



# CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, ST JOHN'S WOOD



+ The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, Year A - 14 June 2020

## Do This in Memory of Me

Jesus in today's Gospel reading is crystal clear that to live for ever we must eat His Flesh and drink His Blood. As Jesus is the fulfilment, the completion of the Law and Prophets (Mt 5:17), it will help our understanding to explore this within the roots of the Old Testament. The reading from Deuteronomy speaks of the manna which sustained Israel for their forty years in the wilderness. What is extraordinary about the manna is that it was not a wholly natural substance, indeed it is actually referred to as bread from heaven (Ex 16:4). Manna, which means "what is it?" in Hebrew, not only was unknown (Deut 8:3) to the Israelites but also appeared in larger quantities on the Friday and none on the Sabbath, thus enabling the Sabbath rest. These conclusions support Moses' assertion that the heavenly bread was a means to help the Israelites grow in faith during those forty years in the wilderness, to help them to understand, "that man lives on everything that comes from the mouth of God" (Deut 8:3). And Jesus is asking the Jews to have faith that His Flesh, "this bread" (Jn 6:58), is the bread that will not only sustain them in this earthly life but, of Itself, will give them eternal life (Jn 6:58), not like the bread of their ancestors. Ponder how Jesus is the fulfilment of the Old Testament; the completion is always greater than the prefigurement, the earlier sign. The manna from heaven indeed sustained the Israelites during their forty years in the wilderness, a great miracle indeed, but the Flesh of Jesus, "the bread that I shall give" (Jn 6:51), is Life.

When Jesus says, "that I shall give", He is referring to the future. It points to His fulfilment, to the Risen and Ascended Lord. And so the Flesh that we eat at Mass is not earthly flesh, but the eternal living Body of Him, Who is One with Father (Jn 10:30). This Bread effects a change in us, we are changed into Him, our likeness unto God is being healed. The Jews did not understand this, they thought that our Beloved Lord was exhorting them to engage in cannibalism. For the Jews, drinking the blood of animals (Gn 9:4, Deut 12:16) was forbidden; the Blood of Jesus is not natural blood, but the Blood of Life. The Flesh and Blood of Jesus, present on the altar at every Catholic Mass, is our greatest support through the wilderness of life - the Way, because it is Itself divine Life. This truth is the Truth of Catholic Christianity. *Fr Ben*

## Mass Times

10:00am daily (streamed)

## Confessions

At call.

## Church Open for Prayer

Mon-Fri 8:00am-9:30am,

5.00pm-6:30pm

Sat 8:00am-9:30am, 11:00am-

12:00 noon, 5:00pm-6:30pm

Sun 8:00am-9:30am, 11:00am-

12:00 noon, 4:00pm-6:30pm

## Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time

### Year II

### CORPUS CHRISTI, Year A

Dt 8:2-3, 14-16; Ps 147:12-15,

19-20. R. 12; 1 Cor 10:16-17,

Jn 6:51-58

### Monday feria

1 Kings 21:1-16; Mt 5:38-42

### Tuesday feria

1 Kings 21:17-29; Mt 5:43-48

### Wednesday feria

2 Kings 2:1, 6-14; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

### Thursday feria

Sir 48:1-14; Mt 6:7-15

### Friday

### THE MOST SACRED HEART OF

### JESUS, Solemnity

Dt 7:6-11; 1 Jn 4:7-16;

Mt 11:25-30

### Saturday

### The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Memorial

Is 61:9-11; Lk 2:41-51

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Parish Clergy:

Fr Kevin Jordan ([kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk))

Fr Ben Woodley ([benwoodley@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:benwoodley@rcdow.org.uk))

Parish Sister:

Sr Brigid Collins, RSM

Parish Administrator:

Claudia McHugh ([stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk))

Director of Music:

Martin Toyer ([martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk))

**The Virtual Parish** Our website and Facebook page are updated several times a day. You can follow our live-streamed Masses there. There is also lots of other useful information to help you keep the Faith alive and growing in your hearts and to pray with once the church is open for private prayer from Monday 15 June.

### **An Act of Spiritual Communion**

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.

**The God Who Speaks** Gospel meditation by Fr Javier Ruiz-Ortiz: Corpus Christi, Year A.

#### **Meditate**

It is difficult to celebrate today's feast day in lockdown. Jesus speaks of the importance of eating his Body and drinking his blood, something which we have not been able to do for nearly three months. We can still participate with our desire because God has not abandoned us, he still wants us to draw life from him. He is present in our midst helping us, as once he did with the people of Israel in their pilgrimage through the desert.

#### **Act**

On this day in which we remember the importance of the Eucharist and the permanent presence of Jesus in the Tabernacle, share in your family or with friends what is the importance of Mass for you and why you are missing going to Church.

**Changes to Church Parking** We now have an external company controlling the parking who will only accept official permits from the hospital and our own tickets. If neither of these are visible they will issue a fine, which the church has no power to cancel. Also, please ensure you park within the marked bays. Once public Masses have resumed, particular blocks of time will be exempt from the displaying of tickets. Signage in the car park explains the new normal. Thank you very much.

**Quotations from the Saints:** "O Sacred Heart of Jesus, fountain of eternal life, Your Heart is a glowing furnace of Love. You are my refuge and my sanctuary. O my adorable and loving Saviour, consume my heart with the burning fire with which Yours is aflamed". Saint Gertrude the Great (1256-1302), nun & mystic.

**Radio Broadcast of Mass from Westminster Cathedral with Cardinal Vincent Nichols** On the Sunday Worship Programme, BBC4 on Sunday, 14 June 2020 at 8.10am-8.55am. Please share this welcome news with family and friends who do not have access to the internet and are thus unable to watch livestreamed Masses.

**CAFOD Coronavirus Emergency Appeal** CAFOD partners overseas are scaling up to prepare for the pandemic to hit poor countries particularly in Latin America, Africa and the Middle East.

Unfortunately, this is going to have catastrophic effects on communities who live in places with no option for social distancing, clean water and very little food or work opportunities. For more information and how to donate visit <https://cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal>.

### **CAFOD Coronavirus Petition to Prime Minister**

This online petition asks the Prime Minister to ensure that the most vulnerable people are the priority in the UK's international efforts as well as at home. For more detailed information visit <https://e-activist.com/page/59334/petition/1>.

**We are Asking for your Help!** Our Church is opening from Monday for private prayer and we need your help in two areas. Firstly, there must be ushers present. Please consider offering one hour between 8.30am and 6.30pm, but only if you are under 70 and not isolating/shielding. This will merely involve welcoming people and reminding them about social distancing and so on. We will show you what is required. The parts of the church open to the public must be cleaned every 24 hours. This will happen at 6.30pm each day. We will provide ppe if you do not have your own. Should you be able to help, please indicate the day, time and nature of assistance you can offer to Claudia via this link to our contact page [Volunteers](#) or directly [stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk) And do please share this call-up with those who don't access this page - the more the merrier.