

# St Francis of Assisi, Baddesley Clinton

[Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216]

Fr John Sharp

[www.sfachurch.org.uk](http://www.sfachurch.org.uk)

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**Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (A)**

14<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Today is Corpus Christi and we would normally have a Procession and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at the end of Mass to mark this great solemnity when we give thanks for the inestimable gift we have been given by Our Lord when, at the Last Supper, he instituted the Eucharistic Sacrifice as the perpetual and timeless re-presentation of his Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension. Today, that is not possible, but, please God, it will be different next year, and towards that end we are once again allowed to visit our churches, even if it is only for private prayer at this time. Further details are outlined below, and we look forward to the time soon when we can meet again to celebrate Holy Mass.

Please keep in touch, either by telephone (above) or email ([sfa.bc@outlook.com](mailto:sfa.bc@outlook.com)) and remember to pray for one another.

## PARISH LITURGY – MASS TIMES and INTENTIONS

### Corpus Christi Sunday

9.30 am People of the Parish

### Monday [Feria]

9.00 am Private Intention

### Tuesday [St Richard of Chichester, bishop]

9.00 am Private Intention

### Wednesday [Feria]

9.00 am Private Intention

### Thursday [Dedication of St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham]

9.00 am Private Intention

### Friday [**Most Sacred Heart of Jesus**]

9.00 am Private Intention

### Saturday [Immaculate Heart of Mary]

9.00 am Private Intention

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Please pray for the sick in our parish and those who have died: **Sr Mary Magdalene; Basil Joseph Smallwood; Sr Christina; Barnard Gaynor; Catherine Forster; Dora Wainwright** (anniversaries).

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*June is a month of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and this prayer will be recited at the end of every Mass:-*

Sweet Jesus, through Your Tender love for the Church Your Spouse, You open to her the riches of Your Sacred Heart. Grant that our hearts may be enriched by the treasures it contains and replenished with its overflowing and unfailing delights. Heart of Jesus, burning with love for us, inflame our hearts with love of You.

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As a way of beginning to resume visits to the church, the former Sister's Choir will be open next Saturday, between 10.00 and 11.00 am, and on Sunday between 2.00 and 4.00 pm. We will review days and times in the following weeks, depending on demand and other circumstances. Please note that although the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed as a focus for private prayer, no public prayers are allowed and Mass cannot be offered during these periods.

In order to assist different groups, people in the more vulnerable categories might like to come on Saturday and those in front-line services come in the first hour of the Sunday opening. This is simply a suggestion, because I know some people have concerns about being in close proximity indoors, albeit at social distance, to others. Individuals must decide and take responsibility for themselves.

Entrance will be via the green side door, which we have been using since before we went into lockdown. There will be a sanitizing station there, and you are asked to sanitize your hands both on entry and exit.

You are also asked to wear a face covering.

When you arrive at the chapel, there are disinfectant wipes available in the holy water stoup, and you should take one and wipe down the space you intend to occupy, disposing of the wipe in one of the rubbish bags that are placed around the chapel.

Social distancing of two metres should be maintained. This means that at present there is space for fourteen (14) people at any one time, plus one (1) extra place in the ante-choir. People from the same household do not, of course, have to social distance from each other, but they should be aware of others who are present and arrange themselves so that they are two metres distant from the nearest person. In the unlikely event that all the spaces are occupied when you arrive, you will be asked to wait in the servers' sacristy until a space becomes available.

Please note, that there will be no facility to use the toilet in the presbytery.

At the end of each visiting period, the chapel will be deep cleaned.

At last the day came, the greatest of all days for me; even the tiniest details of that visit to heaven have left their imprint on my memory, not to be described. To what gladness I awoke; how gently and reverently they embraced me, the mistresses and the older girls who were there! The big room, the dresses laid out there, white as snowflakes, which we put on, one after another.... What comfort it brought to me, that first kiss our Lord imprinted on my soul! A lover's kiss; I knew that I was loved, and I, in my turn, told him that I loved him, and was giving myself to him for all eternity. There were no demands on me; there had been no struggles, no sacrifices... something had melted away, and there were no longer two of us – Thérèse had simply disappeared, like a drop lost in the ocean; Jesus only was left, my Master, my King... So deep was my joy, so overpowering, that I couldn't contain myself; before long, tears of happiness were pouring down my cheeks to the astonishment of my companions.

St Thérèse of Lisieux, describing the day of her First Holy Communion, in *The Story of a Soul*