

**CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE**

**PARISH NEWSLETTER**

**CORPUS CHRISTI (a)**

**June 14th 2020**



*O Sacrament most holy,  
O Sacrament divine:  
All praise and all thanksgiving  
be every moment thine.*

*Take, eat: this is my body; take, drink: this is my blood*

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## CORPUS CHRISTI (A)

### Psalter Week 3

**Introduction:** O Sacrament most Holy, O Sacrament Divine!

**First Reading:** Deut 8 : God feeds his people with manna in the desert.

**Responsorial Psalm:** O PRAISE THE LORD JERUSALEM

**Second Reading :** 1 Cor 10 : We are community because of Communion.

**Gospel :** Jn 6 : Jesus is the bread come down from Heaven.

### MASS INTENTIONS

The following Mass intentions have recently been received.

It is my intention to honour these requests in due course,  
respecting where possible any wish for a particular date:

BR Perry RIP, Mary Revell's welfare, Patricia Morrison's welfare  
(KMH); Mgr John Armitage's ints, private int (DN); Elizabeth  
Heffron RIP, Gertrude McSherry RIP, t'giving to St Francis (JM).

### SICK AND HOUSEBOUND and ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

***Please remember to support and pray for those listed as sick and housebound in our parish:***

Mary Perry, Peter James, Adrian McHugh, Fr John Cairns, Cn Michael Moore, Pauline Anderson, Eileen Berry, Phillippa Phillips, Monica Krommendijk, Una Wilkinson, Nella Lewykyj, Evelyn Matthewman, Neil Appleton, Alice Canning, Dorothy Yarwood.

***Please recall in prayer our deceased priests and parishioners whose anniversaries occur about this time :*** Frs Dan Sweeney, Frank McNicholas, John Shaw, Tom Fitzgerald, Pip Soar, Ben Choyce; *Charles Wild, Bridie Hutchinson, John Staton, Joan Bone, Doreen Shockledge, Bernard Winterbottom, Peggy Bowdren:*

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, may they rest in peace. Amen*

We note the recent death of erstwhile St Charles parishioner:

Anne Law (69) (Pennine Rd, Simmondley).

May husband Michael

and all family members & friends be comforted.

Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord:

May she rest in peace. AMEN

## PARISH NOTES

**THIS WEEKEND** we celebrate the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, but in a very different way. Our First Holy Communion candidates hunger on and patiently wait for the lifting of the cloud; our Quarant'ore adoration has been in our private homes & hearts, rather than with the delight of flowers, incense and candles decorating our sanctuaries in front of the Blessed Sacrament exposed; our traditional benediction and procession are out aside till lift-up. Our so-far thirteen Sundays of Masslessness have been times of learning what we have taken for granted, and hopefully appreciating more what we are missing. But this Sunday suggests the deepest ache, for it is the Sunday par excellence of the Body Of Christ, which we long to celebrate, give thanks for at Mass, and above all, receive.

**THE SUNDAY READINGS** speak much of our present predicament.

The first (Deuteronomy) reading speaks of how "the Lord humbled you and made you feel hunger" before he fed you with manna in the wilderness. How apt for us today—in the COVID wilderness long for that divine manna to feed us again;

The second (Corinthians) reminds us that this Holy Communion brings us together into God, and into the united family of his church, because we share the one loaf that is Corpus Christi;

The gospel (John 6) has Jesus inviting his disciples "to draw life from me" by eating the Bread of Heaven. Without it we "will not have life in you".

In the midst of the readings is one of the wondrous hymns composed by St Thomas Aquinas for today's liturgy. Treat yourself to a reading of it, to a singing of 'O Salutaris', of 'Tantum Ergo', or even the whole of Pange Lingua, of Adoro te Devote, of Panis Angelicus. Treasure the gift the Dominican Angelic Doctor gave to our church.

**HOPEFUL HOMILY** Another Dominican rediscovered this week. I'm lucky enough to get weekly homilies from the Torch website. This is where we find eloquent preaching from the Order of Preachers. In 2019, Archbishop Malcolm presented the Corpus Christi homily. I'm stunned just how it spoke then to our times today. Here's an extract: It is so easy to think that our Christian life is just about me; my needs, my concerns, my relationship with God. But there is another side to the coin. And that is the context in which we receive holy communion. I am talking about the church. When we are offered holy communion, the minister says, 'The Body (or Blood) of Christ', and we reply 'Amen'. But what is that we are assenting to by uttering this word? We are not simply saying I believe that this bread is truly the Body of Christ. The unspoken words are Body of Christ, Head of the Church. Our communion almost by its very name invokes a sense of belonging – many grains become one bread. We are entering into the mystery of the Body of Christ with Christ as its head.

The speaker at a course I attended recently, said that to live healthily we have to 'Live Holy Communion'. She was suggesting that to have good mental health we need to engage with others in meaningful ways. It is not good for our well-being to live in isolation from each other, and that is a truth that we can all accept. But why did she not simply say that we should live in communion or even in community. Why did she use the word 'holy', which obviously adds a spiritual dimension to our engagement?

What is it that turns community or communion into holy communion? There are many excellent examples of communities that give us a sense of belonging from our immediate family to model railway, these may be holy but not necessarily so. Finding our social context is necessary for human beings to flourish. But something very special happens to that group of people who, baptised in Christ, have him at their centre. After all Jesus promised that when we gather in his name then he will there in our midst, and that he would be with us always even to the end of the age. These two promises of the Lord are the bedrock on which rests our faith in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

**SAINTS ALIVE** honoured this coming week : on Tuesday we honour St Richard of Chichester. Worth rediscovering his heartfelt prayer. On Friday, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in whose honour we are dispensed from traditional Friday abstinence (though what's so abstinential about Dover sole . . !). Next day we honour Mary's Immaculate Heart.

**NEXT SUNDAY** we return to Ordinary time—the twelfth Sunday. This week is therefore the eleventh week in ordinary time.

**KINDLY PARISHIONERS** occasionally bring church-collection to the rectory letterbox. Thank You! From time to time such offering may contain cheques. The bank is quite precise these days about payee-names. “St Charles church” or St Margaret’s church” is perfectly and simply acceptable. And if you are setting up a BACS standing order or transfer, in the message box put HAD or BB or GAM. That’s enough!

**RESPONDING TO PASTORAL EMERGENCIES** Fr Martin and Fr Daniel are taking turns at being the priest on call for 24 hours at a time. To ring the duty priest, at any hour of day or night, please phone the special number: 01457 620272. You will hear some information, then you can press a button on your phone to be connected automatically to whichever priest is on call.

### **ODDMENTS**

- ♦ Trying not to be too disappointed at not attending this coming week’s postponements: a Chapter meeting in Nottingham on Tuesday; a 2-day Missio conference thereafter near Market Harborough, and a deanery meeting in Marple Bridge on Thursday. Sigh!
- ♦ Sister Ethel’s watch has been replaced by a kindly parishioner. Why am I not surprised? Thank you dear friend for your gift, which is on its way to Zambia.
- ♦ A note from the Bishop reminded us, *inter alia*, that the anti-viral sprays and ointments we use in church “should be 60% alcohol”. Good to note via Whatsapp that many parishioners take this advice seriously, and not only self-isolate, but also self-insulate themselves with generously-charged glasses of delight at the dinner tables! The messages after these welcome meals are often garbled . . .!
- ♦ Kindly parishioners bought and brought a potted hydrangea to honour the Lord and his saints. After a time in front of Our Lady I transplanted it outside the church door, to honour the Sacred Heart. Hole dug, generously fed & watered, it burgeoned. But only for a few days. Then a passing predator carefully dug it up and stole it. Purgatory’s not good enough . . .
- ♦ Wren’s Nest comes to the back shed, and the nestlings happily fledged and fled.
- ♦ Birthday greetings to Lorna and Rachel who between them have celebrated 42 birthdays
- ♦ Found myself keeping the Lord’s company’ exposed on the altar on Thursday afternoon for an hour, and presented the best and holy wishes of those who would have shared that quarant’ore time.
- ♦ Sudden surprise last Sunday to hear that we may open churches for private prayerful visits. The delight was diluted when I read the elaborate preparations needed. My thanks to the council parishioners whose advice I sought. A wise & wide consultation. But do check the draconian regulations surrounding such visits, involving tape and sprays and bench-isolation, and arrow-marked floors, and two duty-stewards and daily church-cleaning - making the arrangements in our supermarkets look easy. A tough call requiring much thought and planning. And then I reflect that one of our churches is in ordinary weekday times locked, and the other only digitally-accessible. Pause for thought.  
*In a conversation with the Bishop midweek he thought the challenges for most churches would be unsurmountable, given our parishioner age-profile. City-centre cathedrals and churches maybe. Elsewhere on the verge of impossible. Sadly this Monday will not find our doors unlocked. However I welcome your considerations on this topic.*
- ♦ Renewed thanks to Damian & Cathy N for facilitating the audio Sunday service of Word.

*Especially this weekend, I hope you will treasure this prayer, and recite it:*

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.  
I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you  
now and forever. Amen.