

# St. Vincent de Paul (Osterley) Newsletter

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14 June 2020 Yr A Vol. 2 (Pg. 83)

## The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ



**Deuteronomy 8:2-3,14-16. He fed you with manna which neither you nor your fathers had known.** Moses reminds the people of the depth of their relationship with God: a relationship beyond the physical – a place where we listen closely and act upon God’s word spoken to us as individuals and as a community

**1 Corinthians 10:16-17. That there is only one loaf means that, though there are many of us, we form a single body.** We come together as individuals but as we are fed by Christ’s body and blood, we remember that we form a Eucharistic community, nourished in order to serve.

**John 6:51-58. My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.** Jesus is the living bread: eating and drinking the body and blood of Jesus offers resurrection and eternal life. The one who eats and drinks of Jesus will draw life from him, and will live in him – and Jesus in them

**Psalm: O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!**



**Fr. Robin Burgess has prepared a homily for today  
You can read it on our website in the section entitled ‘Homilies/Pastoral Letters’ or scroll to the end of this page.**

*The church building will open from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June for individual private prayer (which includes household groups). Please see below for opening hours. Procedures are in place which comply with government advice to limit the spread of Covide 19.*

*15<sup>th</sup> June 2020*

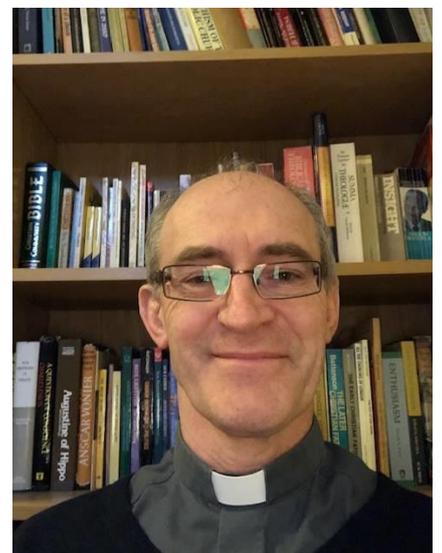
Dear Parishioners,

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi). Fr Robin Burgess has written a homily for this feast which I recommend. You can find it in the homily section or at the end of this newsletter.

It is appropriate that from Monday onwards you, the body of Christ will be able to come to church at the times published below for individual private prayer. You can attend with other people who are considered to be part of your household.

The parish has put in place social distancing measures, hygiene precautions and a cleaning regime which complies with Government guidance to limit the spread of Coronavirus. We are not yet able to resume services, however I am sure it will bring many people comfort to attend church or even to know others are praying in the church even if they are not able to attend themselves because of social distancing.

We have battery operated hand sanitizers on order but in the meantime we will provide pump action bottles of hand sanitizer.



There will be a Steward on duty when the church is open to ensure social distancing is observed and cleaning will take place throughout the day. We have posted photographs of some of the measures we are taking.

Whilst we look forward to seeing parishioners visiting the church to pray, the obligation to attend weekly mass is still suspended (there is no mass in any case at the moment) and you are not obliged to attend the church for private prayer.

On Saturday we celebrated the feast of St Anthony of Padua. When my sister was 10 years old I asked her to give me a fifty pence coin she had, I cannot remember what for, but she said "No that is for St Anthony". When I asked her what she meant she said that if you prayed to St Anthony to help you find something that is lost you had to make a donation in the church when it was found". I am not sure the Protestant reformer Martin Luther would have been impressed but it struck me as an instance of popular piety which taught that the saints are interested even in the things we lose and that God gives us the opportunity to make a small gesture of gratitude in return. It is also the case that offerings to "St Anthony" are used to help people who are in need in the community. This practice of course stems from St Anthony's own care for the poor.

In this vein our St Vincent de Paul Society has distributed £1000 in vouchers received from Caritas Westminster, the diocesan social action agency, during the current crisis. I am sure that this is symbolic of the practical help many of you will have been able to offer others during this time.

Our cat visitor continues to flourish and I have posted a new photo. My invitation to parishioners to send me photos of your own pets by jpeg to [osterley@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:osterley@rcdow.org.uk) for publishing in the newsletter has had no response! Possible reasons for this could include:

No one reads this Newsletter.  
No one has any pets.

The invitation remains open. If you are able to put the pets name on the photo that would be great otherwise, you can include it in the e-mail.

Last week a parishioner did ring to express her appreciation of the flowers from the parish garden published in the newsletter so I hope you enjoy the ones I have posted this week. There is a very unusual plant that comes out of the soil coloured brown and looking dead but nonetheless produces a pink flower.

Two weeks ago a volunteer from Cafod named Breege McGregor rang me to ask would I be able to bring the attention of my parishioners to an online appeal by Cafod to help those in developing countries deal with the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic. I have posted an e-mail from Cafod which gives more information in this newsletter. However if you are in a position to help and would simply like to donate to this cause just click on this link [cafod.org.uk/coronavirus appeal](https://cafod.org.uk/coronavirus-appeal). I admired this volunteer's commitment and am in the fortunate positions of being able to respond myself.

### **Re-opening of Churches**

I am happy to say that the church will be open for individual private prayer from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June. Please see the list of opening times for the first week.

The Catholic Church in England and Wales is in active discussions with the government to establish when churches can also re-open for services. We the church want to play our part in controlling Coronavirus so our leaders will ensure that we observe what social distancing measures are necessary.

If parishioners wish to donate to the parish when they visit the church, please do so using the new drop safe in the lobby. This can be used for planned giving envelopes.

We hope to send out new boxes of planned giving envelopes (which start from the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020) by post in the next few weeks. The parish appreciates that the ability of parishioners to contribute to our collections may have been adversely affected by the current pandemic. Please just give what you can.

### **Prayer Resources Online.**

It has been wonderful to see so many resources online for Catholics to use during these times. The link <https://rcdow.org.uk/> brings you to the diocesan website. This has many prayer resources and information on the practical steps being taken by the people of our diocese and by Caritas Westminster to help people in material need. Caritas Westminster was established by Cardinal Vincent using funds donated by parishioners during the “Growing in Faith” campaign which ran in the diocese some years ago.

Once again I send particular greeting to those who are sick or living alone. You are in my thoughts and prayers. We also pray for those who have died, may they rest in peace, and for those who mourn, may God console them.

Whilst we wait patiently to be re-united fully in body as a community, I ask God to bless you all in the following words. (Your response is four times Amen!)

May God the Father sustain you as the Israelites were fed with manna in the dessert

**People:** Amen

May God the Son, the bread of life, comfort and strengthen you.

**People:** Amen

May God the Spirit change you into bread for the earth, as the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ.

**People:** Amen

May almighty God bless you.

The Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit

**People:** Amen



## **CAFOD, our Catholic Agency for Overseas Development**

CAFOD, our Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, launched its coronavirus emergency appeal on 30 April. Coronavirus (Covid-19) has now spread worldwide, with confirmed cases in many countries where CAFOD works. The effects of coronavirus on developing countries are likely to be devastating.

Many countries have very weak healthcare systems and will not be able to cope. Families without enough to eat and without access to clean water, possibly living with other diseases, will be particularly vulnerable to coronavirus.

It is not just a public health emergency. Many of the world's most vulnerable people will lose their jobs and be unable to support their families. The poorest and most marginalised communities, working hard to transform their lives, will be pushed further into poverty. CAFOD is adapting its programmes to help manage the risk of coronavirus in communities and working with local Church aid agencies on the frontline of this crisis. They are already working to get food to where it is needed most; to improve hygiene, handwashing and sanitation in communities and households; producing radio messages, posters and leaflets in local languages on risks and prevention; and training community volunteers to carry out awareness campaigns.

In order to continue protecting and improving the lives of those in poor communities, your prayers and gifts are needed now more than ever. While we are not able to hold collections in our church, you can donate at [cafod.org.uk/coronavirus appeal](https://cafod.org.uk/coronavirus-appeal).



**PARISH CAT EMERITUS "ROSIE"**

## **SUNDAY OFFERING AND SUPPORTING THE PARISH:**

Dear Parishioners,

We are conscious that many parishioners may be struggling financially, if however, you are able to continue your weekly donations please see how to do this below:

- 1) On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April those who give by planned giving envelopes ran out of envelopes. It is not currently possible to distribute new boxes of envelopes.

If possible, please set up a Standing Order to replace your Planned Giving Envelopes. To see how to do this electronically please See “Donate to our parish” on our website. Should you wish, you can change this back to planned giving envelopes when they are distributed and movement restrictions lifted.

- 2) If you give cash, you can set up a standing order in favour of the parish electronically. For our bank details please see “Donate to our parish” on our website.
- 3) You can use the donation facility on our website to make your donation each week by credit or debit card. See “Donate to our parish” on our website.
- 4) If you do not already do so, you can Gift Aid all your donations. This increases your donation by 25% at no costs to you. You simply have to pay sufficient tax to cover 25% of your donations to the parish. If you do so the government will refund this money direct to the parish. Please follow the instructions on the parish website under “Donate to our parish”

We know that those who are able, will sustain the parish financially during this challenging time and enable us to minister to our parishioners and those in need.

If you have any queries you can contact the parish bookkeeper Steve McEvoy on [osterleybk@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:osterleybk@rcdow.org.uk) or 079 3278 3647. Thank you. *Fr Mark*

**POPE FRANCIS:** Pope Francis called for all Christians to respond to the coronavirus pandemic “with the universality of prayer, of compassion, of tenderness”, adding, “Let us remain united. Let us make our closeness felt toward those persons who are the loneliest”. Speaking after the traditional recitation of the Angelus, the Holy Father called on all Christians to join together in prayer. “In these trying days, while humanity trembles due to the threat of the pandemic, I would like to propose to all Christians that together we lift our voices towards Heaven

**MASS INTENTIONS:** *Mass intentions can still be requested via e-mail or by ringing the parish office. Please leave a message and phone number if there is no reply from the office. Offerings for such masses can be made using the online donation link on the website or submitting it to the parish only when movement restrictions are lifted. Masses offered prior to the reduction in Sunday masses will be allocated to the nearest free mass.*

**SERVICE TIMES & INTENTIONS**  
**14<sup>th</sup> June – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2020**

<b>SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> June</b> The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)	Michael and Sarah O'Sullivan RIP anniv.
Mon 15 June: Weekday 11 <sup>th</sup> Ord Time	Truda Weiler RIP
Tues 16: Weekday 11 <sup>th</sup> Ord Time	Les Taylor RIP
Wed 17: : Weekday 11 <sup>th</sup> Ord Time	Olly Gorman RIP
Thu 18: : Weekday 11 <sup>th</sup> Ord Time	Truda Weiler RIP
Fri 19: : The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	People of the Parish
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> : The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Those who have died from the Covid virus. RIP
<b>SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> June</b> Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Silvester Baptista and Anthony Carvalho RIP

**PARISH OFFICE:**

Please do not call to the parish office without an appointment. Enquiries can be made by telephone or you can e-mail the parish at [osterley@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:osterley@rcdow.org.uk)

- **PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:** Mrs. L. Faria
- **PLANNED GIVING CO-ORDINATOR:** Mr. Steve McEvoy
- **PARISH BOOKKEEPER:** Mr. Steve McEvoy  
To contact Mr. McEvoy by email: [osterleybk@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:osterleybk@rcdow.org.uk)
- **300 CLUB:** Enquiries to Parish Office.

**ADMIN**

• **PARISH WEBSITE ADDRESS FOR ONLINE NEWSLETTER:**  
<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/osterley/>

• **PARISH REGISTRATION:** Please take a Welcome Pack from the lobby when the church re-opens in due course. Completed Registration and Planned Giving forms should be posted through the door of the Parish house. Thank you.

• **BAPTISM:** Contact Fr. Mark to arrange a baptism date and attend a course. Please complete a form (available in the lobby or online) and submit to the Parish Office. Next course: TBA.  
 NB Unfortunately courses are now cancelled until further notice.

**CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE:** This parish operates a system of Mass Attendance Cards. This is only applicable for parents who wish to send their children to a Catholic primary or secondary school. Attendance at 75% of masses at which stickers are given out will be deemed to comply with the conditions for receiving a Certificate of Catholic practice. Parents can apply to Catholic schools without a Certificate of Catholic practice but will usually be considered after those who possess one. The Certificate of Catholic Practice should be downloaded from our website. (Do not use the form provided by the school). Please print one for every school to which you are applying.

Parents/Guardians should begin collating forms two years before the closing date for their child's application to Nursery, Reception, Secondary and 6<sup>th</sup> Form.

**IMPORTANT UPDATE: Mass attendance stickers were not distributed on Sun. 15/3/2020.**

They will not be distributed in the near future until further notice. These weeks will be omitted in our calculation of the 75% attendance for school admission

• **MARRIAGES:** 6 months' notice required. Please ring the office for initial discussion with Fr. Mark.

**CONTACTS**

- **SAFEGUARDING REP:** Mrs. A. Trigger. Tel. 07764482186  
Email: [osterleysg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:osterleysg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)
- **WEST MIDDX HOSPITAL RC CHAPLAIN:** Tel. 020 8321 5447.



**REDEMPTORIST PUBLICATIONS** bring the Sunday Holy Mass, celebrated by Fr. Denis McBride into your home every Sunday. Each Sunday service will be accessed at: <https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/holy-mass-online> Visit their BLOG section for a variety of reflections.

**Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.**



## **Homily for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity 14<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

Fr Robin Burgess writes

Dear Friends,

My family lived at one time in Bristol, where we used to go to concerts in the Colston Hall. I don't remember now if I ever knew why it had that name, but it must be in memory of Edward Colston whose statue was thrown down the other day by a protesting crowd. He made a lot of money from the slave trade, though he did make large donations to charitable causes. Whether there were redeeming features in the life of Saddam Hussein I do not know, and probably most of us rejoiced with the people of Baghdad when they toppled over the statue of the hated dictator, but there was another event recently when a statue that had been displaced was restored. At the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War people protesting against the Catholic Habsburg monarchy of Austria destroyed a statue of the Virgin Mary in the centre of Prague, but it was remade and replaced last week, the mayor of Prague stating that many people regretted its loss and he thought it right to restore it as a focus of faith and affection.

Statues and the history they remind us of can clearly arouse strong and sometimes conflicting emotions. Trafalgar Square at the heart of London is dominated by the statue of a great naval hero, but what would we say about his personal life, which was not exactly beyond reproach and is just as much part of his story as his victories over Napoleon? Good and bad seem to be inextricably mixed together in human lives, which is one reason why we need the rule of law to provide a framework by which we can seek the good.

The destroying of statues reminds me of Moses' reaction when he had delivered God's Law to the people at Sinai and almost the first thing they did was to go against it by making a golden calf to worship, even though the very first commandment forbade the making of images of God. 'Moses' anger,' we are told, 'burned hot, and he threw down the tablets from his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain. He took the calf that they had made, burned it with fire, ground it to powder, scattered it on the water, and made the Israelites drink it.' How's that for an outburst of furious rage – occasioned by a statue?!

Idolatry, the worship of images, is a constant temptation in the case of a God whom we cannot see or know with any of our senses. As human beings we naturally relate to things that we can hear and see and touch, but God goes beyond any image or idea that we can form of God, and it is therefore important that we do not seek to limit our understanding of God to things that we can readily relate to, for then we may be worshipping not the true God but our image of God or something else entirely, as people will worship power or money or success. St. Augustine went as far as to say that if you can understand it, it is not God! However well-loved or cherished our images of God may be, in the end they are only images and not God himself.

The tablets of the Law fortunately could be remade and from then on they were the people's most precious possession, the sign that God was with them and would continue to be with them wherever they went. (Their loss, conversely, was the greatest disaster that could befall them). In the famous verse from the beginning of St. John's Gospel, 'And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us,' the word translated "dwelt" really means in the original Greek "pitched his tent." A tent is something temporary that you set up at the end of the day, then pack up the next morning as you prepare to travel on. Thus God's presence in the world is not static or fixed in one place, but travels with us wherever we go.

Two weeks ago we kept the feast of Pentecost, originally a Jewish harvest festival which also commemorated the giving of the Law. For Christians the coming of the Holy Spirit is God's pledge to us that God is always with us, giving us life, nurturing with us with his gifts, dwelling within us – and for us God's presence is assured above all by Jesus' giving of himself, his body and blood, in the Holy Eucharist, the gift that is renewed every time we celebrate the Mass.

On the Thursday of Holy Week we remember the Last Supper at which Jesus instituted this sacrament, but since it is so central to our religion it is good that we have a day set aside solely for thanksgiving for the Eucharist (Eucharist means thanksgiving), the feast of Corpus Christi that we keep on this Sunday. It was first suggested by St. Thomas Aquinas and decreed for the whole Church in 1264.

The Scripture readings for the feast this year begin with a passage from Deuteronomy in which Moses reminds the people of how God has led them for forty years through ‘the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions.’ He made water flow for them from flint rock and fed them with manna from heaven ‘to make you understand that one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.’ All this was ‘to humble you and test you, and in the end to do you good.’

People often talk about God testing us, almost suggesting that God makes bad things happen just to see what we are made of and whether we will keep faith in him. It is a manner of speaking, but we should be careful how we understand it. A God of universal love and compassion, as we believe God to be, could not possibly want the people he creates and loves to suffer and certainly not *cause* suffering to happen to them. What I do think is that God is present in everything that happens and that, in perhaps mysterious ways that we cannot fathom God’s will is being done. How we respond to our varying situations can be a way of showing what sort of faith we have, whether we do see God in all things, so in that sense there is a form of testing going on, but we should avoid all idea of God creating situations to test our faith in him – and, as Deuteronomy says, in the end God will do good to us.

It is especially hard for us to see God in this time of lockdown, which does indeed seem like an arid wasteland with hidden dangers lurking in store for us. There is a terrible irony in celebrating Corpus Christi when most of us are unable to receive the Eucharist that is given precisely in order to feed us with God’s life and give us strength to continue our journey of faith. We can know, however, that this situation will not last forever, and even now the Church is planning to resume public Masses in a few weeks’ time. It will have to be different from our usual forms, but at least we will be able to gather in the church, to be together as the body of Christ and receive the body of Christ, the most precious gift of God to his people. Meantime if we can remember how God has led us and fed us in the past, that can give faith and hope to believe that God is with us now and that after this testing time we will know his love and goodness anew.

With all best wishes and prayers, Fr. Robin

Fr Robin is happy to receive any comments or questions you may have. He can be contacted at [robinburgess@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:robinburgess@rcdow.org.uk)

**Times of Opening for Individual Prayer for week commencing the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10 am -11 am and 7 pm to 8 pm

Wednesday Closed

Saturday 10 am – 12 am and 4 pm to 5 pm

Sunday 10 am to 1 pm and 5pm to 6pm



## Covid Preparations in Church

