

MANAGING AND COPING WITH CHANGE

Most of us, if we are really honest, would choose things to remain as they are. We feel most comfortable with what we know, with what we have become used to. As soon as anything disrupts that situation, we are disturbed - it raises questions and causes unease. But we also know that the reality of human life is that nothing ever stays the same: in nature, in society, in our own individual lives. We live with change, even if we don't embrace it. And sometimes those adjustments are painful. We long for stability, when nothing much changes and we can relax.

Like it or not, change is coming with the General Election. All the signs are of a particular result [although as every Candidate will tell us "there is only one poll that matters - the one on 4 July".] In the days after the result is announced we will be told of some immediate changes, whoever is elected to govern, and then more as the weeks roll by.

The Catholic Church is often seen as solid, unchanging, even static. When other parts of our lives are buffeted, at least the Church is here after two thousand years. But, in fact, the Church has seen huge changes over the centuries, and in our time Pope Francis is keen for us to embrace new ways of working and being the Body of Christ. A second part of the Synod will take place in the autumn and then a number of decisions are likely to emerge. There is a place in the Gospel where Jesus says that "unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains but a single grain." In other words, the grain must 'die' (change) in order to grow and become a crop that produces the goods.

At a Parish level too there is need for change as we face new realities and priorities. Corpus Christi has undergone a significant change as the Jesuit community has handed responsibility for the parish to the diocese. The composition of the congregation has changed visibly and is probably more diverse and varied now than ever before. We must also consider the material side of the parish, how we manage and use the money we have available and our buildings. But when change is on the agenda (such as the closing of the Parish Centre/Guildhall at the end of September) we need to trust each other that there are no hidden or secret things going on. Already I hear there are rumours that the Centre is being sold, or demolished. I don't know where these ideas come from but I can say categorically that no decisions have been made. I said parishioners would be kept informed, and I meant that. It is unhelpful when people make things up and spread misinformation. The only decision taken so far - because of the cost of running the Centre and the major maintenance bills which are looming – is to stop using the building. We will then consider all options.

Changes, both those we choose and those we cannot avoid, are often uncomfortable as they disrupt what we have become used to. But without change things stagnate. We must look forward and, guided through prayer, discern what the Lord may be asking of Corpus Christi Parish. Most of all, we must do so without fear and trusting in each other's honesty. Father John

PETER'S PENCE Next Sunday (29/30 June) is Ss Peter & Paul (transferred) with a second collection for Peter's Pence, the collection that helps the Holy Father to help others! Your contribution, however small, is important.



GOD BLESS YOU ON FR JOHN'S JUBILEE Friday 19 July. "There will be a Mass of Thanksgiving at 7.00pm to mark my fortieth anniversary of ordination as a priest. A letter is available with details and I hope that as many of you as possible will be able to thank God with me that evening. There will be refreshments in the Parish Centre afterwards so please read the letter and return the reply slip if you think you will be able to come along. If that changes nearer the time, no problem - this is just to get a rough idea of numbers. I hope to share this moment in my life as a priest with you, giving thanks to God for all that he has managed to do in and through me over these years." Father John

THANKSGIVING & FAREWELL to the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Join us at 10am Mass today (23rd) and afterwards in the Parish Centre, to give thanks for all the work the Sisters have done over 75 years in the area. *All welcome.*

HUSTINGS (a meeting where candidates in an election address potential voters) "We at Rosebery Park Baptist church, 812 - 814 Christchurch Rd, Bournemouth BH7 6DF, will be holding a hustings on **Thursday, 27th June at 7.00 p.m**. All the candidates for the constituency of Bournemouth East are due to be there. We want this to be an opportunity for Christians and others in this area to hear the candidates for the General Election and question them on their views. Hopefully this will help Christians in this area to decide how to vote. If you would like more information, please contact Dave Martin, who is a member at Rosebery Park and is organizing this event, on 0772 054 0805 or at davelmartin@gmail.com

<u>GENERAL ELECTION</u> Cardinal Vincent Nichols, has recorded a message encouraging Catholics, particularly young adults, to be "willing to get involved and vote". More info at https://www.cbcew.org.uk/election24/

<u>ACI FAMILY (LINKS OF LOVE) MONTHLY GATHERING</u> Monday 24th June Memorial Room at 11.am. Recalling the presence of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for over 75 years in Bournemouth as we look to the future as Lay Members of the Institute of the ACI.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD will take place **30th June** at 10am Sunday Mass. As a general guideline this Liturgy is for children between 4 and 7 years of age. Parents please remember to sign in. *CLOW team*

CELEBRATING THE GIFT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES Sunday, 7 July 2024 from 12 noon in Aylesford Priory, The Friars, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7BX (use ME20 7BY for SATNAV) An all-day event to value and celebrate creative people who experience disability. The day takes the theme **Be a Prophet – Go tell everyone!** All are invited to come & enjoy creative prayer in the chapels, a workshop, Books Beyond Words activities & to visit the Rosary Way. In the afternoon there will also be time to take part in an Edith Stein retreat, explore Aylesford Priory, enjoy a picnic and participate in art activities. Aylesford has a tea room. **The day will end with Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul Hendricks at 4 pm**. This event is being run by Cristina Gangemi, a highly experienced disability adviser who is Director of the Kairos Forum, the Archdiocese of Southwark and the Carmelite order.

<u>SYNOD</u> As Fr John mentioned overleaf the Synodal process is ongoing. Archbishop John Wilson, a bishop-delegate at the Synod of Bishops in Rome, recently delivered a lecture on the Synodal Mission of the People of God.

At the lecture, Archbishop John explained what the Catholic Church is seeking to achieve through the Synod on Synodality. It is, the Archbishop said, a pathway of journeying forward together: "The Way who is the Lord Jesus Christ, our Truth, and our Life, with everything this means for the mission towards our world which he entrusted to His Church".

The synodal mission of the People of God, the Archbishop said is "best characterised by the Pope's now familiar phrase 'missionary disciples". The Archbishop explained this is because Pope Francis links the "responsibility for evangelisation, something shared by all the baptised" to "the sensus fidei, that instinct of faith which enables disciples to grasp divine truths". https://www.cbcew.org.uk/archbishop-john-delivers-lecture-on-the-synodal-mission-of-the-people-of-god/



<u>ST IRENAEUS</u> - the newest Doctor of the Church - feast day 28th June. In January 2022, Pope Francis made it official: over 1800 years after his death, St. Irenaeus of Lyon is now a Doctor of the Church. With Irenaeus' inclusion, the Catholic Church has now officially designated 37 Doctors of the Church. The 2nd-century bishop joins the ranks of illustrious Church theologians like Ss. Augustine and Thomas Aquinas.

Pope Francis has given Irenaeus, a native of Asia Minor who led a diocese in present-day France, the title "**Doctor of Unity.**" "May the doctrine of such a great Master encourage more and more the path of all the Lord's disciples towards full communion," wrote the Holy Father in the decree.

The practice of declaring someone a Doctor of the Church formally began in the Middle Ages, and is a way for the Church to point to holy men & women who have made significant contributions to Church life through their teaching and theology.

Irenaeus, was a Greek bishop noted for his role in guiding and expanding Christian communities in the southern regions of present-day France and, more widely, for the development of Christian theology by combating heterodox or Gnostic interpretations of Scripture as heresy and defining proto-orthodoxy. Originating from Smyrna, he had seen and heard the preaching of Bishop Polycarp, who was a disciple of the apostle John the Evangelist, and so was the last-known living connection with the Apostles. Chosen as bishop of Lugdunum, now Lyon, his best-known work is Against Heresies. He is the patron saint of Apologists & Catechists. *"The church has been planted as a paradise in this world." St Irenaeus Extracted from St. Irenaeus, The Church's New Doctor: What's His Significance Today, and Who's Next? – EWTN Network & Wikipedia.*

<u>VOCATIONS</u>: "Do not be afraid; just have faith." There is nothing to be afraid of in following Christ. Could he be calling you to serve 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 we continue to have priests and consecrated religious to teach us that the Lord made the ultimate sacrifice for us, 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 Or donate online at our website: http://www.corpuschristiboscombe.org.uk/ or on our Facebook page or to donate via Give As You Live, *click on the QR CODE*

<u>GIFT AID</u> 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: <u>accounts@corpuschristiboscombe.org.uk</u> Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No.1199568

