



Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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19th June 2022 – Body & Blood of Christ, Year C

POPE FRANCIS – ANGELUS FOR CORPUS CHRISTI 2021

Today, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ. The Gospel presents us the narrative of the Last Supper (Mk 14:12-16, 22-26). The words and gestures of the Lord touch our hearts: He takes the bread in his hands, pronounces the blessing, breaks it and offers it to the disciples, saying: “Take; this is my body” (v. 22).

And thus, with simplicity, Jesus gives us the greatest sacrament. His is a humble gesture of giving, a gesture of sharing. At the culmination of his life, he does not distribute an abundance of bread to feed the multitudes, but breaks himself apart at the Passover supper with the disciples. In this way Jesus shows us that the aim of life lies in self-giving, that the greatest thing is to serve. And today once more we find the greatness of God in a piece of Bread, in a fragility that overflows with love, that overflows with sharing. Fragility is precisely the word I would like to underscore. Jesus becomes fragile like the bread that is broken and crumbled. But his strength lies precisely therein, in his fragility. In the Eucharist fragility is strength: the strength of the love that becomes small so it can be welcomed and not feared; the strength of the love that is broken and shared so as to nourish and give life; the strength of the love that is split apart so as to join all of us in unity.

And there is another strength that stands out in the fragility of the Eucharist: the strength to love those who make mistakes. It is on the night he is betrayed that Jesus gives us the Bread of Life. He gives us the greatest gift while he feels the deepest abyss in his heart: the disciple who eats with Him, who dips the morsel in the same plate, is betraying Him. And betrayal is the worst suffering for one who loves. And what does Jesus do? He reacts to the evil with a greater good. He responds to Judas’ ‘no’ with the ‘yes’ of mercy. He does not punish the sinner, but rather gives His life for him; He pays for him. When we receive the Eucharist, Jesus does the same with us: he knows us; he knows we are sinners; and he knows we make many mistakes, but he does not give up on joining his life to ours. He knows that we need it, because the Eucharist is not the reward of saints, no, it is the Bread of sinners. This is why he exhorts us: “Do not be afraid! Take and eat”.

Each time we receive the Bread of Life, Jesus comes to give new meaning to our fragilities. He reminds us that in his eyes we are more precious than we think. He tells us he is pleased if we share our fragilities with him. He repeats to us that his mercy is not afraid of our miseries. The mercy of Jesus is not afraid of our miseries. And above all he heals us from those fragilities that we cannot heal on our own, with love. What fragilities? Let’s think. That of feeling resentment toward those who have done us harm — we cannot heal from this on our own; that of distancing ourselves from others and

closing off within ourselves — we cannot heal from that on our own; that of feeling sorry for ourselves and complaining without finding peace; from this too, we cannot heal on our own. It is He who heals us with his presence, with his bread, with the Eucharist. The Eucharist is an effective medicine for these closures. The Bread of Life, in fact, heals rigidity and transforms it into docility. The Eucharist heals because it unites with Jesus: it makes us assimilate his way of living, his ability to break himself apart and give himself to brothers and sisters, to respond to evil with good. He gives us the courage to go outside of ourselves and bend down with love toward the fragility of others. As God does with us. This is the logic of the Eucharist: we receive Jesus who loves us and heals our fragilities in order to love others and help them in their fragilities; and this lasts our entire life. In the Liturgy of the Hours today, we prayed a hymn: four verses that are the summary of Jesus’ entire life. And they tell us this: as Jesus was born, he became our travelling companion in life. Then, at the supper he gave himself as food. Then, on the cross, in his death, he became the “price”; he paid for us. And now, as he reigns in Heaven he is our reward; we go to seek the One who awaits us.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK				
Sunday	<i>Body and Blood of Christ</i>	9:30am	Magdalin Hughes (R.I.P.)	SP
		11am	People of the Parish	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	<i>Ferial</i>	9:30am	Special Intention	OL
Tuesday	<i>St Aloysius</i>	9:30am	Stephen Walsh (R.I.P.)	
Wednesday	<i>Ss John Fisher & Thomas More</i>	9am	Maureen Clarke (Speedy Recovery)	OL
<i>Access to Our Lady’s for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church</i>				
Thursday	<i>Nativity of John the Baptist</i>			
Friday	<i>Most Sacred Heart of Jesus</i>	9:15am	Fr David Peters (R.I.P.)	SP
Saturday	<i>Immaculate Heart of Mary</i>	10:30am	OLSE First Holy Communion	OL
Sunday	<i>13th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Jacinth Viegas (R.I.P.)	OL

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

Fr Paul Hughes, Richie & Lily Baker, Joan Jones, Margaret Walsh, Christopher Browne, George Perry, Louisa Tower & Vin Roper

Those who have died

Mgr Christopher Lightbound, Helen Henry

OUR PARISH VISION & MISSION

We are a warm & welcoming community of faith rooted in the love of God revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Belonging is at the heart of what we do as members of the body of Christ. We believe worship is not just found in prayer, it’s something expressed in everything we do.

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

This week the lamp burns for Jasmine Smith (R.I.P.) at Our Lady's & Sr Louise Swanston at Saint Paul's. Envelopes are at the back of each church for requests. A £5 donation is requested for an intention.

NEW DEACON – Please pray for Sean Henry who was ordained as a Deacon last Wednesday at the Pontifical Bede College in Rome. Sean spent last summer in Wallasey; we look forward to welcoming him back to the Diocese.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MGR CHRISTOPHER LIGHTBOUND

Vigil Mass – Wednesday 22nd June, 7pm in Christ the King, Bromborough

Requiem Mass with Bishop Mark – Thursday 23rd June, 12:30pm in Christ the King, Bromborough

Parking is limited at Christ the King so please consider using public transport.

THINKING OF BECOMING A PERMANENT DEACON?

The Church is the pilgrim people of God, and the programme of diaconal formation should itself be seen as a journey in faith. *'The history of every Christian vocation is the history of an inexplicable dialogue between God and human beings, between the love of God who calls and the freedom of individuals who respond lovingly to him.'* The diaconate formation team is holding a time of reflection for men who are thinking about the call to the ministry of service on Sunday 26th June 2022 at St Anne's Church, Nantwich at 2pm. There will be an opportunity to ask questions, to reflect and to pray for vocations to the permanent diaconate. For more information please contact:

Deacon John Penny – Tel: 07973375422 / Email: johncpenny@gmail.com

Or Deacon David Hill – Tel: 07407407606 / David2007hill@hotmail.co.uk

PARISH

PARISH VISION MEETING – Our next meeting is this **Tuesday 21st June** at 7pm when we will be reflecting on chapter 6 of James Mallon's book, Divine Renovation.

PRIMARY PLACES REVIEW The consultation regarding the proposal to amalgamate Saint Paul's school with Saint Peter's school is now live and can be accessed at <https://haveyoursay.wirral.gov.uk/pupil-place-planning>. There is a survey to complete if you wish or you can also email your comments to schoolsconsultation@wirral.gov.uk

You can come and use the computers & wi-fi at St Paul's Monday – Wednesday 9-11 or 3-5. Whether you are a parent of a child at St Paul's or a member of the Beechwood Community come and write your response to the consultation. Governors and school staff will be on hand to help you and will even make you a cup of tea! Come to the church between 9 and 11 or 3 and 5 and staff will be there to take you through to our Community Room.

Thank you for your support for the school. It is imperative that you add your thoughts to the consultation so that it is understood by all how important Saint Paul's Catholic Primary School is to the Beechwood Community.

PIZZA & PRAYER (CONFIRMATION 2023/2024) – We are beginning our Youth Group which will include preparation for Confirmation with an initial meeting on Monday 4th July at 6:30pm. This is open to any young person who is currently in Year 6 or above, particularly those who live in North Birkenhead but friends from elsewhere can be accepted as well. Parents are welcome to join us at 7:30pm to conclude our session together.

DBS FORM RENEWAL – many people’s DBS form currently need renewing. Please see our parish safeguarding representative Marie Wallace after 11am Mass on Sunday or she can be contacted through the parish office.

EASY FUNDRAISING – Please support our Parish on Easyfundraising – you can raise **FREE** donations when you shop online at over 6000 retailers (inc car & home insurance). It’s simple & takes 2 minutes to sign up at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> then search for Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul.

Thank you to everyone who uses the Easy Fundraising site to raise donations for us. We have just been paid £60.19 because of your generosity. Please do continue to use the site including for things such as your home or car insurance!

CATENIANS – The Birkenhead circle meets each month at Prenton Golf club to enjoy each other’s company & to support one another & our families. Membership is open to Catholic men who are aged 18 & over. If you would like to know more, please contact p.davenport.123@btinternet.com.

PARISH FINANCE

Offertory £408.80 Eye Fund/CAFOD/Zambia £25.55

Thank you for your continuing generosity.

CHARITY

WIRRAL FOODBANK – Wirral Foodbank is fully operational again. With the increased cost of living, many more households are relying on services such as the Foodbank. Donations can be left at the back of Saint Paul’s or outside the Saint Joseph chapel in Our Lady’s.

UKRAINE – Please pray for peace across our world, for the people caught up in warfare or violence & for all those seeking to promote justice & alleviate suffering. You can make donations either to CAFOD directly through the Disasters Emergency Committee or through Aid to the Church in Need. CAFOD is working with local Caritas international partners such as Caritas Ukraine on the ground to get supplies to those who need them when & where they can.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – Our hospital continues to face unprecedented pressures; many people are who clinically safe could be discharged but face barriers to returning home safely. Faith groups and organisations as part of the community, voluntary and faith sector within Wirral are being asked to support our Hospital Trust to safely and quickly discharge patients from hospital and overcome some of the current issues within the system. Age UK Wirral will take responsibility for identifying patients in the hospital that could be discharged with the assistance of DBS checked volunteers. **If you are a volunteer with a DBS check and would like to get involved or find out more please email ema@neocommunity.org.uk to register your interest. Please say which organisation you are part of, the type of help you could offer & in which local areas.**

GLASSES – thank you to all those who support the Eye Fund charity through their weekly white envelope donation. Another easy way to support the work of the eye fund is to donate any old glasses which you have via the box at the back of Our Lady’s church. These are given to help the work of the Wirral Society of the Blind & partially sighted based at Ashville Lodge on the edge of the park.

STAMPS – The stamps are sent off to the RNIB to support their work with those suffering sight loss. There is a box at the back of church for any used stamps you have.