



Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Parish, Stafford

A Parish of the Brisbane North West Deanery

Vision: "To follow the example of Jesus by serving others."

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ- Year A 13th/14th June 2020

BODY AND BLOOD (CORPUS CHRISTI)

This feast has its origins in various churches in France in the early thirteenth century and was introduced to the universal church by Urban IV in 1264, with the involvement of St Thomas Aquinas, the great Dominican theologian, in helping to contribute some of the liturgical texts. It originated in the belief that there was not a feast dedicated to the body of Christ. It probably says something about the inadequate way the Eucharist was celebrated ritually in the Middle Ages that this was the time when the elevation of the host during the institution narrative (or words of consecration, as it would have been called then) and Corpus Christi processions developed in response to a need to see what was going on. Every eucharist is a celebration of the body and blood of Christ, and so this is another of those feasts whose existence proves that there was a problem somewhere at some time.

Be that as it may, today's celebration provides an opportunity to



focus more particularly on the mystery that is celebrated every time Christians come together in thanksgiving to God. John 6 is the feeding of the five thousand, a passage that was written in light of the Eucharistic experience of an early Christian community. Indeed, the earliest account of the Eucharist is found in chapter 11 of Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth, written at least a generation before John's Gospel was written. The narrative of the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand in John is followed by a series of short discourses directed either to the crowds who followed Jesus or to the Jews who complained at what he said. Today we read from Jesus' response to the grumbling Jews within the synagogue at Capernaum with his 'I am the bread of life' speech.

One of the first accusations made against early Christians by the Romans in the generation or two after the death of Jesus was that they were cannibals. It is easy to see why the Romans thought that

when the followers of Jesus were going around saying that they were eating his flesh and drinking his blood. In the passage Jesus connects the experience of Christians in the Eucharist with the life of the Trinity itself. 'I live because of the Father, so he who eats me will live because of me.' As we reflected last week, Jesus is begotten of the Father through a total self-emptying. We are begotten of Jesus, through the Spirit poured into us in initiation, through his total self-emptying on the cross. Just as the Son responds to the Father's total self-emptying through total self-giving, we are called to respond to the Son's total self-emptying for us through total self-giving.

That total self-emptying of Jesus on the cross is made real for us in the bread and wine of the Eucharist, which becomes his body and blood. The very nature of bread and wine offers us two ways to reflect upon the mystery of the cross. Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth touches upon both of these ways. One is the image of many making one. It takes many grains of wheat to make one loaf of bread and it takes many grapes to make one cup of wine. Paul makes the point 'we who are many are one body'. The Eucharist is a sacrament of unity; it is a living symbol of the unity of the Son, the Father, and the Spirit, a living symbol of and call to our unity in Christ. The second image is of one being divided into many. Paul wrote of the bread that is broken and shared. Conversely, he could also have written about the wine that is poured out and shared. The Eucharist is a sacrament of sharing; it is a living symbol of the giving of the Son on the cross, a living symbol of and call to our giving in Christ.

Augustine of Hippo picks up on one of the ideas in John's Gospel in Sermo 132A. He says, 'But how is Christ to be eaten? In the way he says, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. And so if he remains in me and I in him, that's when he eats, that's when he drinks; but anyone who does not abide in me, nor I in him, even if he receives the sacrament, only earns by it great torment"'.

We are thankful today for Jesus, who has not left us but remains with us always. We are thankful today for Jesus, who nourishes us with his body and blood that we may be one with him and be welcomed into the life of the triune God. We are thankful today for Jesus, who makes us, the many grains of wheat and the many grapes, into one bread and one cup. We are thankful today for Jesus, whose body is broken and whose blood is poured out that we too are strengthened to give of ourselves for the life of the world.

Geoffrey D Dunn

Malicious emails are circulating to parishioners across Australia purporting to come from parishes. If you receive an email that may have malicious content, please contact the parish office, so action can be taken to stop this practise.

The 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

1st Reading: Jeremiah 20:10-13

2nd Reading: Romans 5:12-15

Gospel: Matthew 10:26-33



GATHERING FOR MASS SOMETIME OVER THE NEXT TWO MONTHS:

THE CELEBRATION OF WORD AND EUCHARIST (Mass) in our Parish church will restart sometime in the next few weeks (when the COVID-19 "social distancing" rules allow). Please don't get your hopes up that all returns to how it was in February.

(REMEMBER that we are doing this for the sake of our sick and vulnerable members of our Parish and our country. It's together that we will save people from experiencing the virus and their families from unnecessary grief.)

The following are some of the things we **must** consider **BEFORE WE CAN CELEBRATE MASS:**

The maximum number of people who will be able to be present is determined by dividing the inside area of the church by four to give 4 sq m per person.

- Then we have to **arrange seating** so that there is a **space of 1.5m between people** (from different households) including the distance people are in an aisle from those sitting in the seats - we think the **maximum will be up to around 75 to 85**. We're still working it out.
- **Just in case you were thinking of it** (and I'm sure you weren't!!), there's no point in "parish shopping" as we are all in the same boat with the same regulations.
- **Registration of celebrators** - we must record the names, addresses and contact details of everyone who is at a particular Mass - just in case someone proves to have the Virus and others need to be contacted.
- **Opportunities for sanitizing hands** has to be provided at least before and after people arrive and depart.
- There will be **no holy water at the doorways** and the **shop will not be opened**.
- We have been advised not to have Collections and so your **Donations** (cash and envelopes) will need to be **deposited in the container** at the doorway.
- **Depending** on whether we have enough volunteers to help with registration, there will be **entry by one doorway only** (the Main doors).

All surfaces that are touched have to be **cleansed** after each mass. (Seats, light switches, computers, microphones, plates for Communion etc.)

POSSIBLE SCENARIOS:

1. I'm sure you'll appreciate that the **workload will go through the roof here in the office**, trying to **be fair for all** of you, trying to **follow the**

many, many regulations involved to keep the health of all, and importantly trying to **ensure that the end result is as much a Celebration of our Liturgy as possible** (rather than being a rule-keeping exercise).

2. Consequently, we'll be **relying on your cooperation** and your willingness to do things differently, such as
3. being allocated a seat that is not "your" usual seat.
4. understanding that you may not be able to be with us every weekend.
5. recognising that we'll use guidelines governed by pastoral needs for registration so that everybody has an equal opportunity to attend with us.
6. There could still be the usual three masses or possibly there will be only two masses (Sat 5pm & Sun 9am) and a **ZOOM Liturgy** each weekend. (Two masses because of cleaning requirements. ZOOM liturgy because of the restriction in numbers. The ZOOM liturgy will be an opportunity, if there are only two masses for those not 'registered' for a weekend to still worship with their community.)
7. Some sort of "registration" process that gives all (those online and those not) an equal opportunity to "book in" for a particular Mass time and weekend. (This notice will be repeated in this week's newsletter). It is envisaged that maybe people will be able to celebrate Mass once every two weeks.
8. Everybody will have the opportunity to celebrate Mass **once** before the opportunity is opened for people to celebrate a second time.
9. Possibly you will be **allocated certain seats** when you arrive e.g. If you are an individual, you may be allocated Row A No 2!! A family may be allocated Row M Nos 2-6. You may even be lucky enough to sit up on the sanctuary! Of course, those who have mobility issues will be catered for appropriately.
10. **ONLY those who have registered** and been informed of the date and time of "their" mass will be allowed to attend (This is to ensure that "social distancing" is observed. Not to observe it could lead to heavy fines for the individuals concerned and the Parish. We have been assured that there will be random checks by the civil authorities).



11. There will be **no after-Mass cuppas**.

12. We will need **new rosters** to cater for Mass/Zoom liturgies and recognising that some of our current readers etc may not have the health to attend.

We will need people prepared to volunteer at the mass they are at for various activities e.g. helping people "sign in" against their names when they arrive for Mass, helping with cleaning etc. If you aren't one of our usual volunteers (taking up collections etc) this will be an opportunity for you to put your hand up.

Sustainable Choices: More food, less waste.

Did you know that 40% of the average household bin is food waste? Or that food waste contributes 4.4 gigatons of carbon dioxide equivalent into the atmosphere each year?

Project Drawdown ranked reduced food waste as the 3rd most effective solution to reverse global warming based on greenhouse gases avoided or removed from the atmosphere. So I guess the question is...

do we want to be part of the problem or the solution?

I'll be offering simple solutions to reduce, reuse and recycle your food waste and in doing so, minimise your carbon dioxide emissions. You'll also learn how to: save yourself some money, enjoy more of the food you buy, keep your food fresher longer, and turn food waste into a valuable resource.



When: Thursday 25 June at 8pm

Where: Zoom webinar

Duration: 40 mins

Cost: FREE

Registration: Please email piawraft-er@gmail.com by Monday 22 June to receive your zoom link which will allow you to attend the online session.



"Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread." (1 Corinthians 10:17)

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to lead holy lives and invite others to join us. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, serves a twofold purpose. One, it helps build God's kingdom here on earth. Two, it helps us strengthen each other's relationship with God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. It becomes our road map to Heaven. Let's help each other get there!

I feel blessed to have amazing teachers who made COVID-19 easier.

Charlotte

Students from Sacred Heart School Booval wrote to residents of Salvation Army Aged Care.

Lyll

I am thankful for the nurses and doctors who have helped stop the spread of COVID-19.

Eloise

Our Lady, Queen of Apostles Parish Office

Address: 70 Appleby Road, Stafford
Parish email: stafford@bne.catholic.net.au
Parish WEBSITE: www.staffordcatholicparish.org.au
Parish Administrator: Fr Denis Scanlan
Fr Denis' E-mail: pp.stafford@bne.catholic.net.au
Parish Pastoral Council: ppcstafford@gmail.com
Parish Secretary: Debra Visser
Office Hours: Mon/Tues 9 - 3.30pm Thurs 9-1
Office Telephone: 3356 7155
Parish Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Representative: Cath D'Hage
STOPline Service: 1300 304 550 or
AOB@stopline.com.au or
www.bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com

Queen of Apostles School Contacts

Address: 10 Thuruna Street, Stafford
School email: pstafford@bne.catholic.edu.au
School Principal: Nigel Bird
APA: Leanne Murray
APRE: Ben Campbell
School Office Hours: 8.00am - 4.00pm (Mon-Fri)
Phone (Thuruna St:) 3352 9200
Phone (Chuter St:) 3326 0400

BAPTISMS in this Parish occur at 10.30am on the Third Sunday of each Month (**except during Lent**). **For BAPTISM BOOKINGS** please contact the Parish Office. **SUSPENDED**



We pray for those who are unwell

Colin Kenny
Carmel Remphrey
Madonna Power
Barbara Jones
Sr Elizabeth
Chris Stevens
Jack
Charalambous
Maria Rosa
Arreguci Zuzarte
Pam & Norm Ward
Irene Johnson
Mary Law



ANointing OF THE SICK

IF you are **going to hospital unexpectedly** for an op, let Fr Denis know and we can celebrate this Sacrament beforehand.



You may add a **sick person's name to the list by phoning the Parish Office** (3356 7155).



To keep the list 'fresh' the last names will be removed. If their illness continues, let us know and we'll add them to the start of the list.

We remember those whose anniversary of death occur about this time including

Gordon, Gargano, Maud Menezes, Matthews, Ketter, Rowbotham, Horn and Sheehan families and all deceased Parishioners, their families and friends, and all our brothers and sisters in Christ maimed, killed or dispossessed because of their faith.

Do you need a small blessing?

smallblessings.com.au

Catholic Leader is available online. There is a link from our website. You can subscribe to a free digital copy on this link. Click on "Stay Connected" you will be able to read the current Catholic Leader online. You can also register to receive a digital copy each week until print copies are reintroduced.

We pray for those recently deceased including:

Yvonne Dixon
Sr Virginia RSC
David Mather
Noel Wood
Jack Jones
Patrick McKewin
Alex Pipe
Fr Peter Conroy
Archbishop John Bathersby
John Blumke

