

**Parish of the Assumption of Our Lady**  
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**BULLETIN B 27 – 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021**  
**TRINITY SUNDAY**

My dear brothers and sisters,

In two weeks time our Bishop Alan will be making a Visitation of the Parish. As a mark of respect to him I hope that we can show him The Assumption of Our Lady, Old Harlow in the best light. To this end a number of cleaning / gardening jobs need doing. If you can help in any small way to achieve this goal, please have a word with Deacon Michael, who is co-ordinating our efforts.

We have received advance notice that Gilden Way between the roundabouts at the London Road and Churchgate Street will be closed for five weekends starting from June 18<sup>th</sup>. This will affect quite a few parishioners from Churchgate and Gilden Park areas of the parish. We are trying to find out what will be closed and when and what diversions will be in place. As we gather that info we will let you know. One thing is certain those of you in that area will need extra time to travel to mass.

God Bless you all

Fr. John

**TIMES OF MASS THIS WEEK**

Sun	30	Trinity Sunday	1000 Mass	People of the Parish
			1800 Mass	Nora Green (RIP)
Tue	1	St. Justin	1900 Mass	Kay Hill (RIP)
Wed	2	feria of St. Joseph	1000 Mass	Fr. John's Intentions
			1030 Adoration	
Thu	3	St. Charles Lwanga	1000 Mass	Faith Brewer (RIP)
			1030 Adoration	
Fri	4	feria of the Sacred Heart	1000 Mass	Gerald & Mary Birchall (RIP)
Sun	6	Corpus Christi	1000 Mass & Benediction	- Ken Pittuck (RIP)
			1800 Mass	People of the parish

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Fr. John will be available to hear confessions in church: - Tue 6.30pm and Wed 10.30am or by appointment. We are now allowed to use the confessional room but face masks are to be worn.

**BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE**

We are happy to say that as restrictions continue to ease we are able to start running events within the BCYS. Here are some 'save the dates' for your diaries, with more information coming nearer the time:

**Lourdes at your Local – 26<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> July.** During what would have been our annual pilgrimage to Lourdes we will be hosting Mass at different parishes around the diocese each day that week. Mass will be at 11am, which will include the Anointing of the Sick and concluding with the Angelus. We will then have time to gather for refreshments afterwards. For more information on venues please see our website.

**Lourdes on the lawn – 31<sup>st</sup> July.** We are also welcoming our young leaders aged 18+ (School Year 13 and above) to gather together at Walsingham House at Abbotswick, with Mass celebrated by Bishop Alan and followed by a picnic in the beautiful grounds of our retreat centre (12pm – 4pm).

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

At the end of Evelyn Waugh's novel *Brideshead Revisited*, the elderly Lord Marchmain, who is dying, returns from his home in Italy to Brideshead. Just before his death, the priest is called. As Lord Marchmain receives the words of absolution, he makes the sign of the cross with his hand in a slow and deliberate way. His daughters, Julia and Cordelia, smile with great joy. Their father, who had abandoned his pious wife and lived with a mistress in Italy, has returned home to the faith and professes his belief in God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, the unity of the Trinity.

The simple yet profound act of the sign of the cross is an action that accompanies us from the very beginnings of life to eternal life. At baptism, the priest or deacon signs the child with the sign of the cross, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Parents and godparents express their belief in God who is love and a unity of three persons lived in relationships between Father, Son and Holy Spirit when they respond "Amen". Parents often make the sign of the cross on their children's foreheads before they go to sleep. Throughout our life, we begin and end our prayers with the sign of the cross. The final blessing over a dying person commends that person to heaven.

The mystery of the Holy Trinity is at the heart of our faith and is a mystery of love. It can never be fully grasped or understood. Rather we are invited to allow this mystery to penetrate our hearts just as we allow the mystery of love to surprise and move us. In our liturgy and our prayers we are like swimmers in an environment full of the presence of God the Holy Trinity: the sign of the cross, the Glory be, the Gloria, the Creed, the Eucharistic Prayer, the endings of prayers and all blessings.

God the Father pours out his love into the gift of creation. The book of creation invites us to thank the Father and to praise him for his wonderful gifts. St Francis of Assisi knew this when he spoke to the animals, praised the rabbit and made sure he did not walk on earthworms but moved them to a place of safety away from a path. The first reading speaks of the closeness of God to the Jewish people and the invitation to listen and follow God's commandments. God's outpouring of love reaches a climax in the sending of the angel Gabriel to Our Lady who agrees to become the servant and Mother of God. The incarnation, passion, death and resurrection of Christ is the mystery of love which saves us. In a further outpouring of love the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son to stir us to cry out, "Abba, Father!" St John Paul II shed light on this when he said, "Our God in his deepest mystery is not solitude, but a family, for he has within himself fatherhood, sonship and the essence of the family, which is love. That love, in the divine family, is the Holy Spirit."

The feast of the Most Holy Trinity invites us to deepen the understanding that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit: a Unity and a Trinity. We can do this by giving more time and focus to the way in which we make the sign of the cross: not a rushed and sloppy gesture, but a full sign during which we think of each person of the Trinity.

God is love and we are called to extend the love we have received to others. The Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, inspires and drives us to love and reach out to others. Family love is invited to mirror the love of the Trinity because relationships of love always include and seek the good of others. As Pope Francis has written, "The fruitful relationship of husband and wife becomes an image for understanding and describing the mystery of God himself, for in the Christian vision of the Trinity, God is contemplated as Father, Son and Spirit of love. The triune God is a communion of love, and the family is its living reflection. The family is thus not unrelated to God's very being." The life of the Trinity and our family lives touch each other in a wonderful and mysterious way.