A close up of a logo

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**Newsletter for the week commencing13th/14th June 2020**

**The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (A)**

**First Reading: Deuteronomy 8: 2-3, 14-16**

**Psalm 147 Response: O praise the Lord, Jerusalem**

**Second Reading: First letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 10: 16-17**

**Sequence**

**Gospel: John 6: 51-58**

**Father John writes:**

Just recently I have had quite a large number of parishioners let me know in different ways that they longed to be able to come into our Church to pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. I was delighted that they should express this deep need for the Eucharist. This Sunday is ‘Corpus Christi’ – the annual feast of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. The first reading is from the book of Deuteronomy – Moses reminding the people of how, during their journey of forty years towards the Promised Land, they experienced real hunger, and the Lord fed them with manna.

You have experienced this hunger for not only the presence of the Lord but to be fed with Holy Communion: the Body and Blood of Christ. Because the journey was so long and hard, the great temptation of those escaping from the slavery in Egypt, was to turn back, to give up. We too, need the Lord’s strength for the journey.

Jesus said to the crowd, “I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh for the life of the world”

As you can see from this newsletter, our Church is out of use because of the refurbishment. However, we can use our Hall as a temporary church, with the presence of the Lord in a small tabernacle. Our Government has suddenly allowed our churches to be open for prayer, but inevitably there are all sorts of requirements to ensure the safety of those wanting to pray. This is going to be quite demanding, and I will need a team of parishioners to gather in the Hall so that we can prepare ourselves to ensure we fulfil these requirements. My suggestion is that we have our church/hall opened for prayer **on Friday mornings for a couple of hours**. First of all, the team will need to be equipped with masks / cloth safety covers, and gloves. We have the gloves, but you will have to find the mouth and nose covers for yourselves, unless we can find somewhere to buy them. It is strictly ‘individual private prayer’ only, anything else is not allowed at the moment.

So, once you have let me know you will volunteer (note through the door, or phone message or email) then next Sunday I hope to inform you when our first ‘open for prayer’ session will be. Depending on the above, we might run to a second afternoon or evening session. Could those of you who know of parishioners who don’t read the ‘newsletter’ but who would like to volunteer, please could you tell them about it.

**Pope Francis’ Mission Intention for June is**: May all those who suffer find their calling in life and allow themselves to be touched by the heart of Jesus.

**June is the month of the Sacred Heart.**

**The Cycle of Prayer for Ordinary Time (Summer) is: -**

For a deeper understanding between Christians and Jews.

For those who suffer persecution, oppression and denial of human rights.

For human life. For seafarers. For Europe.

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

**Those recently deceased**

**Those ill or infirm:** Joe Adams, Ellie Lawrence, Anne Bryant, Eric Booth, Patricia Hook, Elena Peck (senior), Marjorie Dumbleton, Josie Payne, Joe Venables and all those self-isolating or suffering from COVID-19

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time:** Margaret Martin-Sperry, Andree Norman-Taylor, Agnes Venables, Bertha Sharp and Doris Bourne.

**This week**

**Second collection this weekend** for CaTEW.

There will be a **Day of Prayer and a** **second collection next weekend** for Day for Life.

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| Feast days | |
| Friday 19th June | The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus |
| Saturday 20th June | The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary (memorial) |

**New Pilgrim Path Website of the Week**

‘Tarsus’ is a website created by author, Augustinian friar and distinguished Bible scholar, Fr Kieran O’Mahony. It is a wonderful resource, offering rich Biblical nourishment for hungry pilgrims. These include stimulating reflections on Sunday readings, guidance on praying with the Scriptures, an overview of a range of Bible versions, links to the Bible and music, and a wealth of superb online lectures. Access Tarsus at: www.newpilgrimpath.ie

**The Church getting ready for better times.**

It is only a few days since the contractors came into our Church but already, we can see a lot of work underway. The first area tackled has been to make sure the fabric and furniture is well protected and ready for the refitting and redecoration.

The next phase will be laying out the infrastructure for new lighting and the insulation of the ceiling. That work will take about ten days before the contractor moves on to the organ loft and entrance lobby.

You will be pleased to know that Fr John has been able to see the work underway on a daily basis. He is very pleased with the way things are progressing so far and approves of the care that the workmen are showing for our Church. It all looks a bit untidy are the moment but, once the key infrastructure elements are in place – a new design for the sanctuary, better insulation and ventilation, and new lighting and safety measures – the contractor’s attention will turn to the redecoration of the Church as a whole. We hope it will all be ready for us in early July and that you will be pleased.

(See photos on the website!)