

An Every Day Miracle

The Eucharist is an 'every-day miracle'. The trouble is that for many of us, the Eucharist has become so routine that we can easily fail to appreciate its true significance.

If we really want to rekindle the wonderment of that weekly miracle, we have to start nurturing a life changing appreciation of the Eucharist and of the Mass. Key to appreciation is preparation. If the Eucharist is food for our minds and our souls, it's important not to fill up on junk beforehand. Do we turn up for Mass in the right frame of mind ready to give genuine thought to our prayers and to the readings, or do we arrive with our heads full of trivia... life's junk food.

Chances are that if we arrive at Mass with our heads full of unrelated thoughts, we will spend our time simply going through the motions. We might as well not be there in the first place.

In the moments before Holy Communion when we are kneeling quietly in the bench with heads bowed, are we simply kneeling quietly in the bench or are we preparing our minds. We need to be preparing to receive Jesus' real presence into our bodies and into our lives. We need to be remembering Jesus' sacrifice and the reasons he made it. At the Last Supper Jesus charged us to keep his memory alive. In celebrating the Eucharist we celebrate the memory of his passion and death. As we break bread and drink wine in his name we recall Jesus' opposition to religious sham, his commitment to forgiveness and inner healing, his determination to overcome sin and his ultimate sacrifice.

How do we behave after Communion? Do we hurry back to our seat and continue chatting to the person in the next bench? How do we behave after the Mass has ended, do we make a hasty exit keen to get on with the rest of the day, or do we remember that we are taking God out into the world with us?

Jesus is with us to the end of time, and one of the ways he is with us is through the Eucharist. The sooner we start appreciating this every-day miracle the sooner our lives will change for the better.



Blood of the Covenant

All of today's readings are set in the context of the Passover. The First Reading recalls the old covenant celebrated at Sinai following the first Passover and the Exodus.

In sprinkling the blood of the covenant on the Israelites, Moses was symbolizing God's desire in this covenant to make them his family, his "blood" relations.

Quoting Moses' words in today's Gospel, Jesus elevates and transforms this covenant symbol to an extraordinary reality. In the new covenant made in the blood of Christ, we truly become one with his body and blood.

The first covenant made with Moses and Israel at Sinai was but a shadow of this new and greater



covenant made by Christ with all humankind in that upper room (see Hebrews 10:1).

The Passover that Jesus celebrates with his Twelve Apostles "actualizes," makes real what could only be symbolized by Moses' sacrifice at the altar with twelve pillars. What Jesus does today is establish his Church as the new Israel and his Eucharist as the new worship of the living God.

In offering himself to God through the Spirit, Jesus delivered Israel from the transgressions of the first covenant. And, as we hear in today's Epistle, by his blood he purified us and made us capable of true worship.

God does not want dead works or animal sacrifices. He wants our own flesh and blood, our own lives, consecrated to him, offered as a living sacrifice. This is the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving that we sing of in today's Psalm. This is the Eucharist.

What we do in memory of him is to pledge our lives to him, to renew our promise to live by the words of his covenant and to be his servants.

There is no other return we can offer to him for the eternal inheritance he has won for us. So let us approach the altar, calling upon his name in thanksgiving, taking up the cup of salvation.

Scott Hahn



English Martyrs
Vale of White Horse
Pastoral Area

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CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY (WK1)

Entrance Antiphon Ps 80:17

He fed them with the finest wheat and satisfied them with honey from the rock.

First Reading: Book of Ex. 24:3-8

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 115

The cup of salvation I will raise;
I will call on the Lord's name.

Second Reading: Heb 9:11-15

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 15:4,5

Alleluia, alleluia!!

I am the living bread which has come down from heaven, says the Lord. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

Communion Antiphon: Jn 6:57

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

SATURDAY 1st JuneSt Justin

9:30 am Mass at English Martyrs, Didcot..... Eithne Kathleen Naughton RIP (Patrick, Dominic, Eileen)
4:30 pm Adoration & Confessions will take place prior to the Vigil Mass at St John's Wallingford
5:00 pm Vigil Mass St John'sMaureen & Noel Clifford...Thanksgiving
5:50 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass at English Martyrs, Didcot...
6:30 pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs, Didcot.... Eithne Kathleen Naughton RIP (Patrick, Dominic, Eileen)

SUNDAY 2nd JuneCorpus Christi (The Body and Blood of Christ)

9:00 am Mass English Martyrs, Didcot— Bridie & Michael McNamee RIP (Brian McNamee)
11:00 noon Mass St John's Wallingford—

MONDAY 3rd JuneNO MASS.....St Charles Lwanga & Companions

TUESDAY 4th JuneNora Byrne RIP (N. Beard)

12:00 noon...Adoration before mass in St John's Wallingford..

WEDNESDAY 5th June ...

9:30 am at English Martyrs, Didcot..... Mr and Mrs Elsley RIP

THURSDAY 6th JuneSt Nobert

9:30 am Mass at St John's Wallingford....Rosie's Intention (Julie Lazarus)

FRIDAY 7th June The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

9:30 am at English Martyrs, Didcot..
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in Didcot 3pm—4pm. Come with a friend for a special hour!

SATURDAY 8th June

9:30 am Mass at English Martyrs, Didcot.....
4:30 pm Adoration & Confessions will take place prior to the Vigil Mass at St John's Wallingford
5.00 pm Vigil Mass St John'sMaureen & Noel Clifford...Thanksgiving
5.50 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass at English Martyrs, Didcot...
6.30 pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs, Didcot....

SUNDAY 9th June

9:00 am Mass English Martyrs, Didcot—
11:00 noon Mass St John's Wallingford—



In your prayers, please remember: Jenny Evans, Mary Guinan, Ann Tomline, Joan Walker, Joan Russell, Joan Turner, Nina Oakes, Jacob Oakes, Pat McLoughlin, Barry Molloy, David Woodley, Ann Furlong and all the sick and housebound of our churches.



Baptism

We rejoice with the parents and godparents of Frank who through the sacrament of Baptism, will be made a member of the body of Christ this weekend. In your prayers, remember Frank Johnson. We invoke God's blessings on him as he grows.



General Election UK 2024

The CBCEW have posted a page specifically for those deciding on where to place their vote. We are told, "Gospel values inform how we look at the world as Christians. These values can also offer a different way of looking at politics, a way that puts the common good before self-interest. Throughout this election season we will be seeking answers which will help the poor, the marginalised, and the vulnerable.

We seek a society in which all families can flourish and where we care for our common home, where we offer a welcoming hand to strangers in need, where we look out for those struggling to get on. Families are the heart of our communities and society. We seek, therefore, political leaders who can reflect and share these values. But this is not just about leaders, it is about us. We are not merely the passive recipients of politics but active citizens. An election is the best time for us as Christians to speak out, to get involved, and to lead. We hope that these resources will help in that endeavour."

This page gives thoughts on main election issues and how Christians are thinking. You can find this page at www.cbcew.org.uk/election24/



14th September Is the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress

The Adoremus National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress will take place on Saturday 14th September 2024 at St. Mary's College, Oscott. Bishops, priests, and people from all the dioceses of England and Wales will gather for a day of renewing and deepening devotion to the Eucharist. A limited number of places have been allocated to each diocese. Clergy are asked to encourage regular Eucharistic Adorers and committed parishioners to consider attending. For further information contact Canon Michael Dennehy at mdennehy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.



Pope Francis gives his blessing to Day for Life 2024

Pope Francis has sent a message to Bishop John Sherrington, Lead Bishop for Life Issues at the Bishops' Conference, praising Day for Life for encouraging "a deeper understanding of the precious gift of life". Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican Secretary of State, conveyed the message to Bishop Sherrington, assuring him of the Holy Father's "closeness in prayer".

His Holiness Pope Francis sends warm greetings of good wishes to the participants in the 2024 Day for Life to be celebrated in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland on 16 June, and he expresses gratitude for those bearing witness to the sanctity of human life in all its stages.

His Holiness prays that through their reflection on the theme "The Lord is my shepherd - compassion and hope at the end of life", this public testimony will encourage a deeper understanding of the precious gift of life and a greater desire to protect the most vulnerable from a culture that would pressure them into 'assisted suicide', which is falsely presented as a form of compassion.

It is likewise his hope that those nearing the end of their earthly journey will recognise the immense value of their lives, experience the comforting presence of Jesus and their loved ones, receive dignified care and trust deeply in God's promise of eternal life. To all taking part, especially the young, the Holy Father sends the assurance of his closeness in prayer, and he cordially sends his blessing as a pledge of joy, strength and peace in Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State, Holy See



Children's Library

We have a small number of religious children's books at the back of the church, for the children to read and return. Can we ask if you have any books at home, that perhaps your own children have outgrown, that you are willing to donate to boost our small library? Please check your bookshelves or like I did this morning have a look in your local charity shop. Thank you. Jacque & Gay, Children's Liturgy Team

SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

TO BE HELD AT ST BEDE'S CHURCH, BASINGSTOKE
ON SATURDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER AT 2PM



ANY COUPLE CELEBRATING 25TH, 30TH, 40TH, 50TH OR MORE CAN APPLY TO ATTEND, PLEASE SEE PARISH SECRETARY OR EMAIL ANNIVERSARIES@PORTSMOUTHDIocese.ORG.UK FOR AN APPLICATION FORM

Solemn Vespers and Benediction On Corpus Christi Day.

Come let us celebrate the Real Presence of the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus in the elements of the Eucharist. St Thomas Aquinas calls us to reflect and rejoice in the Eucharist being the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ.

In many parts of the world, at the end of Holy Mass, there is often a procession of the Blessed Sacrament, generally displayed in a monstrance, carried by the priest and parishioners singing joyfully. The procession is followed by the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Due to the mass times, we shall not follow this order. We shall have Solemn Vesper and Benediction in the English Martyrs at 7 pm.

Annual Corpus Christi procession

The Oxford Oratory is doing the annual Corpus Christi Procession, June 2: Starts at the Oxford Oratory, Woodstock Road, at 2:30 pm and ends with Benediction and refreshments at the University Catholic Chaplaincy, off St Aldate's in Rose Place (pausing at Blackfriars on St Giles for a sermon).

Part-time Teaching Assistant Needed

The Governors are looking to recruit a part-time teaching assistant from September 2024. This will include midday supervisor duties. This is a temporary contract. Hours to be confirmed.

Salary: Grade 4: £23 500 pro rata

The closing date for applications is Monday 3rd June 2024 at midday.

Information about how to apply can be found on the website: www.st-amands.oxon.sch.uk or contact Mrs Ellery at St Amand's: 01235 833342.

We are committed to safeguarding children. All post holders in regulated activity are subject to appropriate vetting procedures and a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service Enhanced check.

Many thanks, Debbie Morton...Administration and Finance Officer

50% Cap on Admissions to Faith Schools

The Government has opened a consultation on lifting the cap that for the last 14 years has limited the number of Catholic children that can be admitted into any new Catholic school. Please open the link and respond to the consultation (only name and email address are required).

Responses are crucial if Catholic families throughout the country are not to continue to be deprived of a Catholic education. <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/lifting-the-faith-schools-cap/>



SENIORS' LUNCHEON

Next Seniors' Lunch will be Barbecue on Thursday 13th June at 12:00. A BBQ like no other! A selection of meat and vegetables brought to your table, followed by Summer Pudding and ice cream. Book your place now!



Our Centenary Celebration is 22nd September

Our Parish Church in Wallingford, St John the Evangelist will celebrate 100 years standing, September 22. This is about us, the faith and the community, the celebrations of the sacraments, vocations to the married life and the priesthood. Well done to everyone, living and dead. To celebrate this remarkable achievement, our team has chosen, 22nd September as the big day. Activities leading up to this day shall be in our newsletter henceforth. Any fantastic idea, speak with Fr Dominic.



PLEASE HELP THE SVP.

Our SVP team has a constant stream of new families and individuals to assist. It would be a great blessing to have more volunteers to help with the workload; there are many different tasks, so we can work around your strengths and the amount of time you can give. Please contact Dominic Knight on 07516 701917. Thanks also to those who continue to give generously. Our account details remain F020717 St John the Evangelist, 60-60-04, 46078231.

