

Thought for the Week
14th June 2020
Corpus Christi

Lord Jesus Christ,
our Divine Physician,

we ask you to guard and protect us
and all people from the
coronavirus and all serious illness.

For all who have died from it ,
have mercy;

For all who are ill now,
bring healing;

For all searching for a remedy,
enlighten them;

For medical caregivers, helping the sick,
strengthen and shield them;

For all working to contain the spread,
grant them success;

For those afraid,
grant peace of mind.

By your grace,
may you turn the evil of disease
into moments of consolation and hope.

We abandon ourselves into your
infinite mercy.

Amen.

The feast of Corpus Christi – the Body of Christ – has a very particular Catholic resonance. During the Reformation the belief that Jesus was (and is) truly present in the bread and the wine we receive at Communion was one of the most bitterly contested of doctrines.

Martyrs like Edmund Campion SJ - whose famous pamphlet the Ten Reasons (for staying true to the received faith of the Church) was printed nearby at Stonor - went to the stake rather than renounce the doctrine of the Real Presence.

How strange that we will celebrate Corpus Christi this year via a livestreamed Mass, unable to receive the nourishment of the actual Body and Blood of Christ, and participating in Communion only spiritually. What I wonder, would Edmund Campion have made of that?

Notwithstanding the strange beauty of coming together in this way I think we all miss another real presence at Mass – each other. Being together, gathered around the table, as the disciples were gathered around Jesus at the Last Supper, is part and parcel of what is a very physical act. Jesus blessed, and then broke the bread, before giving it to his disciples. This was a foretaste of his Passion - but it was also an invitation to us to share in the sacrifice that brings us redemption. Jesus invites us to eat together.

I remember a story told by Archbishop Runcie about a young man called Philip who lived at the Canterbury L'Arche. Philip had learning difficulties. One Sunday he came up to receive Communion in the Cathedral. Taking the host in his hand he paused and looked at it with a puzzled frown. After an awkward moment his face lit up as he finally figures out what to do next. Breaking the host in two he shared half with the Archbishop, and ate the other half himself.

A Parishioner



Prayers Please

Thank you for your prayers for Antonita's nephew Peppin who remains in hospital recovering from the coronavirus.

Please pray for Caroline Mikhail (daughter – in - law of Jane and Ramsay Mikhail) who suffered a stroke and has been taken into hospital in Plymouth.

Please pray for Ilona who has had a fall.

Please pray for Peter Bussell who has Alzheimer's disease and for his daughter who is his main carer.

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for Jean's great grandson Rogan who is 7 and has recently started chemotherapy for leukaemia.

Please pray for Maddy Sharman who has started a new round of chemotherapy.

Please pray for Ted Cotter (brother of Philomena) who has cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy.

Please pray for Irenka's sister Ludmila Morris who is a teacher at a school open for keyworkers' children.

Please pray for children under stress.

Please prayer for all teachers — those still going into schools to give lessons to children with parents working on the frontline and those working out the technology to deliver their lessons from home.

Please pray for family and friends who work on the front line in the NHS and in the Care sector.

Please pray for the residents and staff at the two nursing homes in our parish, Abbeycrest and St Luke's.



Please also remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including; Lily Weegan, Bridie Burke, Mary Cunningham, Derek Graham, Christine Coyle, Sue Conners, Kieran Cotter, Marlene Fernandes, Joan Law.