



**CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH BOSCOMBE**

**OUTREACH 18 JULY 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**WELCOME BACK! AS WE MOVE OUT OF LOCKDOWN IT SEEMS THAT MOST PEOPLE DO NOT WANT TO RETURN TO THE “OLD NORMAL. They want the “new-normal” to be a kinder, more equal and supportive place to live in, according to new research. A kinder society that prioritises better support for people struggling with mental or physical health problems, allows workers more time off for family and friends, cares about the environment and tackles climate change. SO LET’S create a more conscious and considerate world.**

**FR HUGH WRITES:**

Edward Gibbon, the great eighteenth century historian, thought that human history was “little more than the register of the crimes, follies and misfortunes of mankind.” Always look on the bright side, then. And yet any sentient being looking over the course of human events must have a degree of sympathy with Gibbon’s view. What is it about human endeavours, started with good and intelligent intentions, that so often begins to corrupt them, to head them off in wrong directions, to evacuate them of fruitful consequences?

Surely we have a hint in the gospel that we hear this Sunday. The wheat and the darnel. God constantly at work on our behalf, sowing good seed everywhere, filling us with good ideas and plans, helping us to think and act unselfishly, and yet so much of this being damaged by sinful human instincts. We could easily lose hope and give up the struggle, were it not for the fact that as Christians we know that Christ never gave up, nor gives up, the struggle. As the parable reminds us he is not even demanding

that we root out the darnel immediately. He knows that that is impossible for us. He is patient and just asks us not to lose courage but to continue sifting our plans, seeing what is good in them and resisting what we know is our ability to ruin them.

Most of all we are invited to have confidence in God, which is something that Gibbon lacked. A famous hymn addresses the Holy Spirit, "If thou take thy grace away, nothing pure in man will stay, all his good is turned to ill." But of course God has no intention of taking his grace away, and therefore even what is ill in us can be turned to good. **FR HUGH DUFFY SJ.**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF THE PARISH:** Barry Henwood, Lourdes Saunders, Sally Lees, Carmel Rippington, Joyce Smith, Angela Hagley, Mary Atfield, Pat Hayden and Annie Benfield. 🙏

**THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME:** Michelle Whant; Fr Peter Brtt- Compton SJ and Fr Peter Hackett SJ 🙏



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY Fr. ADRIAN!!!: A few days ago Fr ADRIAN celebrated 41years of ordination to the priesthood. Blessings, love and prayers from all of us.**

### **THE BODY OF CHRIST. AMEN**

We have been making spiritual communions during lockdown saying: "My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I passionately desire to receive You ...". Now, at last, some of us have been able to receive Holy Communion, so let's reflect together on what that means.

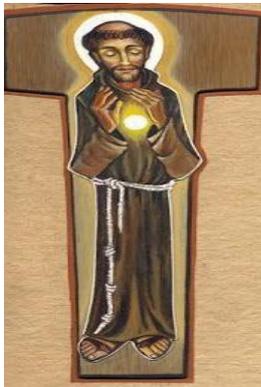
The Last Supper was a moment of intense love and mystery. "He always loved those who were his own in the world. When the time came for Him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, he showed the depth of his love. While they were at supper he took bread and said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to them saying: "This is my Body"; followed by the equally powerful words: "This is my Blood". These eucharistic words are the most moving words of the story of God's tenderness and initiated a new way of being present for us. They enfold the passionate desire, the longing, that filled Jesus' heart, that we should remember him and know that his real presence remains with us and in us. A memory and a presence enshrined in every Mass.

Christ is present in the bread, in the consecrated host, in every Eucharist, His presence is that of the irresistibly attractive person that he was and is, together with everything he did: his life, passion, death and resurrection. The Eucharist is the creative language of God.

A Chilean hymn says it perfectly: "God is here as surely as the air that I breathe. As surely as morning follows night. God is here". Through the action of the Holy Spirit, the Mass makes Jesus visible and accessible to us today, comparable to the way his incarnation and birth made his physically visible and accessible to the people of his time. But, above all Christ's eucharistic presence is not static but rather a dynamic life-giving, caring and compassionate presence, that fills and transforms us into the Body of Christ . We become what we receive.

### RELIGIOUS ORDERS 3 : FRANCISCANS

Franciscans are not a single organization but many organizations that trace their roots to St. Francis of Assisi. The three most prominent Franciscan orders are the Order of Friars Minor, the Capuchins and the



Franciscan Friars. The Franciscans also have female orders and Protestant orders, all of them committed to what St. Francis represents in the Catholic imagination - absolute simplicity and humility, a deep love of nature and the poor, and a complete detachment from worldly power and status. Pope Francis, who himself took the name of their founder for his papacy, reminded the

Franciscans that they are called to a spirit of fraternity - brotherhood and sisterhood - a school of communion and caring, to littleness, and to peace. Fraternity, he said, is a central aspect of life for those who follow in the footsteps of St. Francis, as is being "little before God", humble and close to the poor and being peace makers, living every day the Franciscan greeting "pax et bonum"- a peace which begins in the heart and reaches out to embrace the whole universe. The Gospel, Pope Francis added, is the Franciscan's "rule and life" ; their mission is to be a living Gospel.

#### Another example from the rich tradition of inter-order humour:

A man knocks on the door of a Franciscan church and asks a priest to say a novena so that he might be able to afford a Lexus. "What's a Lexus?" says the poverty-minded Franciscan. Frustrated, the man goes to a parish run by the Dominicans. "Will you say a novena so that I can afford a Lexus?" The Dominican asks: "What's a Lexus?" Finally, the man figures he'll go to

the Jesuits, "Father," he says to the priest, "do you know what a Lexus is?" The priest nods. "Good," says the man. "Will you say a novena so that I can afford one?" "Sure," says the Jesuit. "What's a novena?"

## **TO BE OR NOT TO BE ?? : WOMEN DEACONS!!!**

Will the new commission on women deacons turn out any differently from the last one? Could there be a place for women in the permanent diaconate? Pope Francis set up a previous commission in 2016 to study the church's history of ordaining women deacons, and the role of female deacons in the early church. A new commission was named in April, 2020 to make recommendations about a possible women's permanent diaconate in the church today.



Phyllis Zagano, who is a great friend of the Handmaids in USA, and a University Professor, was a member of the first commission. For the past 25 years, Zagano has shaped the discourse on gender and the history of leadership in the Roman Catholic Church with multiple articles and books. She is one of the world's foremost experts on the history of the diaconate. The most famous example of a woman deacon, she writes, comes from Scripture. In fact, the only person in Scripture called "deacon" is named in Paul's Letter to the Romans, where he addresses the deacon—the woman deacon—Phoebe. While in the fifth and sixth century many women, had hands laid on them (were "ordained") and then performed sacred tasks such as baptizing and anointing for other women precisely because it was seen as improper for a man to touch or see women in this context. The new commission now needs to determine, on behalf of the Holy Father, what is the ministry of the diaconate today? And then what is there about it that a woman can or cannot do?"

**WATCH THIS SPACE**



**MANY THANKS**

A big THANK YOU to Deacon Gregory Cook, and family, for the very lovely and inspiring commentaries on the Sunday readings. When the Sisters told Deacon Greg that a suggestion had come into them requesting that he record his thoughts on the Sunday readings each week while in lockdown, he accept the challenge immediatly. How contributions have been greatly appreciated. Deacon Greg will not continue the Commentaries now we are getting back to "normal". THANK YOU.

