

The Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) - Year B - 6th June 2021



Body and Blood of Christ – Holy Thursday Deja Vu

How many times have you had that feeling of Deja Vu – that you have been here before? Today's feast is something like that, a repeat, a remake, of the events of Holy Thursday when we celebrated the night Jesus took bread in his sacred hands and said "This is my Body", then he took the wine and said "This is my Blood"; then he told his disciples to do this as a memorial of me. He celebrated the first mass and in doing so instituted the Eucharist.

So why repeat the feast today some nine or ten weeks later.

Why not, it is a feast we should celebrate every day as it reminds us that Jesus Christ, though he were God took on human form and in that human form gave his life for our redemption.

Holy Thursday is the natural day to commemorate the institution of the Eucharist but it being in the midst of Holy Week means that the events of the last supper are part of the wider celebration of the passion, death and resurrection of Christ so attention is not afforded to this specific feast.

So what do we actually celebrate today?

We celebrate the "Real Presence" of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, a Holy Mystery we cannot fully understand but we believe that the Bread and Wine that is offered at mass are objectively transformed and become in a real sense the Body and Blood of Christ at the consecration.

Jesus gave himself for us and every time we receive him in communion we receive the spiritual food we need to live our lives following his example.

Is that not a gift worth celebrating repeatedly?

Fr Tom McHale
(except Monday)

Fr John Bagnall
(except Wednesday)

Deacon David Westgarth

Deacon Shaun McGee

Deacon Chris Callan

Website: www.pontoppartnership.org.uk

Facebook: Pontop Partnership

GENERAL NOTICES AROUND THE PARTNERSHIP AND DIOCESE

Recommissioning for Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist: As most of you will know, it is customary for Ministers to renew their commitment annually at Mass on this Sunday's feast of Corpus Christi. For this year, because numbers at Mass are still limited, raising the likelihood that some ministers will not be able to attend, Bishop Robert has decided to defer the recommissioning until a date in the Autumn (to be announced in due course). We'd still like to take this opportunity to thank all our ministers for their continuing, vital contribution to our sacramental ministry both at Mass and in taking Communion to the housebound.

Increased Capacity in Our Churches: At the moment the regulation on social distancing requires that a reduced capacity exist in all churches. However, the latest government roadmap advises that after the 17th May we should reassess our Covid secure numbers. This is in the light of the lower number of Covid cases and the widespread number of people who have been vaccinated.

We are in the process of assessing an increase in the number of people who may attend church per Mass. This can be achieved by cutting our current safety margin from two blocked off pews between active seats down to just one blocked off pew while still maintaining a safe 2m distance between individuals. Therefore, from next weekend (29th and 30th May) there will be increased capacity in churches in the Consett, Blackhill, Leadgate and Moorside areas. In our larger buildings this will mean an increase of up to 30 more spaces per Mass. St Patrick's will increase to 70, Our Lady and St Joseph (Brooms) will increase to 70, St Pius will increase to 40 and St Mary's to 70.

Bookings For Masses: It is still a legal requirement that we have a full contact tracing list before people begin to gather for any public service in any of our places of worship. Our clergy have noted that, particularly since the resumption of daily public Masses, a lot of people have been turning up without pre-booking, we need to stress that pre-booking is **not** optional. If we admit people to services who have not booked, that is supposed to be an exception rather than the norm. If this trend of people turning up without booking continues, we will have to review our policy about whether or not people who have not booked will be admitted under any circumstances.

Requiem Mass and Funeral Services: At the present time, the attendance at these services continues to be capped according to the capacity of the church, and all of these are considered private services rather than public services. It is therefore up to those family members of the deceased person who are organising the services to determine who is or is not invited to attend. The fact that we may list these services publicly on the Mass sheet does not mean that these services are now open to other people.

Consett Incinerator Proposal: Have Your Say: As many of our local residents will already be aware, the County Council is currently considering a proposal to build an incinerator at Hownsgill Park. For more information, and an opportunity to let our representatives know what you think: 1) you can view the proposal at publicaccess.durham.gov.uk/online-applications; and 2) any comments may be sent by email to planning@durham.gov.uk.

Novena To Our Lady Of Perpetual Succour: The Novena to Our Lady, which has been suspended since the pandemic began will resume at 7pm on Friday's at St Patrick's Consett.

Ministeracres re-opening - Volunteers Wanted: If you would like to share your skills or learn new ones, meet new people or simply help us provide our unique service please check us out at www.ministeracres.org or email:info@ministeracres.org for more information.

Friends of the Holy Land: Many thanks for the generous support. Current donations collected amount to £311 with a further £130 online. A 'thank you' video from young people in Bethlehem and Gaza can be viewed at www.friendsoftheholylnd.org.uk where donations can continue to be made up to 30 June. Recent events in the Holy Land clearly demonstrate the need for ongoing support to enable young people to remain in full-time education and secure their future against increasing odds.

YMT Open Day at the Emmaus Youth Village: We are happy to announce and invite you to an Open Day to reconnect at the Emmaus Youth Village on the 3rd July 2021. The day will start at 11am and the time table will run until 3pm with a 'Sing Along; Hymns Old and New', a quiz and a BBQ. It is £5 entry that can be paid on the door with cheque, cash or card which will cover you for the BBQ and quiz entry. The bar will also be open serving alcohol and soft drinks. It is an outdoor event so depending on weather you may want to bring an umbrella or gazebo. We hope you will come and are looking forward to seeing you on the 3rd of July. Email to admin@ymt.org to let us know you're coming and how many in your group.

YMT (Youth ministry Trust)Vacancies: YMT are now also accepting applications for the following two part-time jobs at the Emmaus Youth Village.

Administrator: Providing professional and proactive administrative support to YMT and all its ministries £13,000 (pro-rata payment of 20 hours a week)For an application pack, please email admin@ymt.org. All applications should be in by the 14th of June2021.

Housekeeper: 20 hrs a week at £11,000 pro-rata For an application pack, please email admin@ymt.org. All applications should be in by the 14th of June2021.

St Mary's News

Collection: Lay Training Fund - open until 20th June.

Lately Deceased: Nicholas (Nichol) Boyle. Please pray for him And his family at this sad time.

Resumption of Communion Visits: Following on from our meeting on 2nd June, most of our ministers have agreed to resume bringing the Blessed Sacrament to the housebound in accordance with the Bishops' Conference guidelines for doing so safely during the pandemic. Since ministers are limited, in effect, to visiting one household per day, it may not be possible to accommodate everyone who wants a house-visit every single week. But we will try our best to make sure that people are visited fairly regularly. If anyone is aware of someone who was not housebound before the lockdown, but who is now and would like to receive Communion at home, please contact Fr. Tom to arrange this.

First Holy Communions: Please pray for the children as they prepare to receive the most Blessed Sacrament on Saturday.

Memorial Stones: Anyone wishing to purchase a memorial Stone in memory of a loved one please give information in writing, The name for the memorial stone and also the Name, address and phone number of the contact person. Please place in an envelope and either put it through St Mary's Door or hand it to Joe Anderson. Names by end of June please.

St Patrick's News

Holy Face Prayer Group: The Holy Face Prayer Group has recommenced on Tuesday evenings, in church, from 6pm onwards. For further details telephone 01207 506425. the latest Holy Face Youtube video link is:- <https://youtube/55Plmikt38>

Gift Aid New Mass Envelopes: The envelopes for the new financial year are now available. They can be collected at the back of church on Sunday and Monday after the morning Mass. They will continue to be available for the next few weeks. Please **DO NOT** use any of your old envelopes after the 28th March. Please save your donations until you have your new envelopes. If you wish to set up a standing order for your donation the bank details for St Patrick's are Sort Code 40-34-18 Account Number 01163817. Thank you.

Missio - Red Boxes: Amount collected £309.67. Many thanks for your continued support.

St Pius News

Missio - Red Boxes: Amount collected £203.42. Many thanks for your continued support.

Our Lady and St Joseph's News

Sudan Feeding Station: The collection for the SVP Sudan Feeding Station to date has raised £2,306. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Missio - Red Boxes: Amount collected - £951.00. Many thanks for your continued support.

St. Joseph's Hall, Leadgate: Prince Bishop's Veterinary Practice, Plantation Street, Leadgate have contacted Hexham & Newcastle Diocese to express an interest in buying St. Joseph's Hall to expand their premises and business. If this was to happen all money from the purchase would go directly to Brooms parish. This could be spent on much needed refurbishment and repair of Brooms Church and its Presbytery. When Mass times return to normal there are three available venues in Leadgate Village where we could continue to hold weekday Mass. We hope to hold a Parish Council Meeting soon to discuss this matter but in the meantime you may contact Fr. John to make known your views and opinions.

ANNIVERSARIES

St Mary's: George Henry Nelson, Mary Ellen McGuigan, Vincent Jackson, William Creegan, Nellie McNally, Thomas McNally, Christine Hayton, Anthony Patrick Hestor, Catherine Batey, Wilfred Moss, Edward Norton, John Lee Murphy, Mary Curren, John McKenna, Mary McKenna, Canon McCarten, Margaret Reilly, Thomas Johnson, Christine (Tina) Kirk, Arthur Dick, Mary Toole, Denis Daley, Lucia Macellaro Wake, Jim Crozier, Agnes (Nan) Parkin, Ray Armstrong.

Our Lady of the Rosary: Neil McKie (snr), Desmond McNally, Alice Bell.

St. Patrick's: Jim Crozier, Rose Mary Moran, Roy Garvin, Ann Wall, Jerome Hillas, Patrick McNicholas, Michael Pearson, Vera Teasdale, Margaret Haggarth, Teresa Clark, Christopher Langdon, Agnes Fowler, Frances Ann Sloane, Mary Murray, Ned Joyce, Mary Graham, Jason Peter Thorpe, Charlotte Irwin, Martin Young, William Miller, James Edward Hunter, Jack McNally.

St. Pius: Vincent Armstrong, Ken Carter, Thomas McNestry and Nicky Towns

Our Lady & St Joseph's: Charles Cullen, Ralph Wilks, George Fountain, John Clark, Rita McCabe, Pat Matthews, Rosa Matthews.

THOSE WHO ARE SICK IN OUR PARISH

We keep in our prayers:

St Mary's: Paul Wass, Ryan McBeath, Tilly Lockey, Kieran Richard Atkinson, Amelia Burns, Norman Riches, Ethan White, James Thomas English, David Sizmy, Eileen Fannon, Mary Barnes, Arron Armstrong, Freya Simpson, Maddy Kennedy, Mark Adams, Jack Nugent, Donna Philips, Joan Kennedy, Tom Slane, Tony Quinn, Julianne Kennedy, John Winch, Eileen Haughey, Jimmy McGuigan, Catherine Hester, David Oliver, Sarah June Quinn, Thomas Eccles, John Ross and Simon Quinn.

Our Lady of the Rosary: James Baker

St. Patrick's: Eileen Fish, Margaret Heslop, Anna Bradley, Martin Rogan, Cheryl Reilly, Judith Hindmarsh, Nora Robson, Veronica Naisbett, Geraldine Donnelly and Michael Shaw.

St Pius: Ivy Agnew, Joseph Agnew, Gerry Akers, Marie Atherton, Martin Daly, Rita Daly, Paul Hunt, Nancy Malone, Gerry McArdle, Joan McGee, Danny Morton, Robert Nixon Jr., Charlie O'Donnell and Jade Telford.

Our Lady and St Joseph's: Sue Robertson.

Pope Francis – Prayer To Mary For Protection During The Covid - 19 Pandemic

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey
as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee,
joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will
and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us,
through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test –
and deliver us from every danger,
O glorious and blessed Virgin

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

'My Jesus I believe that you are present in the most Holy Sacrament, I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you, never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.'

Partnership Prayer

Risen Christ, from your abundant grace,
pour out afresh your Holy Spirit upon our Diocese.

As we build on the deep foundations of faith
laid by the countless saints of these Northern lands,
by Aidan and Cuthbert, Hilda and Bede

may our Partnerships continue the mission
of building your Kingdom on the earth: to give living witness to your love,
and to your compassion and hope for our world.

We pray in trustful confidence that your power working in us
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

Who live and reign forever and ever.

Amen