



The Sacred Heart & Our Lady

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THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (CORPUS CHRISTI)

Welcome to our Parish Newsletter

Hello again! *In spite of the challenges of the recent few weeks and months of lockdown, one of the aspects of my priesthood that I have been both determined, privileged and able to continue is the celebration of the Mass; in our small Church here in Aston le Walls, albeit sadly without a congregation. During this time, I have sat in a different place from the usual 'presider's chair'. Seated on one of the benches usually given for the altar servers I have regularly found myself gazing at the beautiful stained-glass window to the right of the Altar which depicts Jesus and the two disciples at Emmaus, at the 'breaking of bread' (see above). It often seems that Jesus is looking straight at me, whilst his two disciples are either side of him intently watching Our Lord. I have found these moments profoundly uplifting for me and as I celebrate the 'breaking of bread', the Eucharist, at Mass the experience has enabled me to focus on what I am doing, and on my priestly calling. In a new way I have been moved by the fact that in the Eucharist the Lord is gazing upon each of us, with the same love He has for the two disciples. It is Jesus who seeks to come into my life. He desires to do this for us all. How do I respond?*

Every time we participate in what is both the 'source and summit' of our lives as Catholics, every time we gaze upon the Blessed Sacrament at times of Exposition, even if remotely through the wonder of live-streaming, we are all being looked upon, lovingly, by Jesus. He calls, He invites us to draw near Him, to be evermore greatly conformed to Him, not out of fear, but a command to mirror His love for us, "Do this in memory of me". Equally in giving Him thanks praise for what He has done for each one of us we have a reminder that even though we are many, and unable to gather together right now we are, as St Paul says in our Second Reading today, "we form a single body" and what Jesus unites we must take forward as we journey from lockdown to the new opportunities and calling to be 'church'.

"Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life."

Fr James

Coming Home! From Monday, the government will permit churches in England to reopen for private prayer, with social distancing and other stringent guidelines in place. Scotland and Wales will hopefully follow suit in the not-too-distant future. Although we have become accustomed to praying in our homes since March, we now have the wonderful opportunity of coming to God's house and sitting in the company of Jesus Himself in the Blessed Sacrament while praying. I am delighted to advise that **from next weekend** our Church here in Aston le Walls will, initially, be open for times of prayer on Saturday mornings (10.30am to 12 noon) and Sunday afternoons (from 2.30pm to 4.30pm). There has been quite a bit of temporary reconfiguring of seating arrangements downstairs. This takes us from two rows of pews, with an unacceptable 80 cm aisle to one central row of pews with a wider aisle each side: thus allowing a safer environment for everyone. There will also be a one-way system in operation. Due to all this, we are understandably restricted in how many people we can accommodate in the church building at any one time, but as current guidelines adapt and relax Fr James will be regularly reviewing the situation, alongside a team of willing volunteers who will be stewards during these times of prayer. There will be a separate letter given in the next couple of days which will provide further details and updates do not be afraid! Rejoice and be happy! This is a first step of renewal and re-opening fully! **Alleluia!**

For the younger members Our Website has "child-friendly" bulletins and worksheets for you to either download or contact Fr James for an electronic copy to be sent to you, by email.

Kate Chappell RIP A Service for Kate, who died recently, will take place at Banbury Crematorium this Friday, 19th June, at 12 noon. There are still restrictions on the number of people who can attend such public gatherings, and live streaming facilities are available. **Fr James will provide the necessary information to follow the Service online, please ask.**

Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus There are several beautiful feasts occurring this coming week, not least our Patronal Solemnity this Friday: The Sacred Heart of Jesus. Let us all make a commitment this week, and especially on Friday, to pray for our Parish, for one another, and *all* who live within the Parish. As we recall the wonders of Jesus's

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love for us, may we be become worthy to receive an overflowing measure of grace from the fount of heavenly gifts.

Offertory Giving Many thanks to all who are continuing to support the parish financially; people have successfully made donations by bank transfer or other online facilities. Some are sending cheque donations (payable to the Parish, not Fr James) by post or dropping off donations through the presbytery door. This is very welcome; thanks to you all! You will find more on finances elsewhere on the parish website or give directly, via the Diocesan website: <https://northamptondiocese.org/donate/>. Please ensure the parish name and area are put in the notes section of the donate page: Sacred Heart and Our Lady, Aston le Walls. Alternatively, the Diocese has introduced a new way of making donations to the parish – ‘Giving Tuesday’. All you need to do is telephone 01604 712065 and make a donation to the parish. You will need a credit or debit card to hand and you will be able to make a one-off donation to cover any missed Sunday offerings or simply call each week to make an offering. Patience may be needed, as only one person will be taking these calls, but if you leave details on the answer machine someone will get back to you!

Please pray for: Jeffrey & Terence H, Rev Stevie C, Fr Euan OP, Tess K, Tony B, Carmel R, Sarel S, Averil M, Bernard B, Paul C, Herman L, Colm E, Joy B, Catherine R, Joan T, Alan and Jean R, Josie M, Eileen E-L, Michael B. We enfold in prayer all those suffering with COVID-19 and all working within the NHS, Care Homes, hospices, our schools and all key workers.

**MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!
HAVE A GOOD WEEK!**

Spiritual Communion Prayer

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.

(Prayer of St Alphonsus)



“The Eucharist is the secret of my day. It gives strength and meaning to all my activities of service to the Church and to the whole world.”

Pope St John Paul II

Food for Thought...

“In an ever-changing world the Holy Eucharist is a constant reminder of the great reality of God’s changeless love.”

St (Mother) Teresa of Calcutta

This Sunday’s Collect

O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament have left us a memorial of your Passion, grant us, we pray, so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood that we may always experience in ourselves the fruits of your redemption. Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. AMEN.

(Roman Missal)

