

NEWSLETTER

CORPUS
CHRISTI*The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ*

The Solemnity of Corpus Christi (Body and Blood of Christ) is the Eucharistic solemnity or even better the commemoration of the institution of that sacrament and it's the Church's official act of gratitude to Christ, who instituted the Eucharist and gave it to the Church it's greatest treasure. Holy Thursday marks the anniversary of the institution, the commemoration of our Lord's passion that same night suppresses any rejoicing proper to the occasion. Today's celebration accents the joyous aspect of Holy Thursday. The Mass and the Office was edited by St Thomas Aquinas on the request of Pope Urban IV in the year 1264. It was a classic piece of work in accord with the best liturgical traditions, (Excerpted from The Church's Year of Grace, Pius Parsch).

Quoting St Thomas who wrote:

'How inestimable a dignity, beloved brethren, the divine bounty has bestowed upon us Christians from the treasury of its infinite goodness! For there neither is nor ever has been a people to whom the gods were so nigh as our Lord and God is nigh upon us.

Desirous that we are made partakers of His divinity, the only-begotten Son of God has taken to Himself our nature so that having become man. He would be enabled to make men gods. Whatever He assumed of our nature He wrought unto our salvation. For on the altar of the Cross He immolated to the Father His own Body as a victim for our reconciliation and shed His blood both for our ransom and for our regeneration. Moreover, in order that a remembrance of so great benefits may always be with us, He has left us His Body as food and His Blood as drink under appearances of bread and wine.

O banquet most precious! O banquet most admirable! O banquet overflowing with every spiritual delicacy! Can anything be more excellent than this repast, in which not the flesh of goats and heifers, as of old, but Christ the true God is given us for nourishment? What more wondrous than this holy sacrament! In it, bread and wine are changed substantially, and under the appearance of a little bread and wine is had Christ Jesus, God, and perfect Man. In this sacrament sins are purged away, virtues are increased, the soul is satiated with an abundance of every spiritual gift. No other sacrament is so beneficial. Since it was instituted unto the salvation of all, it is offered by Holy Church for the living and for the dead, that all may share in its treasures.

My dearly beloved, is it not beyond human power to express that ineffable delicacy of this sacrament in which spiritual sweetness is tasted in its very source, which is brought to mind the remembrance of that all-excelling charity which Christ showed in His sacred passion? Surely it was to impress more profoundly upon the hearts of the faithful the immensity of this charity that our loving Saviour instituted this sacrament at the last supper when having celebrated the Pasch with his disciples. He was about to leave the world and return to the Father. It was to serve as an unending remembrance of His passion, as the fulfillment of ancient types-this greatest of His miracles. To those who sorrow over His departure, He has given a unique solace'.

St Thomas Aquinas

MASS INTENTIONS**June 13, 2020**

6pm - Margaret Dunn (B'day Anniv)

June 14, 2020

11am— People of the Parish

For weekday mass intentions please, see the notice board on the left hand side of the main door of the church.

The church remains closed but masses continue to be offered behind the closed door.

Parish Office remains open.

Please, contact us in case of any problem caused by the lockdown. We got a team of healthy people ready to help.

Spiritual Communion

Jesus!

My God and my All
my soul longs for thee.

My heart yearns to
receive thee in
Holy Communion, come, O
Lord.

Bread of heaven and food of
angels to nourish my soul
heal my body and to rejoice
my heart
come most lovable friend of
my soul,
to inflame me with such love
that I may never again be ever
separated from thee. Amen

Readings for this & next Sunday

1st Reading; Deuteronomy 8:2 –3, 14-16
Psalm 147:12-15, 19-20 response v 12
2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 10: 16-17
Gospel – John 6; 51-58

1st Reading; Deuteronomy 7:6-11
Psalm 102:1-4, 6-8, 10 response v 17
2nd Reading - 1 John 4: 7-16
Gospel – Mathew 11; 25-30

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Oh Jesus! my Lord, my God, and my all! I believe that you in your living manhood are as truly present in the Blessed Sacrament as when you did walk amidst men and converse with them. Relying on their word, which shall not pass away. I believe that you are here, ever living to make intercession for us. Here is your sacred Body, which hung upon the cross; here is your soul, which was sorrowful unto death and agonised in the Garden of Olives on account of my sins; here are those sacred wounds made by the nails and spear; here are those eyes which looked with pity and love on the penitent Peter; here are those ears which heard the cruel cry...*crucify him, and which listened so compassionately to all the ills of men. I do have faith. Help the little faith I have*(Mk 9: 24).

Throughout the centuries sacred writers have vied with one another in describing the marvel of the Real Presence. It has been called the greatest work of God, the mirror of the divine perfections, the reflection of the wisdom, the immensity, and the eternity of God, a type of all operations of God, the teacher of the unity of God. It has been described as the continuation and the parallel of the Incarnation and the sum of its wonders, as the mirror of the life of Christ, as the triumph of the Church and even as its very life, as the explanation of the phenomena of the Church, as the compendium of all miracles, as the example of every virtue, as the fountain of all grace, as the magnet of souls. Yet, strive as they may, no winters, no poets, no saints can say anything more outstanding than this truth-the Blessed Sacrament is God.

Canon Francis J. Ripley

The Miracle Prayer to Saint Anthony Of Padua

O Holy St Anthony, the gentlest and kindest of Saints, your burning love of God, your exalted virtue, and your great charity towards your fellow creatures made you worthy when on earth to possess miraculous powers such as were given to no other saint. Miracle waited on your word and that word you were ever ready to speak at the request of those in trouble.

The anxious prayer of the bitter trial was never addressed to you in vain. To the sick you gave back health; you restored what was lost; the sorrow-stricken were objects of your tender compassion; even the dead you raised to life when the wounded heart cried out to you from the depths of its bitter anguish.

Encouraged by this thought, and convinced of the efficacy of your holy intercession, we kneel before your holy image, and full of confidence, we implore you to obtain for us(here mention your request)

The answer to this our prayer may require a miracle. Even so, are you not the Saint of miracles, who, when on earth, had but to speak the mightiest wonders were wrought!

O gentle and loving St Anthony, you whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper our prayer into the ears of the Infant Jesus, who loved to linger in your arms.

One word from you and your prayer will be granted. O, speak but that word and the gratitude of our heart will ever be yours!

Amen

Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be.

The Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Dear Friends in Christ,

I have to inform you in the light of this current pandemic (Coronavirus-COVID -19) and the financial constraints it has put some of you in! It has been decided to differ the Pilgrimage to a later date. I take this opportunity to thank all of you for the interest shown and God willing we shall be able to organize one later. May God bless you all.

Fr Christopher

Corpus Christi

When I think of the Eucharist which is at the very center of our church, the center of our faith and the center and the heart of our parish. The center of the lives of each one of us, Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament.

We may have our doubts, the bread offered is still tasted like bread and the wine offered tastes like wine, and we say nothing has changed. We say it flies in the face of logic to say bread and wine change into Body and Blood of Jesus despite no change in appearance. Through our intellect, we could say that God holds everything together and God is the origin of everything, but reason can only take us so far. We then have to add faith to our reason and intellect. As St Paul writing in (2 Cor 5: 7) says, 'for we walk by faith, not by sight'. We need to humble ourselves and be open to God performing a miracle each day here in the church, the miracle of the Eucharist.

To help us to understand God and to believe time and again God has allowed visible miracles of the Eucharist to occur, Eucharistic Miracles as we call them. One such miracle occurred during Mass when bread changed into the form of flesh during the consecration and the wine changed into the form of blood. Over many centuries of Christian history, Eucharistic Miracles have occurred in many parts of the world and have been authenticated by the Church.

One such miracle took place in 1263 a priest from Prague was en route to Rome on pilgrimage asking God to strengthen his faith as he was having doubts about his vocation. He stopped at Bolsena which is 70 miles north of Rome. While celebrating Mass, as he raised the Host during the consecration, the bread turned into flesh and began to bleed, the drops of blood fell unto the corporal on the altar. Following year, 1264, Pope Urban IV instituted the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, Corpus Christi. Pope requested St Thomas Aquinas, to write hymns for the feast and he wrote two, which would be familiar to the older members of our parish, Tantum Ergo, and O Salutaris. The Bloodstained corporal could still be seen in the Basilica of Orvieto north of Rome.

O Sacrament most holy,

O Sacrament divine,

All praise and all thanksgiving

Be every moment thine.

Lord, I do believe help the little belief that I have.

Fr. Christopher

RE-Opening of Churches

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you may have heard, churches will open as of 15th June. Having had a meeting with other Clergy, here in St Edmund of Abingdon, the church will be open *for individual prayer only, from 10 am - 1 pm Wednesday and Friday's with the Blessed Sacrament exposed, without Benediction.* As you enter the church kindly sanitize your hands with gel and you will be given wipes to wipe the area you use prior to you departing the church. You are asked *to refrain from touching the statues, you may light a candle from the lit candle on the stand.* Thank you, for your co-operation and understanding.

We anticipate that the Churches would be permitted to be open on the 4th and 5th of July for the faithful to gather for Mass. This means we would require a team of volunteers for the following:

- 1) Ushers, at all the Masses, 6 pm Saturday; 9 am Sunday and 11 am on Sunday.
- 2) We would require a team of volunteers to clean the church immediately after the 9 am Mass

If you are able to volunteer and help us, then could I ask you please to submit your details to Katherine at the parish office. Be advised that once the Church is fully open for the time been Hymnbooks, Mass books would not be provided until we are permitted to do so; Should you take a News Letter you are asked not to return the News Letter back to the stand when you depart but instead take it home with you.

Thank you, Fr Christopher