



**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT AT THE MOMENT CHURCHES AND CHAPELS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE ARE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC**

**THIS SUNDAY: CORPUS ET SANGUIS CHRISTI**

**THE SOLEMNITY OF THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST** this year, following the recent changes, will be celebrated on this Sunday.

On this day, when we celebrate the gift to us of the Blessed Sacrament in the Sacrifice of the Mass, we renew our devotion to our Lord in the Holy Eucharist.

**Ordinary Time continues on Monday with Week 11 and Psalter week 3.**

**THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

I am writing this on 11 June, which, by the date, should be the celebration of Corpus et Sanguis Christi. It is transferred in England to this Sunday. Members of the Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Committee have recently been spending great amounts of time speaking together about the future limited opening of St Francis' Church for private prayer. I thought, therefore that I should speak of that in the context of today's Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ.

We quite rightly describe being at Mass and receiving Holy Communion as sharing in the Blessed Sacrament. There is a sense in which our Catholic Churches have the quality of a sacrament. They are silent witnesses in a community to the Catholic faith which we are called to live out as we meet together in them, and go out from them. More than that, they are the physical home of the Eucharistic Presence of the Lord. We know that we all take Christ from Mass into our homes, families and places of work. We are also aware that coming into church is an encounter with the physical presence of Christ in the tabernacle. We are enabled in this way to worship him, to be strengthened by him, to confide all our joys and sorrows to him.

For that reason when we are able to come into church again, we know that the Lord will be there, the candle will be flickering and his presence in the tabernacle is assured. In our readings for this Sunday, the gift of the manna in the wilderness is the foreshadowing of the blessing cup which is blessed and the bread which is broken; the unity in Christ to which we are all invited. St Paul in 1 Corinthians gives us one of the earliest accounts of the celebration of Mass and receiving Holy Communion. Chapter six of St John's Gospel, the source of this Sunday's gospel, gives us many 'I am' sayings of Jesus, including 'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven'. The gift of Christ in the Eucharist is for our daily nourishment, the spiritual daily bread for which we pray in the Our Father. It is also given to us for hope of life beyond this life as we hear those wonderful words 'anyone who eats this bread will live forever'.

Fr David and I are both so acutely aware that, for most of you, this gift of Christ has come recently through acts of **spiritual** communion. God bless you for that act of faith. Soon the presence of the Lord in the tabernacle will be there for us all. Let us look forward, also to the time when, together, we may be once again nourished through receiving the Blessed Sacrament; our source, day by day, of receiving life from Christ. **I hope that you and your family will have some blessed times together in spite of all the present difficulties.**

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

Members of the SVP are distributing paper copies of the weekly parish newsletter to parishioners who do not have access to the online version.

If you are aware of anyone who would benefit from receiving a copy, please phone S McMahon on 01926 858 436.

**SVP – FOOD BANK COLLECTIONS**

In the present circumstances, many more people are becoming unemployed, and demand on the local food banks is increasing. They require non-perishable foods and household items, including tinned potatoes, instant mash, tins of meat, small bags of sugar, and washing up liquid. On Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> June and Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> June, between 11.30am and 1.00pm, members of the SVP (Kenilworth) will be collecting items for the food bank, in the car park of St. Francis Church – appropriate social distancing will be maintained. Your donations will be gratefully received. (For more information please 'phone 01926 858 436.)

**SOLEMNITY OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL, APOSTLES (TRANSFERRED)**

On **Sunday, 28 June** we shall keep the **Solemnity of the Apostles, Peter and Paul** as we celebrate our spiritual links with our Holy Father, Pope Francis and the life of the Church in Rome. **Mass will be celebrated at 10.00 am.**

**FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND**

Members of FHL wish to thank all those who contributed to the Charity's "Pentecost Appeal". With the help of your generosity, the £100,000 target has been reached, which will be match funded by three of charity's long standing supporters. This will be sent directly to those Christians in the Holy Land suffering the hardships caused by the present pandemic.

**MEETING VIA ZOOM**

I would like to inform you all that there will again be a joint meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Committee on Monday evening. This is to continue the process of thinking through the eventual opening of churches. Please pray for our discussions.

**GIFT AID ENVELOPES**

These envelopes and other donations may be posted through the Presbytery inside letter-box. Thank you for this sign of kindness and generosity.

**VACANCIES**

St Augustine's Catholic Primary School is currently looking for a Site Manager and Teaching Assistant. Further details can be found on the school website:

<http://www.staugustineskenilworth.co.uk/staff-governors/job-vacancies>

Please do pass the message on to anyone you know who may be interested in applying.

**MAY OUR LORD BLESS YOU ALL DURING THESE DIFFICLT AND CHALLENGING DAYS, FATHER KEVIN**