

# CHRIST the KING

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Year 73 No. 2925

Week of the Psalter 1

2 August 2020

## EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY in ordinary time Year A

### Compassion, sharing, Eucharist

This Sunday, the Gospel presents to us the miracle of the multiplication of loaves and fish (Mt 14:13-21). Jesus performed it along the Lake of Galilee, in a deserted place where he had withdrawn with his disciples after learning of the death of John the Baptist. But many people followed them and joined them there; and upon seeing them, Jesus felt compassion and healed their sick until the evening. And seeing the late hour, the disciples became concerned and suggested that Jesus send the crowd away so they could go into the villages and buy food to eat. But Jesus calmly replied: "You give them something to eat" (Mt 14:16); and he asked them to bring five loaves and two fish, blessed them, began to break them and give them to the disciples, who distributed them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and there were even leftovers!

**We can understand three messages from this event. The first is *compassion*.** In facing the crowd who follows him and — so to speak — "won't leave him alone", Jesus does not react with irritation; he does not say: "These people are bothering me". No, no. He reacts with a feeling of compassion, because he knows they are not seeking him out of curiosity but out of need. But attention: compassion — which Jesus feels — is not simply feeling pity; it's more! It means to *suffer with*, in other words to empathize with the suffering of another, to the point of taking it upon oneself. Jesus is like this: he suffers together with us, he suffers with us, he suffers for us. And the sign of this compassion is the healing of countless people he performed. Jesus teaches us to place the needs of the poor before our own. Our needs, even if legitimate, are not as urgent as those of the poor, who lack the basic necessities of life. We often speak of the poor. But when we speak of the poor, do we sense that this man or that woman or those children lack the bare necessities of life? That they have no food, they have no clothing, they cannot afford medicine.... Also that the children do not have the means to attend school. Whereas our needs, although legitimate, are not as urgent as those of the poor who lack life's basic necessities.

**The second message is *sharing*.** The first is compassion, which Jesus felt, and the second is sharing. It's helpful to compare the reaction of the disciples with regard to the tired and hungry people, with that of Jesus. They are different. The disciples think it would be better to send them away so they can go and buy food. Jesus instead says: "you give them something to eat". Two different reactions, which reflect two contrasting outlooks: the disciples reason with worldly logic, by which each person must think of himself; they reason as if to say: "Sort it out for yourselves". Jesus reasons with God's logic, which is that of sharing. How many times we turn away so as not to see our brothers in need! And this looking away is a polite way to say, with white gloves, "Sort it out for yourselves". And this is not Jesus' way: this is selfishness. Had he sent away the crowds, many people would have been left with nothing to eat. Instead those few loaves and fish, shared and blessed by God, were enough for everyone. And pay heed! It isn't magic, it's a "sign": a sign that calls for faith in God, provident Father, who does not let us go without "our daily bread", if we know how to share it as brothers.

**Compassion, sharing. And the third message: the miracle of the loaves foreshadows the *Eucharist*.** It is seen in the gesture of Jesus who, before breaking and distributing the loaves, "blessed" them (Mt 14:19). It is the same gesture that Jesus was to make at the Last Supper, when he established the perpetual memorial of his Redeeming Sacrifice. In the Eucharist Jesus does not give just any bread, but *the* bread of eternal life, he gives Himself, offering Himself to the Father out of love for us. But we must go to the Eucharist with those sentiments of Jesus, which are compassion and the will to share. One who goes to the Eucharist without having compassion for the needy and without sharing, is not at ease with Jesus.

**Compassion, sharing, Eucharist. This is the path that Jesus points out to us in this Gospel.** A path which brings us to face the needs of this world with fraternity, but which leads us beyond this world, because it comes from God the Father and returns to Him. May the Virgin Mary, Mother of Divine Providence, accompany us on this journey.

Pope Francis

### BT CLUBBERS - SUMMER UPDATE

We are fast approaching our 20<sup>th</sup> week of "BT Club On Line" and I hope you have enjoyed receiving the quizzes and activities that have been sent through to you on a weekly basis.

On **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August at 3pm** there will be a BT Club Zoom Meeting.

If you are interested in attending, please send an email to the parish office as your email address is needed to send you the link for the meeting. Email [cockfosters@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:cockfosters@rcdow.org.uk)

Should you need assistance with the technology you may have a family member or someone in your "support bubble" who could set it up for you.

**BT Club On Line** will then be on a Summer break until the weekend of **5/6<sup>th</sup> September**.

Wishing you all a peaceful Summer, take care and keep safe.

From Maria, BT Club Co-ordinator



**PARISH OFFICE**

The Parish Office is now open  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday  
10.15 am – 1.00 pm  
020 8449 6648



**BE AWARE** the 11am Mass is livestreamed.  
Hence you may be visible.



There will be **no Adoration** during the month of August.

**New Church Timetable**

**Weekday Mass 11am (except Tuesday)**  
Church open at 10.15am – close at 1.00pm

**Saturday Mass 11am & 5.30pm**  
Church open 10.15am – close at 1pm  
Reopen at 5pm



**Sunday Masses 9am & 11am**  
Church open at 8.30am and 10.30am  
The church will be closed between masses  
to enable sanitising.

**All 11am Masses will be livestreamed**

Please take a **YELLOW CARD** and place on your seat  
when leaving to enable sanitising.

**ZOOM PRAYER MEETING**

We had a memorable meeting last Saturday when Michael Rose spoke from Cornwall about this time of transition. Next Saturday at 2.30 pm Bernard and Shane Yap will join us from Singapore and we look forward to another great session. We have had a number of newcomers joining us, but more are still most welcome - just let us know at [peterkrau@aol.com](mailto:peterkrau@aol.com)

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

As the parish request box is not available currently, please give your personal prayer requests on the phone to 020 8883 2665 or by email to [contactiamwithyou.co.uk](mailto:contactiamwithyou.co.uk)

**PARISH LIVE STREAMING OF MASS & ADORATION**

To stay united we will live stream  
Mass and Adoration  
[@ChristTheKingParishCockfosters](https://www.facebook.com/ChristTheKingParishCockfosters)



**Celebration of mass must observe the following:**

- Social distancing 2m always (face coverings are optional).
- Sanitising of hands by all entering the church.
- One-way system for entry.
- One-way exit at rear of the church, exit through fire doors
- No sign of peace.
- Priest will announce “The Body of Christ” on the altar and congregation reply “Amen”. This will not be repeated during distribution.
- Tables with baskets for donations at exit doors.
- Toilets will be open for emergency use.



**CANa OPEN** Welcome

Come and experience how CANa Welcome strengthens the lives of couples

\*  
Live online monthly events  
Time for you as a couple for 1 1/2hrs  
An opportunity to share with other couples  
A time to taste the grace of Cana

\*  
Next Event: Saturday August 22nd  
10.00-11.30  
Email Richard Or Juliet Burnford  
[canaukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:canaukinfo@gmail.com)

CANa For a deeper, stronger love

40 years FOR A BETTER WORLD

**CARD PAYMENT**

The parish now has a card reader. You are able to pay for Mass Intentions, items from the shop or make a donation using a debit/credit card. If you would like to use this method of payment please ask at the parish office.



Sunday 2 August	EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY year A Masses: 9.00am & 11.00am Readings: Isaiah 55:1-3. Ps. 144:8-9. 15-18. Rom. 8:35. 37-39. Mt. 14:13-21.	Thursday 6 August	THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD Mass: 11.00am Readings: Daniel 7:9-10. 13-14. Ps.96:1-2. 5-6. 9. 2 Pt. 1:16-19. Mt. 17:1-9.
Monday 3 August	Feria Mass: 11.00am Readings: Jer. 28:1-17. Ps. 118:29. 43. 79-80. 95. 102. Mt. 14:13-21.	Friday 7 August	Feria Mass: 11.00am Readings: Nahum 2:1. 3; 3:1-3. 6-7. Ps. Deut. 32:35-36. 39. 41. Mt. 16:24-28.
Tuesday 4 August	St John Vianney, Priest NO MASS Readings: Jer. 30:1-2. 12-15. 18-22. Ps. 101:16-21. 29. 22-3. Mt. 14:22-36.	Saturday 8 August	St Dominic, Priest Masses: 11.00am & 5.30pm Readings: Habakkak 1:12-2:4. Ps. 9:8-13. Mt. 17:14-20.
Wednesday 5 August	Feria Mass:11.00am Readings: Jer. 31:1-7. Ps. Jer. 31:10-13. Mt. 15:21-28.	Sunday 9 August	NINETEENTH SUNDAY year A Masses: 9.00am & 11.00am Readings: Kings 19:9. 11-13. Ps. 84:9-14. Rom. 9:1-5. Mt. 14:22-33.