



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF
OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION,
FOSTER AVENUE, BEESTON,
NOTTINGHAM, NG9 1AE
and
ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH,
TAMWORTH ROAD,
LONG EATON, NG10 1DH



Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocese Trustees Company No. 7151646 Charity No. 1134449

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TIMES OF MASSES AND OTHER SERVICES: CORPUS CHRISTI: B

Tenth Week of Ordinary Time: 6th – 12th June 2021 (Weekday Cycle Year I / Psalter Week II)

<u>Saturday 5th June:</u>	<u>St Boniface, Bishop & Martyr (memoria)</u>	<p><i>Your Prayers are requested for those who are sick:</i></p> <p>Isobel Alana Barnes, Marica Borsos, Jessie Breame, Margaret Brown, Fr John Cairns, Pat Constable, Francesca Lina Craparotta, Jim & Margaret Dougan, Fr Theodore Gomes, Ann Harrison, Fr Peter Harvey, Andrea Hoffman, Farzin Kazem, Breeda Keaney, Anne – Marie Reid, Simpson Family, Evelyn Venning, John Wilcox and Bob Wilson.</p>
Mass;	Holy Souls	
<u>Sunday 6th June:</u>	<u>Corpus Christi (Solemnity)</u>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Pro Populo; People of the Parish	
<u>Monday 7th June:</u>	<u>Weekday Feria</u>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Ron King RIP (5 th Anniversary)	
<u>Tuesday 8th June:</u>	<u>Weekday Feria</u>	
10:00 am: Mass (St Francis);	John Spittle RIP (Judy)	
<u>Wednesday 9th June:</u>	<u>Weekday Feria</u>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Deceased Members of the Gildea Family (Kathleen)	
<u>Thursday 10th June:</u>	<u>Weekday Feria</u>	<p style="text-align: center;">HOSPITALS</p> <p>A number of priests are still trying to maintain an ‘on – call’ rota for City and QMC. This is strictly calls for Anointing of the Sick when someone is nearing the end of their life. The hospital will not call us out for a request for prayers or when someone has already died – these will be dealt with by a member of the Chaplaincy Team who may or may not be a Catholic minister. Holy Communion is not being taken into hospital by Eucharistic Ministers. Families should not contact a priest directly to visit their loved one in hospital – all requests need to go through the Ward and Chaplaincy Department. QMC 0115 924 9924 ext. 63799 or City 0115 969 1169.</p>
Mass;	Holy Souls	
<u>Friday 11th June:</u>	<u>The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (Solemnity)</u>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Mary Tan RIP (2 nd Anniversary) (PS)	
<u>Saturday 12th June:</u>	<u>The Immaculate Heart of Mary (memoria)</u>	
Mass;	Private Intention	
<u>Sunday 13th June:</u>	<u>Eleventh Sunday of the Year: B</u>	
10:00 am: Mass;	Stefania Estacchini RIP	
<p>UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED THE ABOVE MASSES WILL ALL BE SAID PRIVATELY!</p>		
<p>The Parish Hall of Our Lady of the Assumption and the Parish Hall at St Francis of Assisi are closed to members of the public, until further notice. If you urgently wish to contact Fr Christopher please telephone 0115 922 8145 (at any reasonable time).</p> <p>For enquiries or to book a Mass Intention, please see me after the one of the Scheduled Public Masses or contact me by telephone. Mass Stipends and Parish Collection Envelopes can be posted or given at a later date.</p>		

Items for the newsletter can be given to Fr Christopher or e – mailed to frcathomas@live.com by WEDNESDAY of each week for inclusion in the next issue.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: Please remember in your prayers to pray for the repose of the soul of *John Boland* who died on *Wednesday 2nd June 2021*. John's Requiem Mass will take place on *Friday 18th June 2021 at 11:30 am* followed by Cremation at Bramcote Crematorium. We remember him, his wife Mona and his family at this sad time. May he rest in peace.

POOR CLARES: The Sisters send their grateful thanks for the gifts and donations from parishioners that I took them in my recent visit to the convent at Bulwell. They want you all to know how much the continued support from you all means to them and what a great help it is and that parishioners are remembered every day in their prayers. *My next visit will be 28th June 2021*. Many thanks – *Diane Wilson*

MISSIO – RED BOX: The Summer issue of MISSION TODAY is available in the Narthex please feel free to take a copy – it is an interesting read. If you have a Red Box that needs to be emptied please could you give it to me or Father Christopher or contact me on the number on the label underneath the red box. Thanks for your continued support which is very important during the pandemic when fund raising has been so difficult: *Diane Wilson – Parish MISSIO Secretary*

WEEKLY COLLECTION ENVELOPES: New envelopes are now available from the back of Church. If you haven't already done so, please collect your box of envelopes, which begin from the first weekend in June. If you don't have a set of envelopes and would like a set or, alternatively, you would like to set up a direct debit for your weekly offering, please either call (07850 978788) or e – mail: marie_calladine@hotmail.co.uk. If you are a UK tax payer we could also claim tax back on your donation after completion of a Gift Declaration Form. Thank you – *Marie Calladine*.

PARISH FINANCES: A number of people have asked about the state of Parish Finances and the impact of caused by the Pandemic. Thanks to all who have switched to Standing Order payments the average weekly income to the Parish is about £ 400.00 and Offerings brought to Church average about £ 500.00 per month since January (although this has included multiple Collection Envelops amassed over a period of time. Currently donations to the boiler replacement fund total £ 4250. 00 and I so am very grateful to you all for your continued generosity as the weather for busking at the moment is not favourable!!

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS: Obviously due to the Coronavirus Pandemic we have been unable to Celebrate some of the important Sacraments in the life of the Church over the past year. Specifically, Baptisms, First Confessions and First Holy Communions and Marriage. I am hoping that Baptisms can begin again after all the restrictions are finally lifted by the Government on *21st June 2021*. Any families wishing to have their child(ren) Baptised are asked contact me as soon as possible to arrange a date for after the 21st June. Similarly, with First Confessions and First Holy Communions, it is hoped that we can complete the programme that was begun in 2020 and that the Celebration of the First Holy Communion Mass can be held some time at the beginning of the New School Year in either September or October 2021. Any children who would have ordinarily made their First Holy Communion in 2021 (School Year 3) will now begin preparations in 2022 and we will have two Schools Years' Celebrations at the same time. Any couples who intend to marry in 2021 are also asked to contact me as soon as possible to confirm dates and make arrangements for the Marriage Preparation Course. **PLEASE NOTE: I WOULD PREFER IT IF PEOPLE WOULD CONTACT ME BY TELEPHONE AND NOT BY E – MAIL.**

CAFOD: Thanks to your support, CAFOD has been helping communities around the world cope with the pandemic. In Zambia, over the past year, we've been able to reach over 1 million people with messages on COVID – 19, provide over 13k people with access to safe water, train 392 frontline health workers from Zambia's 11 Dioceses on how to prepare and respond to COVID – 19 in their local communities AND donate over 1000 handwashing hygiene stations in communities to support handwashing measures. Thank you for standing alongside people in Zambia and for supporting communities in more than 30 other countries worldwide. With many thanks and best wishes, *Maggie Mairura* – Community Participation Coordinator, CAFOD Nottingham.

CELEBRATION OF MASS: *The public Celebration of Mass will continue as before for the time being.* Despite the country moving into Step 3 (17th May) of the Government Covid – 19 Response Roadmap published in February 2021, very little has changed with regard to Places of Worship. At the moment, the regulation on social distancing still requires that a reduced capacity exists in all churches. The Roadmap states that new sectors which will reopen on 17th May are “Some large events, including conferences, theatre and concert performances and sports events. Controlled indoor events of up to 1,000 people or 50% of a venue's capacity.” This only applies to single one – off events, moderated by the Local Authority and not to regular worship in churches. We have been reminded of the need to follow the guidelines that we have in place and to remember to use the hand sanitisers, wear face coverings and maintain the 2 metre social distancing rule.

Holy Communion will continue to be under one kind and priests will continue to wear a face covering, although it is now permitted to announce “The Body of Christ” for each communicant. Communion is to be distributed in the hand.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation: The use of confessional boxes has been prohibited because of the risks of virus transmission. One of the most important aspects for the use of the confessional is the ventilation of the space between penitents. If anyone would like to go to Confession please speak to me and arrangements can be made.

Home Visits: Any Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who wish to take Holy Communion to the Sick and Housebound are asked to speak to me regarding the guidelines and regulations for this.

Mass Booking: Please remember that you will still need to book to come to Masses using the Diocesan booking system. Details of how to book for Mass can be found on the Diocesan Website by following the link: <https://massbooking.uk/> where you will first need to Sign Up (if you haven't already done so) in order to book for Mass. This is a pre – booking system and is the only way of regulating those who come to Church. **PLEASE NOTE: that you can only book on the Mass Booking System up to 7 days ahead, so some of the Masses will not be visible yet.** The latest time to book for a Mass will be **TWO HOURS** before. **PLEASE NOTE: If there are only two people coming from the same household please book TWO SEATS and not a whole pew as this will allow more people to attend Mass.** If you do not have access to or are unable to use a computer you may book for Mass, by telephone, by calling Marie Calladine for The Assumption (Tel: 07850 978788), or at Long Eaton by calling Christina Boott on 07875 625974; but I would ask that you only use this option if you are unable to book online. Mass will be available at The Assumption, Beeston on **Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays** and **Fridays** and, at St Francis, Long Eaton on **Tuesdays**, all at **10:00 am**. The Sunday obligation continues to be suspended, so if you are unsure about coming along, do not feel under any obligation to do so; and if you or someone in your household, displays symptoms of Covid19, then please do stay at home.

Corpus Christi: B.

(*READINGS: Exodus 24³⁻⁸; Psalm 115^{12-13, 15-18}; Hebrews 9¹¹⁻¹⁵ and; Mark 14^{12-16; 22-26}*)

This weekend we are united in celebrating the great Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, the day which we also know as Corpus Christi. Although we gather around many different altars for Mass, across the many communities that make up the family of the Church, we are completely united with one another and with the Church throughout the world in this celebration.

This is because the Lord has left us the Eucharist as the gift of His own Body and Blood, offered up on Calvary for our salvation, as the Sacrament of unity. Whenever we celebrate the Mass we ourselves become the Body of Christ, the Church. And we reflect that gift of unity that binds us in faith and affection to one another. Even if we are unable at times to receive Our Lord in Holy Communion, for whatever reason, we are nonetheless truly united with Christ and with all our brothers and sisters around the altar of sacrifice in a unity which He has the power to deepen.

St Mark's Gospel reminds us that the Lord did not institute the Eucharist as a private devotion. There is no such thing as a private Mass – even in the rare circumstances when a priest may have to celebrate the Mass by himself – because he is always united with the Church in heaven and on earth through the action of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. From the beginning Christ gave His Body and Blood to others, in the company of the apostles who gathered with Him for His Last Supper.

As He prepared for this final, transforming Passover Meal, on the evening before He died, Our Lord asked: “*Where is my dining room in which I can eat the Passover with my disciples?*” When He asked us to, “*do this in memory of me,*” He wished us to participate in His Eucharist together, united as it were around the table of His Last Supper and at the foot of the Cross of Sacrifice where He died for us on Calvary. Each one of us is drawn by our inner hunger for the food of life towards the altar of sacrifice and the sacred table of the Eucharist.

Today we may ask ourselves the Lord's own question: where is the dining room in which I can eat the Eucharist with the Lord and with His disciples today? Because when we are gathered around His altar we are bound to one another in a new and unbreakable bond of shared faith and, through our shared relationship with Christ. So, Corpus Christi is also the Feast day of the family of the Church, since the Eucharist unites us as the Lord's brothers and sisters, faithful to Him and faithful to one another because of Him.

As within any family, we do not choose who our brothers and sisters would be. They are a gift to us, brought into being through the love of our parents. Whenever we celebrate the Eucharist we experience a home – coming, a return to the place of welcome prepared by the Church as a mother welcomes her children, gathered around the table of the Lord. This should be a moment when we sense a need to come together for that big family gathering and celebration, demonstrating our unity and rejoicing in what we share together.

It is rather interesting that God's plan for the human family was disrupted by eating. When Adam and Eve, gave in to the devil's temptation, they ate the forbidden fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge Good and Evil and they disobeyed God. That was Original Sin. By eating that fruit, they expressed and enacted their desire to live by their own standards and not by God's. But cutting themselves off from God was a very bad idea. Without God, we are nothing. He is our Creator and the source of all good things. So when the human family rebelled against Him through Original Sin, we expelled ourselves from paradise and put ourselves at the mercy of evil. That is why the world is so full of misery, suffering and evil.

Eating the forbidden fruit also introduced death into the human family. God's original plan was for us to eat of the Tree of Life, which would preserve us from death. But after Original Sin, the Tree of Life was inaccessible; death became our constant companion and our inevitable destination. But if God's plan was disrupted by eating, it is also restored by eating. Since we had been banished from Paradise and could no longer eat of the Tree of Life, God came up with a brilliant alternative: He brought the Tree of Life out to us. That was the mission of Jesus Christ. By dying on the Cross, He repaired the damage done by Original Sin, suffering in our place and loosening the knot of our disobedience. In this way, the Cross of Jesus Christ became the new Tree of Life. And this tree is heavily laden with supernatural fruit: the Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Our Lord. When we eat of this fruit, we express our repentance and our desire to return from our rebellion and to be united to Christ. This supernatural fruit is the antidote to the poison of that forbidden fruit. It is our medicine, gradually healing our selfishness and sinfulness and nourishing Christ – like generosity, wisdom, courage and love. This is what we celebrate joyfully on today's Solemn Feast of Corpus Christi.

This is why we should treat the Eucharist with such special reverence. St Philip Neri, the famous Apostle of Rome in the 16th Century, whose Feast day we celebrated on 26th May, understood this reverence very well. He said that when we receive Our Lord, we are, *“like a walking Tabernacle and we have to show Him due honour and respect.”*

When we receive the Eucharist in Holy Communion, this is what is going on – the redemption of the world through Christ's presence in each one of us. By making Himself present in us, He heals and sanctifies us. But He also reaches out to heal and sanctify everyone else around us, every part of the world that is connected to us. But this doesn't happen automatically. When we eat natural food, our bodies digest it and derive nourishment from it automatically, without us having to do anything consciously to make it happen. But since the Eucharist is supernatural and spiritual food, it will only nourish us if we allow it to.

One thing we can do to help activate the power of the Eucharist in our lives is to make use of the discipline of silence. You cannot put fine wine into a glass full of orange juice until you pour out the orange juice and rinse the glass. Silence helps us empty out and clean the cup of our soul, so that it can receive God's grace in Holy Communion. In silent prayer and reflection, God has a chance to speak to us, to till the soil of our hearts and maybe to point out some unconfessed sins that are blocking the flow of His grace in our lives. Coming to Mass a few minutes early in order to recollect ourselves, spending a few minutes after Mass to extend our thanksgiving, respecting the atmosphere of silence both before and after Mass; these are practical ways to help make sure God doesn't spill His grace when He tries to pour it into our souls through the Eucharist. Today, as we thank God for this awe – inspiring gift of the Eucharist, let us express our gratitude by promising to keep our souls ready to be filled.