

CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY Year B - 2nd June 2024

FIRST COMMUNIONS – A TIME OF JOY AND HOPE

This weekend sixty-eight children received Jesus for the first time in Holy Communion. A memorable moment in their lives and for parents, brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles. And, of course, grandparents who often play such a crucial role in supporting the faith of the boys and girls as they grow up. When Mums and Dads bring a child for baptism they are asked a question near the start of the ceremony: "will you do all you can to share your faith with your child?" They reply: "we will". I often think that question and answer is one of the most important parts of the whole baptism liturgy because it looks forward to the life of the child.

Many of the children receiving First Communion are pupils at Corpus Christi School or St Peter's. By enrolling their sons and daughters in Catholic Schools parents take an important step in living out that commitment they made at baptism. A Catholic School supports the faith journey of the child in a way that cannot be done in other schools. For example, Corpus Christi School joins us for Mass most Wednesday mornings. At St Peter's Mass is celebrated on a regular basis – on both sites. The shape of the curriculum in these schools is guided by Catholic Social Teaching. Which is why it concerns me that more families today are opting for non-Catholic schools, especially Primary. In the past a family would assume their children attend a Catholic School. But now many parents prefer somewhere nearer their home rather than making the effort to go a little further to ensure their son or daughter gets the full benefit of Catholic education. In the Bournemouth area this coming September we have fewer baptised Catholics entering Reception than for many years. Something isn't right and we need to reflect on the importance of what Catholic Schools offer – which others cannot.

Anyway, back to the First Communion children. No one forgets this day in their lives. I can still remember mine at St Mary Magdalene Church in Brockley, south London. Recently I noticed a framed Certificate in my Mum's bedroom in Waterlooville. There is the famous picture of Our Lord and the Apostles seated at the Last Supper. Underneath is recorded my Mum's date of birth, her baptism and then the date she received her First Holy Communion. That was in 1942, eighty-two years ago. Ever since, that framed Certificate has hung on her bedroom wall. Now that she is resident in a Nursing Home, it is my privilege to take Communion to her most weeks.

The beauty of the Sacrament of the Eucharist is that it has numerous layers of meaning, and lots of levels at which it can be approached. Children in Year Three or Four understand it in a way that makes sense to them. As we grow up and mature, so too should our understanding of the depth and significance of the gift of Jesus himself through the Eucharist. As we give thanks with great joy for the children we welcomed at the altar this weekend, ask yourself a question: 'what do you understand the Eucharist to be?' Has your understanding continued to develop since you received Communion for the first time - however many years ago? *Father John*

CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION TODAY 2nd June at 3.00pm. All welcome.



<u>YOU ARE INVITED</u> to a Celebration of Thanksgiving for the presence for 75 years of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in this area, **on Sunday 23rd June at 10.00am.**

The Convent closed last year, but some of the Sisters will be with us, along with friends, as we give thanks, and say farewell. **Mass will be followed by refreshments in the Parish Centre.** All Welcome.



THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR JUNE FOR THOSE FLEEING THEIR OWN COUNTRIES Let us pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys fraught with danger and violence, may find welcome and new living opportunities in their host countries.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY will be on 9th June at Sunday 10am Mass. We wish all the children a safe & happy half-term holiday. CLOW team.

<u>READERS</u> The new rota for July to December 2024 has been emailed out. If you would like a hard copy, please let the Parish Office know and one can be printed for you. If you haven't received it, please check your spam/junk folder but contact Parish Office if still not found. Thank you for your continued faithfulness to this Ministry.

ST PETERS' SCHOOL YEAR 5 INFORMATION EVENING: Thursday 6th June 2024 at 6.00pm For prospective students interested in joining year 7 for entry in September 2025 The evening will outline the admission process for families, inform you of the legal deadline for applications and explain the ranking process. There will also be a short site tour in which you will be able to view some of our outstanding facilities. Doors open at 5.30pm for a 6pm start To book your place please email: admissions@st-peters.bournemouth.sch.uk See poster

CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, SEND TEACHING ASSISTANT (INC. WRAPAROUND CARE) & MIDDAY SUPERVISOR One Year Fixed Term The Governors of our friendly and successful school are seeking to appoint a SEND Teaching Assistant (inc. Wraparound Care) and Midday Supervisor to help us achieve our aims of getting the best from all our children in their learning and personal development. More information is available on the school website www.cccpschool.co.uk/vacancies The closing date is midday Thursday 20th June 2024

SVP AND CAFOD WORKING TOGETHER IN THE RUN UP TO THE GENERAL ELECTION As Catholics, we know that tackling poverty and injustice are among the most important issues politicians should act on. St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD have produced a guide for Catholics for the General Election, with suggested questions to ask candidates. Please see cafod.org.uk/encounter or svp.org.uk/encounter for more information.

DIOCESAN LIFE IN THE SPIRIT COURSE on ZOOM - 7 Sessions starting on Thursday evenings, from 6th June to 18th July 2024 from 7.30pm until 9pm. Please use this link to register – https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZllf-trDwjGNAuzzyTiLVcwy7lzHwq87dG

RELAY FOR LIFE BOURNEMOUTH 2024 will take place on Saturday 13th July at Glenmoor and Winton School, Beswick Avenue, Bournemouth BH10 4EX It is a 12 event, starting at 10am. The Candle of Hope Ceremony starts at 9pm. RFL celebrates the power of community fundraising in the fight to beat cancer. If you can help in any way either by fundraising, advertising, sponsorship, entering a team or just come along to support, then email: bournemouthrelayforlife@gmail.com

SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES MASS Bishop Philip invites all married couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th (or longer) Wedding Anniversary to join him for this year's Significant Wedding Anniversaries Mass at St Bede's Church, Basingstoke on Saturday 7th September at 2:00pm. If you and your spouse are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary this year, be sure to save the date! If you would like to attend, please email: anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for an application form.

MARCH FOR LIFE Saturday 7th September LONDON. Theme is "Abortion isn't healthcare". Mass 11am St Georges Cathedral, Southwark and the March starts 1.30pm from the Emmanuel Centre, Marsham St, SW1P 3DW and ends at Parliament Square. More details from info@marchforlife.co.uk or see poster.



FIRST MILLENNIAL SAINT Bishop Nicholas Hudson, an Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster who heads up the Diocesan Youth Ministry team, has celebrated the news that Blessed Carlo Acutis, the London-born 15-year-old who died of leukaemia in 2006, will be declared the Church's first millennial saint. "It is a real answer to prayer that Blessed Carlo Acutis will be the first millennial saint - a saint our young people can really look up to," said Bishop Hudson, . "So many young Catholics have told me that they feel as though Carlo has mysteriously 'found' them." Pope Francis has cleared the path for the canonisation of Blessed Carlo by officially recognising a second miracle attributed to him. The miracle relates to a woman who prayed at the beatified teenager's tomb in Assisi after her daughter suffered severe head trauma from a bike accident and was given little chance of survival but within a few months she had made a miraculous recovery. The Bishop said people are "captivated by this young saint for our times who read Scripture every Credit:Diocese of Assisi day, had a heart for social action, collecting containers full of clothes for the poor, stood up for anyone

Blessed Carlo Acutis

being bullied at school and visited Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament every day to share with him everything that was most important to him... we thank God for this wonderful news."

VOCATIONS: "This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many." Are you being chosen by Christ to pour out your life's work for souls with Him as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke. vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869

INTENTIONS: That all Catholics will adore the great gift of the Holy Eucharist given to them by Jesus Christ through the hands of His priests and that those chosen as priests will inspire many more to follow Him, we pray to the Lord.

FOOD BANK COLLECTIONS are Friday mornings 10.30-11.30am and at Saturday evening and Sunday Masses. Gifts may be dropped off in the church porch. TINNED FOODS always appreciated. Thank you for your continued generosity.

TO SET UP A STANDING ORDER (Can be Gift Aided) Go to your bank: You will need the parish business bank details, which are: CDP BOURNEMOUTH CORPUS CHRISTI Sort code 30-93-04. Parish Account number: 01786041 online website: Or donate at our http://www.corpuschristiboscombe.org.uk/ or on our Facebook page or to donate via Give As You Live, click on the QR CODE

GIFT AID If you are a UK taxpayer please consider Gift Aiding your donation. The parish can reclaim 25p for every £1 donated, at no extra cost to you. To join the Gift Aid scheme, or if you want an annual box of offertory envelopes, please send contact details to: accounts@corpuschristiboscombe.org.uk Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No.1199568

