the outside edge and out the side door.

Pews that have been previously used will be marked by the Steward and cannot be used a second time until fully sanitised.

Please note the Hall is closed to the public so there will not be access to the toilets. A Steward will be present situated between the inner doors and the organ if you need advice. A member of the clergy will also be available.