

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

Corpus Christi
Most Holy Body & Blood of the Lord
14th June 2009



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There can be nothing sadder than listening to someone who believes that they are not good enough to go to communion. They feel that they are unworthy and they simply stay put in their seat when the rest of the congregation gets up to eat and drink the body and blood of Christ during the celebration of Mass.

Of course none of us is good enough. That's why we say, "Lord, I am not worthy..." just before we approach the altar. We realise that we mere human beings cannot presume to receive such a gift without acknowledging our unworthiness. But beneath this idea of unworthiness there lies a fatal error.

Communion is not for good people. It's not for saints. It's for people who are not very good, who are sinners but who want to get better. Our feast of the Body and Blood of Christ

(Corpus et Sanguis Christi) teaches us that communion is not a reward but a medicine.

When we eat and drink (both!) Christ's body and blood we are signing up to be better. Some of the Church's early hymn-writers used a lovely phrase to describe the eucharist: they called it food for the journey. An ancient hymn (O, Esca Viatorum: O, Food of Travellers) makes it clear that the eucharist is not some celebratory picnic on the journey but is the survival rations, the staff of life.

At the Last Supper when Jesus instituted the eucharist he commanded us to eat and drink and to do this in memory of his death and resurrection. God has made an agreement (a covenant) with us through the death and resurrection of Jesus. He will be our God and we will be his people by ratifying the covenant: by eating and drinking in memory of Jesus.

The eucharist is our way of signing-up again and again to the promises of God, showing our renewed commitment and gratefully receiving God's gift. Saint Ignatius of Antioch called the eucharist "the medicine of immortality, the antidote which prevents us from dying so we can live forever in Jesus Christ." On the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ we share in communion here on earth, and we pray that one day we may be found rejoicing together at the everlasting meal of heaven.

EXPERIENCE THE TASTE OF ITALY!

There will be an opportunity for the Parish to experience some Italian food and music on Saturday 20th June 2009 in St Joseph's Parish Hall. Tickets can be bought from Angela Martino – 07738 412738, Enza – 07813 807865 or Tracey Hayes – 07748 095026. Tickets £6.00 for adults, £2.00 for children (under 12).



PARISH SUMMER BBQ AND LINE DANCING WITH CINDY AND FRIENDS Saturday 11th July following 6.30pm Mass, Eleanor Hall

An Evening of fun for everyone with a bar and BBQ food available for purchase. Come and try Line Dancing and you might perhaps like to join the regular classes which we hope to start soon. (Let Stewart know if you are interested in Line Dancing Classes – 01992 634445).

SPONSORED WALK – Sunday 13th September 2pm Lea Valley Park

Following the same route as last year, your sponsor form will be available soon.

APF COLLECTION

It is time for the next collection from APF red box holders in the Parish. Please take home an APF envelope with your name and address on from the box at the back of the church. Please take it home, fill it with the contents of your APF box, and return it to the Church next Sunday.

The APF is the charity that helps Catholic missionaries to continue to work in countries across the world. We thank you for all the money you give to this important work. If you have any questions, please contact Terry O'Sullivan on 01992 444642.

"PAVING THE WAY"

This magazine is available in the shop priced at £3.50. It looks at causes for sainthood being considered today

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

How can I repay the Lord
For his goodness to me?
The cup of salvation I will raise;
I will call on the Lord's name.

O precious in the eyes of the Lord
Is the death of his faithful.
Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
You have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:
I will call on the Lord's name.
My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
Before all his people.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the living bread which comes down from heaven,
says the Lord.
Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.
Alleluia.

TODAY'S READINGS: NEXT WEEKS' READINGS:

Exodus 24:3-8 Job 3:1.8-11
Psalm 115 salm 106
Hebrew 9:11-152 Cor 5:14-17
Mark 14:12-16.22-26 Mark 4:35-41

Mass Times

SUNDAY	CORPUS CHRISTI MOST HOLY BODY & BLOOD OF THE LORD	8.30am 10.45am 12.15pm & 6.30pm
Monday		10.00am
Tuesday	Richard of Chichester	10.00am
Wednesday		10.00am
Thursday		10.00am
Friday	Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	10.00am
Saturday	Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary	6.30pm
SUNDAY	TWELFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	8.30am 10.45am 12.15pm & 6.30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation –
Saturday 10.30 – 11.00am & 5.45 – 6.15pm.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
There is Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the
Church each Friday morning from 9.15 to 9.45.

Offertory Last Week: £1655.17
May Standing Orders: £1608.50 - Thank You!

SVP

The SVP Group meets on Monday evenings at 8.00pm in
the Sacristy.

LEGION OF MARY

The Legion of Mary meets in the Sacristy at 10.45 on
Tuesday mornings.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

There will be a meeting for all candidates who are
preparing for Confirmation on Thursdays at 8.00pm in
the Church.

CONVENT MASS

There will be mass in the Convent, Longlands Close at
6.30pm on Monday 15th June – all welcome.

BAPTISMS THIS WEEK

Sunday 21st June at 1.30pm – William O'Donnell

PICNIC IN THE PARK

Churches Together in Cheshunt and Waltham Cross will
be holding their annual Picnic in the Park today Sunday
14th June from 1.00 – 3.30pm. It will take place at Goffs
Oak Playing Fields, or if the weather is wet in St James'
Church in Goffs Oak. The Salvation Army Band will be in
attendance during the afternoon.

GRAVE THREAT TO VULNERABLE PEOPLE

Amendments have been tabled in Parliament to sanction
suicide for terminally ill people. The effect of this will be
to down-grade the status of people near the end of life
leading to euthanasia for disabled and elderly people.
Please write to one or more members of the House of
Lords by 23rd June at **The House of Lords, London
SW1A 0PW** asking them to oppose any move to give
approval to assisting suicide or euthanasia. Further
information can be obtained on www.spuc.org.uk

BAPTISM PREPARATION

A Baptism Preparation Course will take place on Sunday
28th June and Sunday 5th July at 2.30pm at the Convent
in Longlands Close. If you wish your child to be baptised
in the near future, please contact Father John.

COMMUNITY FLAGS

Thank you to everyone involved in the International
Pentecost Celebration on Saturday 30th May – it was a
wonderful evening. If you brought a flag along, please
remember to come to the Sacristy to collect it.

DIOCESAN YOUNG ADULT PILGRIMAGE TO TAIZE, FRANCE – 8-16 AUGUST 2009

Join Bishop John Arnold and other young Adults (18-30s)
from around the Diocese on pilgrimage to this unique
Christian Community. A 'Holiday' with a difference, meet
other young adults from the diocese, meet other people
from around Europe and the world, a time for prayer,
space and reflection, spend time with the Taize brothers.
Take time-out in 'sunny' Central France. Price: £200.
For further details, contact Dave Burke, tel: 020 7798
9357 or email davidburke@rcdow.org.uk



Contrary to popular
thought, going to
Communion is not a
sign that we are
good. It's a sign that
we need to be
better. Eating and drinking the Body and Blood of Christ
is the spiritual medicine that helps us stay close to our
God.