



Welcome to the Catholic Parish of Southwell and Calverton

Our Lady of Victories, Southwell and Saint Anthony, Calverton

Our Lady of Victories : Halam Road, Southwell, Nottinghamshire NG25 0AD

Saint Anthony : Mansfield Lane, Calverton, Nottinghamshire NG14 6NP

Parish Priest: **Father Simon Gillespie** Mobile: 07760 372105 Email: simon@nottinghamcatholic.com

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Parish Secretary: **Justine Stoddart** (currently on furlough)

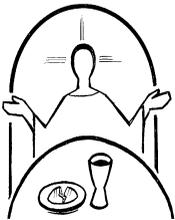
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Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Company Number: 7151646 Charity Number: 1134449



14th June 2020 : The Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus et Sanguis Christi)



Almost all of us have happy memories of the day we made our First Holy Communion; whether this was as a child, or later in our life, it was a day marking the culmination of a journey of preparation, longing and expectancy; finally being able to fully participate in the Mass and receive Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. To receive the Eucharist is the greatest gift that God has given to us, one which (unlike the other sacraments of initiation) we are invited to receive again and again, almost as often as we come to Mass (we may receive the Eucharist no more than twice on any one day, even if we go to Mass a third time; cf Code of Canon Law 917). That's why it's so painful for us not to be able to come to Mass in these present days, and to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Today's feast, being celebrated remotely and outside of church, gives it an added poignancy, as we ponder on what we are missing.

Up until the early part of the twentieth century the frequent reception of Holy Communion was rare, and it was Pope Saint Pius X who reinvigorated and gave official sanction to the frequent – indeed daily – reception of Holy Communion. It's perhaps strange to think that, for many years, people would faithfully go to Mass, but not receive Communion. To most of us, today, the reception of Communion at Mass is not only the high point of the Mass, but also of our week's prayer.

To gain an understanding of the sacrament of the Eucharist we can start in no better place than Saint John's Gospel, chapter six, and especially verse 35: 'I am the bread of life. No one who comes to me will ever hunger; no one who believes in me will ever thirst.' We hear these familiar words often at Mass, and in hymns, and might even use them in our prayer life; they are so utterly profound, linking as they

do the person of Jesus to the food for eternal life which he leaves for us. In the other three gospels, the synoptics of Saints Matthew, Mark and Luke, we have accounts of the Last Supper, at which Jesus explained in different words the gift of the Eucharist that he was leaving for his disciples, and indeed for all of us. 'This is my body given for you ... this cup is the new covenant in my blood poured out for you' (Luke 22:19-20, and cf Matthew 26:26-28 and Mark 14:22-24). However the earliest written account of this Eucharistic theology comes not from the gospels but from the letters of Saint Paul; in his first letter to the Corinthians, chapter 11, verses 23-27, he describes very simply the offering of Jesus which we recognise immediately as the same offering we see made every time we go to Mass. What was being described in the very first years of Christianity is still a reality for us in our own time.

All of this is very familiar to us, and yet at the same time there is the mystery: what does happen at Mass? What is the Eucharist? We know that bread and wine are brought to the priest at the offertory of the Mass, and that through his actions this everyday food and drink becomes really Jesus, present amongst us. No longer are bread and wine on the altar, but Jesus is there, 'his Body and his Blood, with his soul and his divinity' (Catechism 1413). The actions of the priest are no mere historical re-enactment of the Last Supper; rather, that bloodless sacrifice of Jesus, which prefigured his bloody sacrifice on the Cross, is made real again for us, in our midst. This is called the anamnesis, the re-making present. This happens through the power of the Holy Spirit, working in the priest, who is invoked during the Eucharistic Prayer to hallow our offering, the epiclesis. These two actions taken together, the anamnesis and epiclesis, transubstantiate the bread and wine; the bread and wine are no longer present, instead, Jesus is with us.

Following from this, we can see why we give such honour to the Blessed Sacrament, for we are honouring not just a sacrament, but God himself. We genuflect not when we just enter a church, but rather when we are in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. We make time to adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament through our periods of exposition – worship of God on the altar. We celebrate this devotion in our parish each week on Saturday evenings before Mass, and all who are able are encouraged to participate. And we honour God by making sure that we are in a state of grace before we come to Holy Communion, in other words, we should receive the sacrament of Confession before Communion if we are aware of any grave sin in our life, or make a perfect act of contrition before Communion, if we are unable to receive Confession in time, with the resolution of receiving sacramental Confession as soon as possible afterwards.

The Eucharist is the 'source and summit' (Lumen Gentium, 11) of our Christian lives; we begin from Christ on our Christian journey, and, strengthened by his heavenly food, it is to Him that we return.

The origins of today's Solemnity

The Solemnity of Corpus Christi dates back to the 13th century. In Belgium, following the mystical experiences of Saint Juliana de Cornillon, a local feast dedicated to the Most Holy Eucharist was established in Liège in 1247. Several years later, in 1263, a Bohemian priest on pilgrimage to Italy was afflicted by doubts about the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. While celebrating Mass in the town of Bolsena, he experienced a Eucharistic miracle, when a few drops of blood were shed by the broken Host after the consecration. The very next year, in 1264, Pope Urban IV extended the feast of Corpus Christi to the whole Church.

The Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ – as it is now known – honours Jesus substantially present in the Blessed Sacrament. The truth of the Real Presence was confirmed in 1215 by the Fourth Lateran Council. Later, in 1551, the Council of Trent definitively re-affirmed the doctrine in a passage quoted verbatim by the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (paragraph 1376):

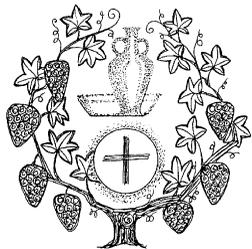
“Because Christ our Redeemer said that it was truly his body that he was offering under the species of bread, it has always been the conviction of the Church of God, and this holy Council now declares again, that by the consecration of the bread and wine there takes place a change of the whole substance of the bread into the substance of the body of Christ our Lord and of the whole substance of the wine into the substance of his blood. This change the holy Catholic Church has fittingly and properly called transubstantiation”.

A Spiritual Communion

Spiritual Communion is the heartfelt desire to receive Our Lord, even when we are unable because of the distance or for some other reason, such as in the present circumstances. If you are at home and live-streaming the Mass, or praying the texts of the Mass, when it comes to the time for receiving Holy Communion pray instead the prayer below:

From Saint Aiphonsus Liguori:

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly 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 being already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.



Prayer during the Coronavirus Pandemic

In these days when our churches must stay closed it's a comfort to know that God is close to us and that he holds each of us in the palm of his hand. We are encouraged to use the Holy Father's prayer, to Our Lady, as we seek Divine protection:

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,

to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself,

and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross,

to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test

and deliver us from every danger,

O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

Access to a Priest or the Sacraments

During these days when our Catholic churches throughout the country have to remain closed Mass is still celebrated every day for the intentions of all the parishioners of Southwell and Calverton, and for the specific intentions you have requested. If you need to contact Father Simon, please get in touch.

Justine, our parish secretary, is now working from home, but can be contacted through the parish email address, and is collecting the post regularly.

As requested by the Prime Minister on 23rd March, public religious celebrations are not taking place for the time being. **Funeral Services** can still be held, at the cemetery or crematorium, and a Requiem Mass or Memorial Mass can be celebrated later, when it's possible to gather again in church.

If you or someone you know wishes to be anointed with the **Sacrament of the Sick** please speak with Father Simon. Likewise, if you or someone you know wishes to celebrate the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** (Confession) this can be arranged directly with Father Simon.

Ways to continue to participate in the life of the Church

The **readings and prayers for Mass** each day can be found here:

- <https://universalis.com/europe.england.nottingham/mass.htm>

Daily Mass is broadcast from our Cathedral in Nottingham at the following times:

- Sundays and Saturdays: 10am
- Weekdays: 1pm

The link to the televised Mass is here:

- http://www.stbarnabascathedral.org.uk/01_Community/livestream.html

Daily Mass is broadcast from the National Shrine and Minor Basilica of Our Lady in Walsingham each day at 12 noon:

- <http://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream>

Sunday Mass, celebrated by Bishop Patrick, will be broadcast from his chapel at Bishop's House each Sunday at 10am:

- www.youtube.com/channel/UCaf7upUMsn3Kl8GD79FotjQ/featured?fbclid=IwAR1JRpqkdO0rHZY98bsnSC_N9TKbvSKXv0L5bT4yVCCmTHaVmAwaW4g-rAk

Bishop Patrick is also celebrating other liturgies. Check the Bishop's YouTube channel (using the link above) for each day's schedule.

The **Rosary** is prayed throughout the day from the Shrine of Our Lady at the Grotto in Lourdes:

- <https://www.lourdes-france.org/en/tv-lourdes>

Resources for children and young people can be found via the Nottingham Diocesan Catholic Youth Service's (NDCYS) website, with particular shows on Monday mornings at 9.30am and Friday evenings at 6.00pm:

- <https://ndcys.com>

There are also ideas for **children's liturgy** on Cafod's website:

- <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>

In these days let us stay safe and well, with our eyes fixed on the Lord. As our churches have to remain closed, let us open our hearts even wider. As the Psalms say 'Grow higher ancient doors and let the King of Glory enter.' These are the doors of our hearts. God knows well how to fill our lives. We must open our hearts in prayer and silent welcome.

Reopening of Catholic churches in England

Many parishioners will have heard the Government announce last week that places of worship in England can be opened for private prayer from Monday 15th June. Whilst welcoming this decision (which has been brought forward from the originally-proposed date of 4th July seemingly because of lobbying from Cardinal Nichols) our Bishops have stated that this is conditional on the churches which open introducing appropriate safety measures and strict protocols for those who will be allowed to enter. These requirements include:

- ✘ a risk assessments in place, confirmed by the Bishop;
- ✘ a limit on the numbers entering the church, for Southwell that would be 15 people, and for Calverton 16;
- ✘ a designated one-way system, with (ideally) two separate doors, and windows to be open as far as possible;
- ✘ social distancing, both when seated and whilst moving inside the church, with other pews and seats either removed or blocked;
- ✘ hand-sanitising materials at the door to be used by each person entering;
- ✘ a minimum of two stewards present at all times, in protective clothing, and with disinfectant to clean the areas used by those who visit the church;
- ✘ the church has to be thoroughly cleaned after every session that it is open;
- ✘ holy water fonts will have to remain empty, and all literature, prayer books, leaflets etc should be removed;
- ✘ toilets are to remain closed

With these protocols many churches are unlikely to be able to open because the communities cannot fulfil the requirements, and Bishop Patrick envisions only larger city churches will open initially. **Accordingly Father Simon has determined that, for the foreseeable future, neither of the churches in our parish will open.**

To see if at some stage as a parish we could possibly open our two churches, even for just a few hours, it would be very helpful to know the opinions of parishioners: please email Father Simon (simon@nottinghamcatholic.com) with your thoughts.

Likewise, and following from this, should there be a desire on the part of parishioners to open the church there would be a need for parishioners who would be willing to provide some practical help in stewarding (including cleaning the church when it's open and afterwards) and who meet the criteria:

- ✘ potential stewards should already be formal volunteers in the parish (or in a neighbouring parish) in whatever role;

- ✘ it is advised that one volunteer present at each session at least should have undertaken some safeguarding training (although this does not have to have been through the Church);
- ✘ anyone not currently volunteering in a formal capacity with the parish can apply but an application will need to be made to the diocese under the Safer Recruitment Process and references taken up;
- ✘ those who are aged 70 or over, or under 18, or who are shielding, or living with someone who is shielding, would not be suitable to steward.

At present simply opening the church is not possible and it will depend on whether, as a community, we are able to meet these requirements (for both churches: it would be good to open both, rather than disadvantaging one portion or other of the parish) and have the resources in place before permission will be given by the diocese. Please do contact Father Simon, as above, with your thoughts and ideas.

A Prayer to my Guardian Angel when I can't get to Mass

Dear Guardian Angel,
 go for me to the church, there kneel down at Mass for me.
 At the Offertory, take me to God, and offer him my service:
 what I am, what I have, offer as my gift.

At the Consecration, with your seraphic strength, adore my Saviour truly present,
 praying for those who have loved me, for those who have offended me,
 and for those now deceased, that the blood of Jesus may purify them all.

During Holy Communion, bring to me the Body and Blood of Jesus
 uniting him with me in spirit, so that my heart may become his dwelling place.

Plead with him, that through his sacrifice
 all people throughout the world may be saved.

When the Mass ends, bring home to me and to every home, the Lord's blessing.
 Amen.

Prayer for the Year of the Word

Living God, you walk alongside us and speak to us throughout the Scriptures.
 Your Son, Jesus Christ, listens to our hopes and fears and shows us how to live for
 one another. Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds so that we may
 be your witnesses throughout the world. Amen.

V. Your word is our path and your truth is our light. R. This day and every day.

Our Lady of the Annunciation : Pray for us.

Saint Matthew : Pray for us. Saint Jerome : Pray for us.

Pope Emeritus Benedict on Fasting from the Eucharist

“A fasting of this kind – and of course it would have to be open to the Church’s guidance and not arbitrary – could lead to a deepening of personal relationship with the Lord in the sacrament.”

The Pope emeritus has written about the current situation in his book *Behold the Pierced One*, and this reflection is very appropriate for the feast of Corpus Christi.

“When Saint Augustine sensed his death approaching, he ‘excommunicated’ himself and undertook public penance. In his last days he manifested his solidarity with the public sinners who seek for pardon and grace through the renunciation of communion. He wanted to meet his Lord in the humility of those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for him who is the Righteous and Merciful One. Against the background of his sermons and writings, which are a magnificent portrayal of the mystery of the Church as communion with the Body of Christ, and as the Body of Christ itself, built up by the Eucharist, this is a profoundly arresting gesture. The more I think of it, the more it moves me to reflection. Do we not often take the reception of the Blessed Sacrament too lightly? Might not this kind of spiritual fasting be of service, or even necessary, to deepen and renew our relationship to the Body of Christ?

“The ancient Church had a highly expressive practice of this kind. Since apostolic times, no doubt, the fast from the Eucharist on Good Friday was a part of the Church’s spirituality of communion. This renunciation of communion on one of the most sacred days of the Church’s year was a particularly profound way of sharing in the Lord’s Passion; it was the Bride’s mourning for the lost Bridegroom (cf. Mark 2:20). Today too, I think, fasting from the Eucharist, really taken seriously and entered into, could be most meaningful on carefully considered occasions, such as days of penance – and why not reintroduce the practice on Good Friday? It would be particularly appropriate at Masses where there is a vast congregation, making it impossible to provide for a dignified distribution of the sacrament; in such cases the renunciation of the sacrament could in fact express more reverence and love than a reception which does not do justice to the immense significance of what is taking place.

“A fasting of this kind – and of course it would have to be open to the Church’s guidance and not arbitrary – could lead to a deepening of personal relationship with the Lord in the sacrament. It could also be an act of solidarity with all those who yearn for the sacrament but cannot receive it. It seems to me that the problem of the divorced and remarried, as well as that of intercommunion (eg in mixed

marriages), would be far less acute against the background of voluntary spiritual fasting, which would visibly express the fact that we all need that ‘healing of love’ which the Lord performed in the ultimate loneliness of the Cross. Naturally, I am not suggesting a return to a kind of Jansenism: fasting presupposes normal eating, both in spiritual and biological life. But from time to time we do need a medicine to stop us from falling into mere routine which lacks all spiritual dimension. Sometimes we need hunger, physical and spiritual hunger, if we are to come fresh to the Lord’s gifts and understand the suffering of our hungering brothers. Both spiritual and physical hunger can be a vehicle of love.”

In his 2007 Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Sacramentum Caritatis*, Pope Benedict XVI offered this beautiful reflection on the relationship between the Eucharist, suffering, and compassion:

“The bread I will give is my flesh, for the life of the world” (John 6:51). In these words the Lord reveals the true meaning of the gift of his life for all people. These words also reveal his deep compassion for every man and woman. The Gospels frequently speak of Jesus’ feelings towards others, especially the suffering and sinners (cf. Matthew 20:34; Mark 6:34; Luke 19:41). Through a profoundly human sensibility he expresses God’s saving will for all people – that they may have true life. Each celebration of the Eucharist makes sacramentally present the gift that the crucified Lord made of his life, for us and for the whole world. In the Eucharist Jesus also makes us witnesses of God’s compassion towards all our brothers and sisters. The eucharistic mystery thus gives rise to a service of charity towards neighbour, which “consists in the very fact that, in God and with God, I love even the person whom I do not like or even know. This can only take place on the basis of an intimate encounter with God, an encounter which has become a communion of will, affecting even my feelings. Then I learn to look on this other person not simply with my eyes and my feelings, but from the perspective of Jesus Christ.” (240) In all those I meet, I recognize brothers or sisters for whom the Lord gave his life, loving them “to the end” (John 13:1). Our communities, when they celebrate the Eucharist, must become ever more conscious that the sacrifice of Christ is for all, and that the Eucharist thus compels all who believe in him to become “bread that is broken” for others, and to work for the building of a more just and fraternal world. Keeping in mind the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, we need to realize that Christ continues today to exhort his disciples to become personally engaged: “You yourselves, give them something to eat” (Matthew 14:16). Each of us is truly called, together with Jesus, to be bread broken for the life of the world. (par. 88)”

Pope's Prayer Intention for June

The Way of the Heart We pray that all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.

Some practical points

Father Simon continues to celebrate Mass everyday; if you wish to have a Mass offered for an intention put a Mass envelope through the presbytery letterbox, or email Father Simon directly. The Mass intentions are published in the newsletter.

Since there are no Sunday collections sincere thanks to those parishioners who have set-up standing orders. If you've able to set one up the details are:

- Account name: **Our Lady of Victories Southwell RCP**
- Sort Code: **30-67-76**
- Account number: **45368360**

Many thanks to all our parishioners for your continuing generosity!

If you'd like to receive the parish newsletter by email simply email the parish office, at olv.rchurch@gmail.com, asking to be added to the list. It's helpful to have parishioners' consent (via email is fine) to send out the newsletter, and possibly other urgent messages, via email.

Two Job Opportunities in the Diocese

Working with the Bishop and parishes, the Diocese of Nottingham seeks to appoint:

A **Director of Communications** to lead the development and implementation of an effective communications framework across the Diocese, promoting the Diocesan Vision and Mission and the three themes of Encounter, Discipleship and Missionary Discipleship. For more information and an application pack email: office@dioceseofnottingham.uk The closing date is Monday 22nd June.

The Catholic parishes in the east of Nottingham wish to recruit a Community Coordinator to work across their parishes; Saint Augustine, Our Lady and Saint Edward, and the Sacred Heart. This is a full-time position and the person appointed will lead and coordinate the pastoral and administrative work of the parishes. For more details and how to apply, contact Father Joe Wheat via telephone 0115 9118266 or email sacredheartcarlton@gmail.com The closing date is Friday 26th June.

A reflection from 'Marriage Matters'

Feed your love Without food we die! Our wedding promise was to nourish each other so that we bring life to our marriage. We feed each other in all the little countless ways, but particularly in our tender lovemaking, our talking and listening, support and encouragement, particularly in times of doubt and uncertainty. In these ways our marriage will grow and shine.

Readings at Masses this week

Sunday	Deuteronomy 8:2-3.14-16; Psalm 147:12-15.19-20; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; John 6:51-58
Monday	1 Kings 21:1-16; Psalm 5:2-3.5-7; Matthew 5:38-42
Tuesday	1 Kings 21:17-29; Psalm 50(51):3-6.11.16; Matthew 5:43-48
Wednesday	2 Kings 2:1.6-14; Psalm 30(31):20.21.24; Matthew 6:1-6.16-18
Thursday	Ecclesiasticus 48:1-15; Psalm 96(97):1-7; Matthew 6:7-15
Friday	Deuteronomy 7:6-11; Psalm 102(103):1-4.6-8.10; 1 John 4:7-16; Matthew 11:25-30
Saturday	2 Chronicles 24:17-25; Psalm 88(89):4-5.29-34; Luke 2:41-51

Prayers for ...

Please remember in your prayers especially:

- ✠ **All those affected by the coronavirus outbreak** – those infected, those caring for them, those who have died, and those who mourn
- ✠ **Paul Moreno**, who died on Thursday 14th May aged 86, and whose Funeral Service will be celebrated on Monday. May he rest in peace!
- ✠ **Margaret Ann Mason**, who died on Monday 1st June aged 91, and whose Funeral Service will be celebrated on Tuesday. May she rest in peace!
- ✠ **Norah Josephine Marum**, who died on Monday 29th May aged 95, and whose Funeral Service will be celebrated on Thursday. May she rest in peace!
- ✠ **Clergy of our diocese who are sick at this time:** Monsignor Jonathan Moore, Fathers John Cairns, Anthony Colebrook, Hugh Doherty, James Hannigan, Peter Harvey, Christopher Hogan, Michael Horrax, James Lynch, Frank McLaughlin, Robert Rutledge, Michael Tutcher; Deacons Stephen Doona, and Bill Hutchinson.
- ✠ **Canon Michael O'Donoghue**, our local Dean, parish priest of Newark, and former parochial administrator of our parish, who celebrates the golden jubilee of his priestly ordination on Sunday. Ad multos annos!

Masses and Services this week

During these days, although parishioners aren't able to attend Mass, Father Simon will continue to celebrate Mass each day for your requested intentions.

Saturday 13th June	SOLEMNITY OF SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA, Patron of the church in Calverton
Mass	Mary Back RIP
Sunday 14th June	SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (Corpus et Sanguis Christi)
Mass	Pro Populo (people of the parish)
Monday 15th June	Feria
Mass	Father John Cairn's intentions
2.00pm Funeral Service	Paul Moreno RIP
Tuesday 16th June	Feria
Mass	Simon John Crosse RIP
11.00am Funeral Service	Margaret Ann Mason RIP
Wednesday 17th June	Feria
Mass	Carr Family intentions
Thursday 18th June	Feria
Mass	In honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
2.00pm Funeral Service	Norah Josephine Marum RIP
Friday 19th June	SOLEMNITY of the MOST SACRED HEART of JESUS
Mass	Anne Marie Mooney RIP
Saturday 20th June	Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Mass	John Parsons RIP
Sunday 21st June	Twelfth Sunday of the Year
Mass	Pro Populo (people of the parish)

The Cycle of Prayer

During Summer Ordinary Time we are asked to pray for the following intentions in our own private prayer:

- ✕ a deeper understanding between Christians and Jews;
- ✕ those who suffer persecution, oppression, and a denial of human rights;
- ✕ Europe;
- ✕ Human life; ✕ seafarers.