

# *St Teresa & St John Southworth Churches, Cleveleys*

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## **Sunday : Feast of Corpus Christi – The Body and Blood of Christ**

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### **Gospel:**

#### **John 6:51-58**

Jesus said to the Jews

“I am the living bread which has come down from heaven.

Anyone who eats this bread will live forever;

And the bread that I shall give

Is my flesh, for the life of the world.”

Then the Jews started arguing with one another: “How  
Can this man give us his flesh to eat?” they said. Jesus

Replied:

“I tell you most solemnly,

if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man  
and drink his blood.

you will not have life in you.

Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood  
has eternal life,

and I shall raise him up on the last day.

for my flesh is real food

and my blood is real drink.

He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood  
lives in me,

and I live in him.

And I, who am sent by my living Father,  
myself draw life from the Father,

so whoever hears me will draw life from me.

This is the bread come down from heaven;

not like the bread our ancestors ate;

They are dead,

But anyone who eats this bread will live forever.

## Reflection:

At one time a favourite Feast in many parts of the world, Corpus Christi, the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, was always a chance to appreciate the Eucharist. Unfortunately this year it is a sad reminder that as churches are closed to the celebration of Mass, we cannot receive Holy Communion together. However, in what we have been doing these last three months of lock-down, praying at home and allowing ourselves to have a spiritual Communion with the Lord, is also recognising the powerful presence of Jesus with us. Both Communion at Mass and in prayer at home are all about Jesus giving his whole self to us - that is the symbolism of 'body and blood'. As we receive Communion at Mass, or open our hearts to Him in prayer at home, we take into our lives very deeply the love of Jesus, shown in His death and resurrection.

This is His gift - to nourish us and deepen our friendship with Him, and our faith in God. Jesus also shares with us why he gives his body and blood to us - it is for the saving and betterment of our world. So, each time we receive His love for us, we also receive His call to share that love, and to live the message of that love. Receiving Communion means we want to do something for justice, peace and tolerance in our own locality, and in the wider world. To receive is 'to do this in memory of Him'. To live in memory of Jesus is to live in actively sharing the life and love He shares with each of us.

## Notices

- **Churches opening for private prayer** : From this Monday, 15th June, we have Government permission to open our churches, but only for private, individual prayer. Just last Thursday we received guidance, and the regulations - all seven pages of it! - to begin to do so. Unfortunately it is not just a question of unlocking the church doors all day and letting people come in. A lot of preparation has to be made, and permission sought from the Bishop, so that everyone can be as safe as possible, remembering that we are not coming to the end of the virus but in the middle of it, especially in this part of the country. The best advice is still to stay at home as much as possible, and as some realise that means also to stay at home to pray, until it is much safer to be out and about freely. That is a hard message to hear, especially as our church buildings are precious to us as places of prayer, and we have missed them for so long now. However, it would be very wrong to tempt people out without them knowing that the Corona virus is still a danger to us. Some of our parishioners have already spoken of their fears that, as with freedoms now being given in other areas, it is all too premature.

However, though keeping all that in mind for your own individual decision-making, we are now preparing to open St. Teresa's church on specific days and specific times, hopefully the first time being **next Saturday, 20th June. From then** St. Teresa's church will be open on Wednesdays and Saturdays, from 10 am to 12 noon. At those times there will be two 'stewards' in church to help you keep safe, by supervising hand - cleaning on entrance, physical distancing while you are there, and by them cleaning where you have been when you leave. Please enter by the usual door at the back of church and go out by the side door on the right, at St. Joseph's Chapel. As next Saturday is 'our hope', please look at the parish website nearer the time just in case there have to be any changes.

Unfortunately we are not able to open St. John Southworth church at the moment, but the church there is not normally open for private prayer during the week.

- A very big thank you to all those who are continuing to hand in their **church offering** through the presbytery letter-box, and those who have taken out mandates with their banks. It all really helps at this time!

- **We remember in our prayers** Sam Shuff and Derrick Duffy whose Funerals are next week. We remember them and their families, and those whose anniversaries are at this time. May they rest in God's peace
- All Charities are of course suffering at this time. **Mary's Meals**, which some of you know and support, have a video on-line which is an update of their work. Please find [www.youtube.com/watch?v=HzZjnJQWZY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HzZjnJQWZY)
- **Housekeeper Vacancy** : We have been asked to advertise that a Catholic priest who has retired to the Blackpool area is seeking a live-in Housekeeper who will also be required to provide personal care. Applicants should be DBS cleared, and be able to demonstrate previous experience. For more information please contact Fr. Michael on 01253 628271

## Daily Reflections for this week

### **Monday (Meister Eckhart)**

Our Lord desires to dwell in and with his people. Go to your God and you shall be sanctified, joined and made one with him alone. For only in the sacrament shall you so truly find such grace that your bodily powers are so united and gathered together by the noble power of the physical presence of our Lord's body that your mind and all your scattered senses are now united and gathered together and thus are raised up and properly offered to God. For we should be transformed into him and wholly united with him so that what is his becomes ours and all that is ours is his, our heart one heart with his and our body one body with his.

### **Scripture (John 6:53-57)**

*Jesus said, "In truth I tell you, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise that person up on the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I in that person."*

### **Tuesday (C.S.Lewis)**

Let me make it quite clear that when Christians say that the Christ-life is in them, they do not mean something simply mental or moral. When they speak of being 'in Christ' or of Christ being 'in them', this is not simply a way of saying that they are thinking about Christ or copying him. They mean that Christ is actually operating through them; that the whole mass of Christians are the physical organism through which Christ acts. It explains why this new life is spread not only by purely mental acts such as belief, but by bodily acts like Baptism and Holy Communion.

### **Scripture (Matthew 26:26-28)**

*Now as they were eating, Jesus took the bread, and when he had said the blessing he broke it and gave it to his disciples. 'Take it and eat,' he said, 'This is my body.' Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he handed it to them saying, 'Drink from this, all of you, for this is my blood, the blood of the covenant, poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'*

### **Wednesday (A New Catechism)**

The Eucharist is a meal, a thanksgiving and a sacrifice at once. The simplest of gestures, the giving of bread and wine, and the simplest of words, "this is my body...this is my blood", focus for us all that Jesus is and gives. These various meanings have been the subject of much thought ever since the time of St. Paul. But much more important than the meditations of the Church is the obedience with which the Church follows the command, "Do this as a memorial of me." Because of this "doing", the Church has been accompanied, nourished and constituted by the Eucharist throughout the ages, down to the present day.

### **Scripture (Psalm 111:1-5,9-20)**

*I give thanks to God with all my heart in the meeting place of the just, and their assembly. Great are the deeds of the Lord, to be pondered by all who delight in them. Full of splendour and majesty his work, his justice stands firm for ever. He gives us a memorial of his deeds; the Lord is compassion and love. He gives food to those who fear him, he keeps his covenant ever in mind. He has sent deliverance to his people, and established his covenant for ever; holy and awesome is his name. His praise shall last for ever!*

### **Thursday (Jean Vanier)**

Jesus lives his authority in total communion with the Father, as a child of the Father. He never tried to prove who he was or what he could do. Everything he did or said was in union with the Father, in order to glorify the Father. Jesus exercises authority out of love. And now, Jesus' followers are called to do everything in communion with Jesus. They will speak Jesus' words. They will wash each others' feet. They will communicate his love. They will be Jesus.

**Scripture (John 17:18-19,21-23)**

*Jesus said, 'As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world, and for their sake I consecrate myself so that they too may be consecrated in truth. May they all be one, just as, Father, you are in me and I am in you, so that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me. I have given them the glory you gave to me, that they may be one as we are one. With me in them and you in me, may they be so perfected in unity that the world will recognise that it was you who sent me and that you have loved them as you loved me.'*

**Friday (Thomas a Kempis)**

*Christ says to the disciple: I am the giver of holiness. I seek a pure heart and there I will dwell. Prepare and make ready for me a large upper room, and there I and my disciples will eat the Passover with you. Do whatever lies within your power and do it earnestly, not out of habit or necessity, but with awe and reverent love receive the Body of our Lord and God, who deigns to come to you. It is my invitation and my bidding: I will supply whatever is lacking in you. Come, therefore, and receive me. You come in order to be hallowed and united to me; that you may receive fresh grace, and be inspired anew to amendment of life. No less vigilance is required after Communion than devout preparation beforehand. For a constant vigilance after is the best preparation for receiving richer graces. Savour the presence of God, for you possess him. I am he to whom you should offer your whole self, that, set free from care, you may no longer live in yourself, but in me.*

**Scripture (1 Cor. 10:16-17)**

*The blessing cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ, and the bread that we break is a communion with the body of Christ. The fact that there is only one loaf means that, though there are many of us, we form a single body because we all have a share in this one loaf.*

**Martin Bennett**