

## NEWSLETTER

THE MOST  
HOLY TRINITY**A reflection on *Corpus Christi***

What does *Corpus Christi* mean to me? It does not only bring the liturgy to mind; for me, it is a day on which heaven and earth work together. In my mind's eye, it is the time when spring is turning into summer; the sun is high in the sky, and crops are ripening in fields and meadows. The Church's feasts make present the mystery of Christ, but Jesus Christ was immersed in the faith of the people of Israel and so, arising from this background in Israel's life, the Christian feasts are also involved with the rhythm of the year, the rhythm of seedtime and harvest. How could it be otherwise in a liturgy which has at its center the sign of bread, the fruit of the earth, and heaven? Here this fruit of the earth, bread, is privileged to be the bearer of him in whom heaven and earth, God and man have become one. The way the Church's feasts fit in with the seasons of the year is therefore not an accident. Consequently, we must go on to discover the inner rhythm of the Church's year and see the place *Corpus Christi* has within it.

First of all, clearly, it grows out of the mystery of Easter and Pentecost: it pre-supposes the Resurrection and the sending of the Spirit. But it is also in close proximity to the Feast of the Trinity, which reveals the inner logic in the connection between Easter and Pentecost. It is only because God himself is the eternal dialogue of love that he can speak and be spoken to. Only because he himself is relationship can we relate to him; only because he is love can he love and be loved in return. Only because he is threefold can he be the grain of wheat which dies and the bread of eternal life. Ultimately, then, *Corpus Christi* is an expression of faith in God, in love, in the fact that God is love. All that is said and done on *Corpus Christi* is in fact a single variation on the theme of love, what it is and what it does. In one of his *Corpus Christi* hymns Thomas Aquinas puts it beautifully: *nec sumptus consumitur* - love does not consume: it gives and, in giving, receives. And in giving it is not used up but renews itself. Since *Corpus Christi* is a confession of faith in love, it is totally appropriate that the day should focus on the mystery of transubstantiation. Love is transubstantiation, transformation. *Corpus Christi* tells us: Yes, there is such a thing as love, and therefore there is transformation, therefore there is hope. And hope gives us the strength to live and face the world. Perhaps it was good to have experienced doubts about the meaning of celebrating *Corpus Christi*, for it has led us to the rediscovery of a feast which, today, we need more than ever.

*Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI*

**This coming week, let's pray-** "This week we marked the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression. Let us remember especially the most vulnerable of all children, the unborn. We pray that as a society we would take on the duty to protect all children from harm, and ensure that they arrive into a world where they are loved and supported by all. Lord hear us"

**MASS INTENTIONS****June 5th, 2021**

6pm - Tom Madden RIP

**June 6th, 2021**

9am—Pro Populo

11am— Margaret Dunn  
(B'day Anniversary)

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

Confession on Saturday between  
5.15-5.45 pm

or by appointment.

**ADORATION**

*Every Saturday*

*from 5pm until 5.45*

**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.

**Readings for this & next Sunday**

1st Exodus 24: 3-8,  
Psalm 115; 12-13, 15-18, response v 13  
2nd Reading - Hebrews 9; 11-15;  
Gospel - Mark 14; 12-16; 22-26

1st Ezekiel 17: 22-24,  
Psalm 91; 2-3, 13-16, response v 2  
2nd Reading - 2 Corinthians 5; 6-10;  
Gospel - Mark 4; 26-34;

## CORPUS CHRISTI

This is a great gift, that Jesus has given us. For me, it challenges me to ask myself do I value the Eucharist? Each time I come to celebrate Mass, I am reminded of that First Eucharist, Jesus shared with his disciples and instituted the Eucharist. 'Do this in memory of me'

It's easy to take the Eucharist for granted since we hear those words Sunday after Sunday. Perhaps losing the significance and its meaning. I have to confess that at times I have rushed: the words said, at the Consecration are profound that bread and that cup changing into His Body and Blood for us and to make His home in us, when we receive the Lord at Holy Communion.

Despite my many failings, I am humbled at the Lord's goodness and indeed His kindness to me!

This past year and a half, when faced with the lockdown and having to Celebrate Mass in an empty Church was difficult but it afforded me the opportunity to re-examine, the value of this great gift of the covenant, to be poured out for many. He did so, at His passion, crucifixion.

This is why it is important to spend at least fifteen minutes in Church before Mass praying and meditating on the passion to prepare ourselves to receive Him at Holy Communion to make His home in our hearts.

Our hearts need to be prepared and made ready to receive Him. Do I take the time to do this? So, reflect upon this today and ask Jesus to give you a realisation of this amazing gift that's given to us each time we receive communion.

*Fr. Christopher*

### ***The Prayer of a Priest on a Sunday night***

"Tonight, Lord, I am alone. Little by little the sounds died down in the church.

The people went away, And I came home, alone.

Here I am, Lord, alone. The silence troubles me, the solitude oppresses me.

Lord, I'm 35 years old, a body made like others, ready for work, a heart meant for love.

But I've given you all. I've given you all, but it is hard, Lord.

It's hard to love everyone and to claim no one. It's hard always to give without trying to receive. It's hard to be alone, alone before everyone, alone before the world, alone before suffering, death, sin. Son, you are not alone, I am with you.

Out of all eternity, I chose you. I need you.

I need your hands to continue to bless, I need your lips to continue to speak, I need your body to continue to suffer, I need your heart to continue to love, I need you to continue to save.

Stay with me. Here I am Lord, here is my body, my heart, my soul.

Grant that I may be big enough to reach the world, strong enough to carry it, pure enough to embrace it without wanting to keep it.

Lord, tonight, while all is still and I feel sharply the sting of solitude, while people devour my soul and I feel incapable of satisfying their hunger, while the world presses on my shoulders with all its weight of misery and sin, I repeat to you my "yes"—not in a burst of laughter, but slowly, clearly, humbly, alone, Lord, before you, in the peace of the evening."

*Michael Quist- Abridged*

## St Edmund's Church BBQ

**Sunday 27th June 2021**

**12:15 to 2:30 pm**

Selection of food and drinks included

Please come along to meet everyone.



Tickets now on sale after every Mass or from the office. Please, buy your ticket as soon as and it will help us to buy adequate amount of food.

£10 for an adult

£5 for OAP

Children under 16 - free

*Thank you,  
BBQ Organizers*

### To All Eucharistic Ministers

I have asked Chris Murray to organise a training session with Mary Crowley who works for the Diocese of Westminster.

She has agreed to come to St Edmunds on Saturday 26th June at 11 am which will last for three hours till 2 pm. There will be a break halfway through. Everyone is expected to attend, even if you have done the training in the past. Consider it as a refresher. Thanks

If for any reason you are unable to attend, then please send an email either to Chris Murray or to the parish office. Many thanks, Fr Christopher

### The Parish Project

The Plans to increase the size of the hall had been paused due to the pandemic. Also, the changes within the external funders who we could have approached for help. As they move away from the emergency mode and getting back to 'normal', we again making progress on our planning. Having secured planning for the extension to the rear of the church, we are working with architect Colin Smart with support from the Diocese, and we hope to have more specific plans to share with you soon. Thank you.

**NEW BOXES OF DONATION ENVELOPES** are ready for collection at the church's hall.

If you cannot find your box, please, drop an email to [Millwall@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:Millwall@rcdow.org.uk) and I will prepare the box for you. Katherine

**Diocese of Westminster  
Roman Catholic Parish of St Edmund of Abingdon, Millwall  
297 Westferry Road, Millwall. E14 3RS**

Telephone: 020-7987-4114; Email: millwall@rcdow.org.uk; <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/millwall/>



**Fr Christopher Silva**

*Parish Priest,*

**Mrs Katherine Woznicka**

*Parish Secretary*

**The office may be contacted by phone:**

**Monday to Friday 9am-2pm**

**Closed on Bank Holidays**

**Those who might be in Need**

If you are aware of anyone who might be in need at this difficult time, do let the parish office know, by giving their details after having consulted with them. We can assist with food vouchers and one of our neighbours are willing to help with groceries. Do let us know if anyone might need help. Thank you, Fr Christopher

**BAPTISMS can happen now on a Saturday morning or afternoon.**

Parents must attend a 2-session Baptism Formation Program (during pregnancy or after birth) – **Next baptismal courses will be on 16 June 2021 at 7pm on Zoom.** Please, drop an email to the office to reserve your space during the next course. Later we will need your email address to invite you to join the session. Before you do the course you need to come to the office to buy a baptism pack (£10).

**GARDEN PROJECT;** we want to launch a garden project in our parish. Our garden needs a complex approach. Each year we ask volunteers to come to help to clean it. But while cleaning it we dump a huge amount of organic matter out. If we could shred and to compost it instead of throwing away, we could reuse what is growing in the garden and put it back into the soil as compost. At the moment we do not own a garden shredder. We would very much like to buy one this season with a few other necessary garden tools. We can later share the shredder with our parishioners who have their own gardens. If you like the ecological approach to gardening and want to support us: please, donate in an envelope that you can find on the table in our porch: with GARDEN PROJECT on top of it or by your online banking with Garden as a reference..

We have collected : **£575.00 so far.** Thank you very much, Katherine

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO CLEAN THE CHURCH.** If you can spare an hour or two monthly to help us to keep the church clean, please, contact the office to discuss details. Thank you.

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**LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:** loose: £181.20 envelopes: £304.15 total: £485.35  
Standing orders in April £2314.

As a charity we rely on your donations only. As you have not been allowed to come to the church, we only were receiving donations set up as standing orders. We will be grateful for your financial support when you are back.

Your new sets of gift aided envelopes are available for collection before/after any mass or from the office.

Alternatively you could send your donation by bank. Parish account is on Parish Web.

*Thank you for your Generosity*

WRCDT Charity No: 233699