

Reflection for the feast of Corpus Christi

Sunday, 14th June 2020

If you do not have a copy of the missalette, you can find today's readings at www.universalis.com

St Ignatius, the founder of the Society of Jesus, changed his name. He was born "Inigo", a Basque diminutive of James – we could translate his original name as "Jimmy". During his conversion while convalescing from a war wound, he was touched by the lives of the saints. The saint that most inspired him was St Ignatius of Antioch. When he was well and had changed his life, he took the new name "Ignatius" after this outstanding 2nd century martyr.

The original St Ignatius was bishop of Antioch, a Christian community founded by St Peter. About 60 years after the death of Jesus he was condemned for being a Christian and sentenced to being thrown to the lions in Rome. On his way to certain death, he wrote a number of letters to the Christian communities he had known, asking for their prayers and encouraging them in the faith. Fortunately for us these letters have been preserved and they are the oldest Christian writings after the New Testament.

Ignatius of Antioch was the first to see the significance of bread, chosen by Jesus to be his sacramental presence in the world. He noted the long and quite violent process that goes into making a loaf of bread. The seed is sown in the ground, where it dies in the process of producing roots and a shoot. It needs to be nurtured while it grows into a mature plant. The farmer needs to be patient and care for his crop. Eventually the ear appears and the grains of wheat mature inside. These are promptly harvested by the farmer. The wheat is sifted from the chaff, which is burnt. The grains are then crushed by the heavy mill stones to become flour. The flour is kneaded and made into loaves that have to be baked in a hot oven. Eventually we can enjoy the aroma and taste of newly baked bread.

Ignatius noted the similarities between what happens to the wheat and what happened to Jesus. Jesus spent years teaching the people, before his arrest, condemnation, torture and execution. However, after three days, not in an oven, but in a tomb, he emerged as a new creation. Both processes are violent, but both produce wonderful results.

He further noted that he too was being invited to share in the passion of Jesus. The lions in the arena would grind his body like the mill stones grinding the flour so that he could become a witness to the master he served.

Today is the feast of the Corpus Christi where we give thanks to God for the sacramental presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. The trauma of becoming a loaf is joined to the passion of Jesus, so that the priest in Mass saying the words "This is My Body" has the transformative effect of turning the host into the sacramental reality that we are invited to share at Mass.

It is unlikely that we will be thrown to the lions, but perhaps, like Ignatius of Antioch, we experience trials and difficulties in our lives. If we can follow his example by offering these sufferings to identify with Jesus, we can become more fully members of the Body of Christ, the Church, the tangible presence of Christ in the world.

Ignatius' body was fed to the lions, but through his writings, his witness becomes our nourishment as well. For the last three months many people have been making sacrifices on behalf of others. We need to be thankful for this courageous generosity. Even the very word "Eucharist" means "thanksgiving". We can never count all of our blessings.

Everyone is called to the grace of the Eucharist equally. As Paul said, there is no distinction between Greek or Jew, between slave or freeman, between rich or poor. Whoever we are, in whatever condition we find ourselves in, we stand equally in need of God's grace. For Jesus, offering himself for us all, every life matters. Let us try to learn from our master.

St Peter's/St Joseph's Bidding Prayers

13th / 14th June 2020

Priest:

Today is the feast of Corpus Christi. As we make our prayers, let us be conscious of our longing to be fed by God.

Reader:

In the Eucharist, the Body of Christ, Jesus leaves us with a living memorial of his presence in the world: Let us desire to receive him worthily.

Lord in your mercy.

In the Church, which is also the Body of Christ, the Holy Spirit showers us with gifts to use for the good of all: Let us all find our place of service.

Lord in your mercy.

In our society, which God calls to be holy, each and every individual matters: Let us respect the dignity of each and every one.

Lord in your mercy.

In our homes, which are now sacred spaces, we thank God for nourishment and fellowship: May he show us how to share our lives with others.

Lord in your mercy.

We commend to the loving mercy of God those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur at about this time: May they enjoy communion with all the saints in heaven.

Lord in your mercy.

The moment after receiving communion is very special. Let us imagine what we will say to Jesus the next time we are able to receive him.

[After a pause]

Lord in your mercy.

Mary was able to feed Jesus who gives his life to be our food. We can ask her to intercede on our behalf.

Hail Mary....

Priest: Father, we thank you for the gift of your Son, who we encounter everyday of our lives. We make these prayers in his name because he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

Amen.

ST PETER'S CHURCH

(with St Joseph's, Hurst Green)

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14th June 2020

THE NEWSLETTER

Corpus Christi (Year A)

Mass Schedule for this week

Fr Tim will offer a private Mass each day for the following intentions

Date	Time	Fr Tim's Private Mass Intention	Feast
Sa 13 th		Gordon Nicholson L	Vigil of Corpus Christi (Yr A)
Su 14 th		For the parish	Corpus Christi (Yr A)
M 15 th		Private Intention	Weekday in Ordinary time (week 11)
T 16 th		Michael O Loughlin L	Weekday in Ordinary Time
W 17 th		Simon John Thomasson A	Weekday in Ordinary Time
Th 18 th		For SMH	Weekday in Ordinary Time
F 19 th		John Bird L	The Sacred Heart of Jesus

(No Holy Hour or Benediction until further notice.)

L = Lately Dead, A = Anniversary of Death, R = Remembrance M = Martyr, V = Virgin, B = Bishop, Pp = Pope
 P = Personal Intention, S = Sick, B = Birthday F = Founders Mass D = Doctor, P = Priest, R = Religious

Please pray for the following, the anniversary of whose deaths occur at this time: Agnes Wilson, Maxine Dunand, Simon John Thomasson, William Holden, Mary Charlotte Holden and Fr Charles Edwards SJ. *May they rest in peace.*

Readings at Mass

	Corpus Christi (Year A)	12 th Sunday of O T (Yr A)
First	Duet 8; 1-3, 14-16	Jer 20; 10 - 13
Second	I Cor 10; 16 - 17	Rom 5; 12 - 15
Gospel	John 6; 51 - 58	Matt 10; 26 - 33

Diocesan Website:

<http://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk>

for information on our Diocese and what is happening.

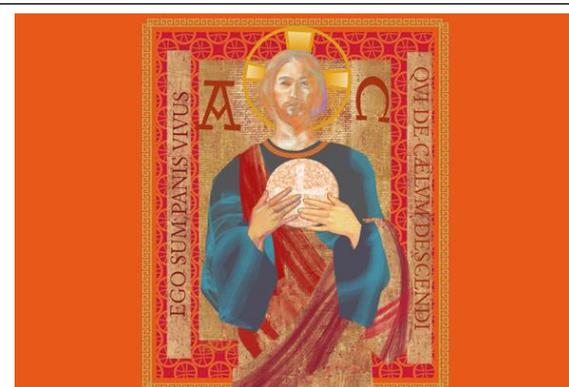
Prayers Please

Please pray for **Maureen Golding** (Debra Nutter's mother) who is seriously sick in hospital (not covid related)

Praying with the Pope in June 2020

We pray that those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the heart of Jesus.

Look at www.ThePopeVideo.org for more information



The Body of Christ

We shall continue to send out the newsletter until we are able to gather again in church. Together with other resources, it is also available on line on the parish website and in the parish resources box by the Cenotaph.

Fr Tim's availability

Each day Fr Tim will be in the Parish Office from 9am to 10am and available on the parish number (01254 826268). At other times, leave a message on the parish answer machine, which will be responded as soon as possible. A daily prayer sheet is now available on-line and in the box by the cenotaph in the village.

Today

Is the feast of **Corpus Christi**. We have not been able to come to Mass and receive communion for some time. On this feast day let us be aware of our hunger for these sacraments. Fr Tim will say Mass in St Peter's at 5.30 pm on Saturday and in St Joseph's at 9.30 am on Sunday.

Pastoral Letter from the Bishop

Bishop John Arnold has sent a pastoral letter to the diocese. I have printed this and it is being included with the newsletter.

Return to School

SMH has begun with a few pupils in reception, year 1 and year 6. It does not look as if other pupils will be able to attend before the end of term. Lancashire County Council is still insisting that St Joseph's only accepts children of key workers for the time being. Keep our children in your prayers.

Sacred Heart of Jesus

Friday is the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Fr Tim will prepare a sheet to help us to celebrate this great feast at home.

Next Sunday

Is the 12th Sunday of Ordinary Time. Back to green vestments once more! In the gospel Jesus encourages us to be bold. Next Sunday is also Father's Day.

Box by the Cenotaph

Contains daily reflections and some booklets. This week there are some copies of the *Jesuits and Friends* magazine.

Statistics

Last week we delivered 120 copies of the newsletter (thanks to those who deliver them) and 99 people accessed it on line. 8 people took printed copies of the daily reflections and 25 people read these on line!

Book of remembrance and prayer

Many people have sent in names for the book of remembrance and prayer for those connected with the parish and the Stonyhurst/SMH community who are sick or who have passed away. If you would like some names to be added to this book, let Fr Tim know. They will be remembered at Mass every day.

Cards from the piety stall

While the repository is closed, there is a small selection of cards available in the parish box by the cenotaph.

Preparing for the reopening of churches

The government is permitting churches to open for private prayer from Monday. However, as the bishop has explained in his pastoral letter, in this diocese only a few churches will open to begin with. Other churches will follow gradually. We have to draw up a Covid-Safe Risk Assessment and be inspected by the diocese before we can reopen St Peter's. No date for Mass as of yet!

Donating to the parish on line

The Diocese of Salford has put a donate button on their website, so that you can donate to individual parishes. Click on the link, and type "Stonyhurst" in the parish box, and your donation will end up in our parish bank account. Go to <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/>

Baptisms and Weddings

Many baptisms and weddings were booked to take place in St Peter's at around this time. Unfortunately these have all had to be postponed. Let us keep those awaiting these sacraments in our prayers.

Parish 1st Holy Communion

Was due to take place on 21st June. We hope to complete the course with the children as soon as it is safe to do so, then we shall fix a new date for this celebration.