

Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Solemnity of

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)

In my homily last week, I said that the Sign of the Cross is such a familiar and often said prayer that it is rare that we think about what the words mean and what they say about the Holy Trinity. This week, as we celebrate Corpus Christi, I wonder if the same thing is true about the Eucharist. We receive Communion every time we attend Mass but is the frequency and ease of receiving this gift such that it has become ordinary almost, making us forget how extraordinary and special it really is?

I like to tell the story of Ross McGinnis on the feast of Corpus Christi, the Body and Blood of Christ. He was born in June 1987 and brought up in Knox, north of Pittsburgh, USA. At the age of 17, he joined the army and two years later, his unit, the 26th Infantry Regiment, went out to Iraq. Ross served as a gunner in a military vehicle, a Humvee, patrolling a notoriously violent area outside Baghdad. One day, a grenade was thrown from a rooftop at the vehicle, and it fell into the hatch. Ross yelled "Grenade!" and prepared to jump out of the vehicle. However, he realised that his four colleagues did not have time to escape, so, making a split-second decision, he threw himself on top of the grenade. The explosion blew the doors of the Humvee, but, apart from Ross, there were no other casualties. In June 2008, Ross McGinnis was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honour, America's highest award for valour.

When Ross McGinnis used his body as a shield to protect his friends, he gave up his entire being. When Jesus died on the cross, he too was using his body as the shield to save his friends – that includes us, and the whole of fallen creation. He put his body between us and everything that makes us inhuman, all that brings destruction to the world. It was not just his words that Jesus gave in service, not just the ability to heal, to perform miracles, to teach with authority. He also served through giving up his body, his being, his life. In his body he gave concrete expression to the love of God for us. And in the Eucharist, he gives us himself as real food to build us into his body. This is why the Church, the body of Christ, today celebrates and delights in this feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.

Fr Antonio Pineda

Parish Note Friday 4th June 2021 and the Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Solemnity of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Bishop's Stortford - St Joseph & The English Martyr <bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk>

Fri 6/4/2021 1:55 PM

To: Bishop's Stortford - St Joseph & The English Martyr <bishopsstortford@rcdow.org.uk>

 1 attachments (27 KB)

Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.docx;

Good afternoon

Please find attached the very thought-provoking and poignant Sunday Message from Fr Antonio on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, which can also be found on our website.

Well, the weather has been absolutely glorious so far this week(apart from a few heavy spots of rain just now!) We haven't quite made it to the seaside as of yet, not wishing to add to the crowds, but the lawn has now been cut, the BBQ dusted off and a renewed interest in ice lollies has emerged with frequent visits to the top drawer of the freezer being made. In the hall of our house, we have a small barometer. It used to belong to my late father-in-law who I fondly remember would give it a couple of gentle taps every so often and accurately predict what we could expect in the days to come. It is funny to think that we can now receive an instant weekly weather forecast by using apps on a mobile phone. One of the questions that arose this week was, who counts the pollen count? The "pollen count" is literally the amount of pollen per cubic metre observed over 24 hours. According to the Met Office website, there are various monitoring sites across the UK which measure pollen between March and September. Most sites have been in operation since the 1960s, and they form part of a much bigger European Aeroallergen Network based in Vienna. Pollen is physically collected using a Burkard trap. Inside the trap is a spindle with sticky paper wrapped around it. This rotates slowly and air is drawn through a slit in the casing surrounding the spindle. As air flows through the trap pollen particles are left on the paper ready for counting. Traps are usually placed on roofs in order to sample air that has been well mixed up. Too close to the ground and you'll get all sorts of pollutants and bits of dust; too high and you'll only collect tree pollen. The paper is removed, and the pollen particles are counted using a microscope. It doesn't quite answer my question of who it is that exactly wakes up every morning to perform this task, but it is very important all the same and as a hay fever sufferer, I thank them for their efforts..

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS the family and friends of David Fish RIP, beloved husband of Carol, who sadly died recently.

Eternal rest grant unto David O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace Amen.

ZOOM -Thank you to John and our 9am Sunday Mass Musicians who will be continuing to celebrate the livestreaming of the Mass via Zoom each Sunday until further notice, followed by a virtual tea/coffee afterwards. Everyone is welcome to join, please click on the link below.

Topic: Family Mass via Zoom during lock-down (music starting at 8:45am)

Time: June 6, 2021, 08:30 AM London

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/tZ0od-G0qT8rHdIH0V5EvYx0CrmCXM8IRh-5/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhqzsiGtORsR6BRpx5GYigWfTwitlclgqd0tE_TVgVFWxumFfBPEYpSSNTi

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89508074176?pwd=TE9YWjQzb01hdmhXbVZibGpuY1hDZz09>

Meeting ID: 895 0807 4176

Passcode: 2021

One tap mobile
+442039017895,,89508074176#,,,,*2021# United Kingdom

Dial by your location
+44 203 901 7895 United Kingdom
Meeting ID: 895 0807 417

JUNE IS THE MONTH OF THE SACRED HEART - The month of June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart. The Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on the Friday following the second Sunday after Pentecost, which this year is 11 June. In addition to the liturgical celebration, many devotional exercises are connected with the Sacred Heart of Jesus, including the Sacred Heart of Jesus novena which you can find on our website and a link below.

<https://rcstortford.org.uk/sacred-heart-of-jesus-novena-2021/>

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE - We are pleased to advise you that Sophie Sullivan, our Catechetical Coordinator and her husband Mike shall be running the next two-part Baptism preparation course on the dates below via Zoom. The places will be limited to a maximum of 10 couples on each.

Course 4

Monday 14th June and Monday 21st June 2021 at 8pm - 9.15pm

If you would like to attend this course, please contact the parish office as soon as possible, so that we can send you an invitation in plenty of time. You are requested to attend the course prior to your Child being baptised.

As you will appreciate, we have a large number of Children still to be baptised since the first lockdown in 2020 and have prioritised those who had their Baptism date cancelled at that time to start with. If you have not yet completed a Baptism application form, please contact the office so that we have your details on file.

MARRIAGE CARE COUNSELLING SERVICES -Marriage Care offers support from trained counsellors to couples and families who need help in coping with the pressures of lockdown. Find out more at <https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/marriage-andfamily-life/news/marriage-care-at-75---we-are-here-for-you/>

DEADLINE IS APPROACHING !! SETTLEMENT SCHEME FOR EUROPEAN CITIZENS- EU, EEA and Swiss citizens who were living in the UK by 31st December 2020 have **until 30th June 2021** to apply for the Settlement Scheme. Those who do not apply are at risk of losing their rights to live and work here or access important services such as healthcare. There is a need to continue drawing this to people's attention as we approach the deadline. Older and vulnerable people may require assistance with the online application or not even know that their status is at risk. In many cases their main point of contact with society will be through the Church. Relevant information can be found on the official government website (www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families), from the European Commission (www.eurights.uk/what-you-need-to-know) or from the charity Settled (www.settled.org.uk). Please note, Irish citizens do not need to apply.

PERMANENT DIACONATE COME AND SEE - Men interested in finding out more about the permanent diaconate are invited to come to a two-hour session on a Saturday from 10am to 12pm on 19th June at Vaughan House, Victoria. Prior booking is required as it isn't known whether the event venue is open, or the session is online via zoom. Wives welcome. For further details and booking, contact Deacon Adrian Cullen on 07961 594725 or adriancullen@rcdow.org.uk.

CALLING ALL YOUNG PEOPLE - aged 18-35yrs. Do you like to make music? Do you wonder what your path is and what God's plan is for your life? Everyone is called by God, be it in the specific vocation to marriage or to a

consecrated life, but also in general in every moment of our lives. Why not share your thoughts and ideas about your own life's journey and God's calling to each of us through the lyrics and music of a song that may help others on their own journey. You will have the chance to not only win cash prizes but also be part of a professional CD production with your song and receive feedback from accomplished musicians on the jury. See our web site for more info <https://rcstortford.org.uk/2021/05/21/vocation-music-award-2021/>

Apply now with your song for the Vocation Music Award 2021: <https://www.vocation-music-award.com/uk/>

RIGHT TO LIFE - Ask your MP to sign a Parliamentary motion to stop 'DIY' abortion. Carla Lockhart MP has launched a parliamentary motion calling on the Government to end 'DIY' home abortion. It is therefore vital that as many MPs as possible sign Carla Lockhart's motion to send a clear message to the Government that they must end dangerous 'DIY' home abortion services as soon as possible. Right To Life UK has launched an easy-to-use tool which makes it simple for you to send an email to your MP asking them to sign the motion. Please click the link below to contact your MP now. It only takes 30 seconds!
www.righttolife.org.uk/DIYmotion

BEDA COLLEGE DISCERNMENT WEEKEND - For men between the ages of 30 and 55, the Beda College in Rome is running a discernment weekend from 3rd to 5th September 2021. It will take place at St Beuno's Spirituality Centre in North Wales and is aimed at reaching those not already in touch with their diocese to explore the possibility of priestly vocation. Information and registration forms can be found at <https://www.pathwaystogod.org/courses-events-retreats/discernment-weekend-older-men-1>.

KEEP BRITAIN TIDY - Great British Spring Clean Litter pick - <https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean>

TOURETTES AWARENESS DAY - 7th June - <https://www.tourettes-action.org.uk/index.php?p=16&n=220>

ST JOSEPH'S IS NOW OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER DURING THE WEEK - Following a Diocesan Health and Safety assessment, we are pleased to announce that St Joseph's is now open for private prayer during the week from 10.30am to 3pm (the times may be subject to change to accommodate other events in the Church taking place such as a Requiem Mass or Funeral service). The Church is closed immediately after the 9.30am Mass, so that our thorough daily deep clean can be completed and then re-opened afterwards. There is still the requirement to use the Track and Trace QR Code upon entry, sanitise your hands and wear a face mask if not exempt from doing so for private prayer. In order to assist us in keeping the Church open, we have left out disinfectant spray and wipes and kindly request that you help by cleaning your own pew and kneeler after you have finished praying, please.

At the current time we still require you please to **book** a seat at Mass until further notice as we continue to have limited seating available to allow for social distancing.

PARISHIONERS OF THE WEEK - This week a special mention and 'BIG' thanks to Alan and Dominic Hodgson for their time and physical assistance at Most Holy Redeemer which was very much appreciated. Thank you!

To finish, *'Lord, you nourish me with the bread of life. Help me to share that love with those who need it most. Amen'*

I hope that you all have a very happy and healthy week, which should, according to my barometer hopefully provide lots of sunshine!

Best wishes
Debbie

Parish Administrator

(Mon- Fri 9am - 3pm)