

St John the Evangelist, Poulton

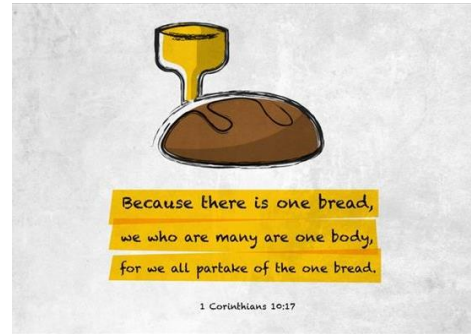
12th September 2020

Saturday of the Twenty-third Week of the Year

(Twenty-fifth Saturday of Isolation)

Sign on at: saintjohnpoulton@gmail.com

Parish Website: www.stjohnspoulton.org.uk



Thanks to those who replied to my last scripture reflection with your own thoughts – if you want to be taken off the email list, or know anyone who may appreciate the contact, please let me know – or print it for a neighbour. (If you have only just started to receive these daily reflections it is because I have only just found your address, sorry) Thanks. Fr Peter.

Note from Fr Peter:

Please notice the Parish Quiz advert under 'Parish Notices'

Thanks to Elaine for her series of quotes from Julian of Norwich (*See Parish Comments below*)

Please encourage those who are afraid of coming to large gatherings that our present Masses have small numbers of attenders and this is a good place to begin a return to Mass:

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday at 9.30am at St John's

Wednesday at 9.30am at Ss Martin & Hilda's Chapel

Saturday at 6.00pm at St John's

We still celebrate the Resurrection on Sundays – **Which day is your 'Sunday Eucharist'?**

(Daily Scripture is available from www.universalis.com)

1 Corinthians 10:14-22

My dear brothers, you must keep clear of idolatry. I say to you as sensible people: judge for yourselves what I am saying. The blessing-cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ, and the bread that we break is a communion with the body of Christ. The fact that there is only one loaf means that, though there are many of us, we form a single body because we all have a share in this one loaf. Look at the other Israel, the race, where those who eat the sacrifices are in communion with the altar.

Does this mean that the food sacrificed to idols has a real value, or that the idol itself is real? Not at all. It simply means that the sacrifices that they offer they sacrifice to demons who are not God. I have no desire to see you in communion with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot take your share at the table of the Lord and at the table of demons. Do we want to make the Lord angry; are we stronger than he is?

Psalms 115(116)

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make to you, O Lord.

*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.*

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make to you, O Lord.

*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.*

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make to you, O Lord.

(What is God saying to you as you hear his Word here?)

Whoever asked the question about eating sacrificed meat must have either wished he hadn't, or be a very good friend of Paul and gave him food (get it?) for teaching!

In this passage Paul takes the listeners back to their own understanding of their own Christian ritual – and its meaning. He reminds them of the meaning of drinking from the chalice and eating the bread. He says:

*“The blessing-cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ,
and the bread that we break is a communion with the body of Christ.”*

As Catholics we, also, sometimes need reminding that our rituals not only have a deep meaning, but also have a symbolic one, too. It is a sadness of our present days that we cannot all drink from the same chalice, which Jesus invites us to do and we need to be careful we don't lose the symbolic meaning in this (That so many of you have responded to the invitation to acknowledge the chalice on the altar as you pass after receiving the host opens up this symbol). It is sometimes helpful to imagine you have never been to Mass before and imagine what you thought was happening – do the symbols speak?

Paul draws out the Eucharistic symbols and speaks of the importance of being one body both as the Church and as the body of Christ

*The fact that there is only one loaf means that,
though there are many of us,
we form a single body because we all have a share in this one loaf*

There are two messages Paul gives the people he is writing to:

Firstly that, if our Christian symbols, and the way we use them, help us to become the body of Christ, so also becoming too close to pagan rituals and signs can also draw us in to having them as part of our own life:

*“Does this mean that the food sacrificed to idols has a real value,
or that the idol itself is real?
Not at all.
It simply means that the sacrifices that they offer they sacrifice to demons
who are not God.*

I have no desire to see you in communion with demons.”

This started as a discussion about eating meat – it has become a parent's talk to their teenager about how dangerous dealing with some things in the world is – and how you can be easily drawn in!

Secondly, it is a reminder from Paul about the unity of the Church community in Jesus, and a challenge to check that our celebration of the Eucharist is not a personal devotion between me and God, but is a community celebration of what God has done in Christ, and is still doing with us together.

*though there are many of us,
we form a single body because we all have a share in this one loaf*

(Pray through psalm 115 given to us today!)

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2020

“We are aware that the cries of the earth and of the poor have become even louder and more painful in recent years. At the same time, we also witness how the Holy Spirit is inspiring individuals and communities around the world to come together to rebuild our common home and defend the most vulnerable in our midst. We see the gradual emergence of a great mobilization of people from below and from the peripheries who are generously working for the protection of the land and of the poor. We rejoice to see how young people and communities, particularly indigenous communities, are on the frontlines in responding to the ecological crisis.”

Pope Francis

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

PARISH NOTICES:

Parish Quiz for CAFOD – *Please pass this on to other parishioners and encourage them*

Hi - Because we can't all gather together in person at the moment, we have decided it would be a great idea to have a Parish online quiz. This will take place on Sunday 13th September at 12 noon. We will be raising funds for Cafod - if you would like to play, please visit

<http://cafod.org.uk/celebration>

and search "online quiz". You will then see our fundraising page where it would be fantastic if you could make a donation to take part.

If you would like to take part, please also email me on deborahhelenwood@gmail.com. We will be hosting the quiz on Zoom. I will send you the Zoom link and details explaining how you access everything. For the best quiz experience, it would be great if you are able to access Zoom on one device and have another online device, e.g. mobile phone, to play along with on Kahoot. If not, please don't worry. If you can access Zoom, bring a pen and paper along and you can play along this way too.

If you have any questions at all, please just give me a call on 07883599511 or drop me an email.

Best wishes

Debbie Sumner

- **When you come to Mass:**

Despite getting used to physical distancing over the past three months returning to a familiar situation, like church, can make us forget we are still threatened by a virus that could kill vulnerable people. We have been asked to ensure Government and Church rules which might seem intrusive but they are designed to remind us to be careful and, above all, to keep distances. Please help us with this.

- Government guidelines demand that all the congregation (except those with exemption certificates) wear mouth and nose masks in church
 - Please maintain a 2m distance as you approach and enter church and be guided by the stewards.
 - Please note there is a 'one way' system – entering church by the left hand door.
 - Please sanitise your hands as you enter church
 - You will be invited to leave your name and contact detail for 'Track & Tracing' in case of need.
 - If you wish to wear a face mask you may do this – but please bring your own.
 - To minimise movement in church Stewards will direct you to fill the benches from the front. You will probably not be able to go in your 'usual' bench but that will give you a new perspective!
 - Please remove your mask just before approaching for Holy Communion and then replace afterwards.
 - You will receive instructions for coming forward for Holy Communion. But please respect distancing (don't bunch), move for Communion using the one-way system, please stretch out your arms fully as you request Holy Communion, you will not be invited to speak "Amen" before receiving Holy Communion. These will need to be kept in mind at first and we do need to remember they, though not the best liturgy, are about distancing and staying well.
 - Holy Communion must be received only on the hand. (No gloves, please)
 - Please sanitise your hands as you leave church by the other door than the one you entered.
 - As you leave church please move away from the door and remember to distance yourselves if you speak to other people.
- **10.09.2020 News from Victoria Hospital** : Yesterday Dr Jim Gardner provided the staff of the trust with his latest weekly update. He noted that there was only one patient in the hospital who had had a positive test result in the last 14 days, and that this was good news. However, the trust had reported 2 further deaths over the last week, and these were **not** due to statistical adjustments. Locally, the rate of infection is 17 per 100,000, which is above the national average, and represents a significant increase on the previous week's rate of 9 per 100,000. Mirroring the national picture, younger people in the population represent a major part of the increase in infections. Dr Gardner's concern is that in other countries where a similar pattern has been observed (e.g. France and Germany) this is followed by an increase in hospitalisations in 3-4 weeks' time. Please continue to keep all healthcare staff and volunteers in your prayers. *Fr Andrew Dawson, Catholic Chaplain*

- **Know any parishioners housebound or who may need contacting?** - At the start of this lockdown a number of parishioners offered to find a way of being help to those parishioners who are in need or just housebound. Many people are in contact with the parish through this email or the WhatsApp group, but you may think of some who are not getting parish contacts – but they may get family support and food. If you have suggestions please email their names and addresses to the parish address and we can get parishioners to drop a message in to them. Thanks.
- **Fleetwood Food Bank:** If you know of anyone you think has need of a parcel of food from the Food Bank please telephone 01253 774313 – they will need an address to have it delivered to.
- **Local COVID19 Helplines** *(Official message from our Parish Organisers)*
The Wyre Council have a dedicated helpline for COVID19 isolation support. If you are struggling to get essential items, or need help, please ring 01253 891000 and select OPTION 7 when prompted. Alternatively, if you have access to the internet, you can fill in the online request for help here: https://www.wyre.gov.uk/forms/form/257/en/coronavirus_isolation_support_form
There is also another local network being organised by the Methodist Church - called POULTONCAN. The helpline there is 01253 670800 between 8am and 10pm, 7 days a week.

We have a group of parish volunteers who are going to be working with the council to respond to requests. If anyone would like to offer help, please email Jenny at jennifer.hillman.sutcliffe@gmail.com or telephone on 07568502749.

- **Parish WhatsApp Group:** Emily Halliwell (as part of the above group) has set up a closed parish WhatsApp account. I have finally been beaten into joining but am a bit of a WhatsApp virgin as yet! Emily says: “My number is 07969643648 if you want to be added just reply with your mobile number or text me. “

Thoughts contributed by Virus Times’ readers:

(A few of anonymous responses from these Virus Times Reflections from our parishioners: Thanks to contributors.)

Thursday: *I have never before heard the word gentle in association with St Paul - must give that some thought.*

A mother, years ago was heard to grumble that her child had been at school for (?) weeks and had still not been taught the Hail Mary!!!!

Elaine Brownwood has been reading this prayerful work and she has offered to share some revelations with us:

“These extracts are taken from “Enfolded in Love” Daily Readings with Julian of Norwich, Published by Darton, Longman & Todd (1980). Translation by Members of the Julian Shrine, Norwich. Original thought to have been written in the late 14th century.”

DAY 1 INTRODUCTION

I have been reading about Dame Julian of Norwich, a 14th century mystic who reportedly had 16 visions or “revelations” about God. It took her quite a number of years meditating on these revelations or “insights” before she came to a realisation of what they meant. She wrote simply: “Love was His meaning” and she spent the rest of her life in contemplation and prayer, whilst also receiving visitors and sharing with them what she believed God had revealed to her. Although her writings have been translated into modern English, they were written in the medieval language of the time and still retain some of this character. Over the next few days I would like to share with you some of her insights.

The Hazelnut:

“He showed me a little thing, the size of a hazelnut, in the palm of my hand, and it was as round as a ball. I looked at it with my mind’s eye and I thought, “What can this be?” And answer came, “It is all that is made”. I marvelled that it could last, for I thought it might have crumbled to nothing, it was so small. And the answer came into my mind, “It lasts and ever shall because God loves it”. In this little thing I saw three truths. The first is that God made it. The second is that God loves it. The third is that God looks after it.”

People being prayed for by our parish groups:

Alan	Could we pray for Judith Reeves' dad She says: <i>I wanted to drop you a short email to let you know that my Dad has been diagnosed with liver cancer. I wanted to thank everyone for their prayers and ask for their continued prayers as we move forwards. Dad was taken into hospital on Monday and is quite weak. The hope is that if he gets stronger we will be able to bring him home. He is yet to start the appropriate treatment and we will know more in the coming days.</i>
Jacinta's Nana Lyn	Poorly and asks for your prayers
A Lady in Intensive Care	The Parish WhatsApp Group ask for your prayers
The People of Beirut	
Various Older People we worry about	Whilst we are enjoying the promise of loosening lockdown we still have concerns for relations and friends who have signs of Covid-19 and who have been taken to Hospital. Please pray for these people – and for those we don't know as well.
From Jayne Clark	Could I please ask that our parishioners pray for all the staff in children's social care who are still working to safeguard children in our area and around the country. It never ceases to amaze me how hard they work generally, despite the abuse that they often are subjected to, but more so currently given the extra risk that they are putting themselves under to visit the vulnerable.
Maureen O'Connell & Family(Not Covid-19)	Mrs Donnelly's Mum
Paul Sharrock (Not Covid-19) (and family: Kathryn, Mary & Rachael)	<i>Is showing continued, but slow, progress. He is eating a proper diet and having a lot of physiotherapy – which he's not enjoying! Fr Peter</i>
Our Teachers	