



Weekly News

Sunday 19th June 2022

Corpus Christi

Knowing, loving and following Jesus

Parish Church of St Richard

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Worship at St Richard's

This week, Ann's funeral Mass and Sunday's Mass will be live-streamed onto the St Richard's Facebook page. During the week, the church will also be open most days for private prayer.

Tuesday 21 st	Mass	11:00
	Vespers	17:30

Wednesday 22nd	Funeral Mass	11:00
	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	18:20
	Mass	19:00

Thursday 23 rd	Mass	11:00
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Friday 24 th	(Sacred Heart)	Mass	19:00
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Sunday 26th	Mass	10:00
<i>(13th Sunday in Ordinary Time)</i>		

Ric's Bench

Ric's Bench sessions this week are on:

Monday 19:00 – 21:00

Friday 14:00 – 16:00

Please do come along for a cup of tea or coffee.

Foodbank donations

The church will be open to take donations for the Foodbank on Tuesday at 10:00 – 12:00 and Friday 14:00 – 16:00.

RIP – Ann Dix

Ann's Funeral Requiem will be this Wednesday 22nd June at 11:00, followed by burial at Walstead Cemetery. There will also be refreshments in the hall afterwards for all her friends and family. Ann will be brought into church on Tuesday late afternoon and Vespers will be said at 17:30.

Forthcoming events

Tue 21 Jun	14:00	Memory Moments Café
Sat 25 Jun	16:30	Messy Mass
Sat 2 Jul	14:00	Memory Moments Café
Sat 9 Jul	16:30	Messy Mass

Of your charity, please pray for, those in need:

Mimi Palmer, Una Wade, Christopher Grimwood, Shirley Swyer, Brigid Brand, Alistair Bucke, Ann Eastall, Colin Hill, Sheila Jobson, Jean McCarthy, Tony Dawson, Maria Firth, Gary Firth, Karen Guy, Suzy Rumbold, Fr John Gayford, Jennifer Walter, Kim MacAllen, Baby Isaac, Baby Nyle Mahmoud and Nick.

Those who have died recently: Ann Dix and those whose anniversary falls around this time of year:

21st) Margaret Field, Charles King,
 22nd) Mabel Steer, Betty Hollands, St John Bell,
 24th) Charles Roberts, Raymond Dilks,
 25th) Marjorie Ashley.

*If you would like anyone added to the prayer list, or would like someone prayed for, but **not** added to the list, please submit your prayer details using the form on the website www.strichards.co.uk/prayer.*

Jobs around church

Keeping the church and grounds at their best, requires ongoing work and attention. Below are a few of the jobs that currently need doing. If you are willing and able to undertake any of the items on the list, please speak with Mary King or Fr Chris, or just turn up and get on with it!

- Cut grass at front of church and garden.
- Weeding around the perimeter of the church
- Weed area outside of church hall
- Trim the vegetation on the east boundary

Fr Chris' Sermon – 19 June 2022

*'I don't understand you,' said Alice.
'It's dreadfully confusing!'
'That's the effect of living backwards,'
the Queen said kindly.*

*'it always makes one a little giddy at first --'
'Living backwards!' Alice repeated in great
astonishment. 'I never heard of such a thing!'
-- but there's one great advantage in it,
that one's memory works both ways.'
'I'm sure mine only works one way,'
Alice remarked.*

*'I can't remember things before they happen.'
'It's a poor sort of memory that only works
backwards,' the Queen remarked.*

An extract from chapter 5 (Wool and Water) of
'Through the looking glass' by Lewis Carol.'

There are a couple of things in that extract that
can be applied to today's feast of Corpus Christi.

The most obvious is perhaps *'I don't
understand... ..it's dreadfully confusing'*

If you don't agree that it's confusing, you wait
until I've finished this sermon!

The feast of Corpus Christi is given to us by the
church as an opportunity to give thanks to Jesus
for the life-giving gift that he ordained for us just
ahead of his grizzly death, and to reflect on the
mystery that is what St Thomas Aquinas described
as *'Jesus' greatest miracle.'*

Some critics dismiss today's feast as unnecessary
or even worse as blasphemous. 'How can you
worship a piece of bread? Don't you know your
scripture? *"Thou shalt not make unto thee any
graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in
heaven above"*. This would be true, *if* we were
worshipping (and receiving) *just* a piece of bread.
But we are not, we are worshipping Jesus Christ
himself, under the veil of consecrated bread.

What we celebrate today is not just a recollection
of what went on at the Last Supper, in the way we
may remember, and even try to recreate an
exquisite meal we had on a special occasion – for
example, for Carolyn and me, it would be the Eggs
Benedict we had overlooking the Pacific Ocean in
Mexico.

In our second reading, Paul tells us that Jesus said:
"Do this in remembrance of me", but the word for
memory Jesus uses in Greek is Anamnesis which
does not simply mean something remembered
from the past. And this is where a second line
from that extract from Through the Looking Glass
comes in. The White Queen says:

*'It's a poor sort of memory that only works
backwards,'* Anamnesis is no poor sort of memory!

Anamnesis is to make a past event become
present now. Hold on to that thought.

The events of the Last Supper are inseparably
linked to the sacrifice of our Lord on the Cross.
Christ's death on the cross cannot be separated
from the events which surround it. In our second
reading this morning, from Paul's first letter to the
Corinthians, we hear the earliest documented
account of what Jesus said and did, at the last
supper. (similar words are found in the three
synoptic Gospels). Paul tells us how, *"on the same
night that he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took
some bread, and thanked God for it and broke it,
and he said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do
this as a memorial of me.'"* and over the cup of
wine, he said *"This cup is the new covenant in my
blood. Whenever you drink it, do this as a
memorial of me."* The next day, on Good Friday,
our Lord's body hung on the Altar of the Cross and
His precious blood was spilt, to wash away our sins
and seal the everlasting and perfect covenant.

The divine life our Lord, offered and shared, for
our salvation in the sacrifice of Good Friday,
is the same offered and shared at the Last Supper.
The Last Supper, the sacrifice of Good Friday and
the Resurrection on Easter form one saving event.

And we are reminded of this in the Eucharistic
Prayer of every single Mass, in a section
appropriately called the Anamnesis, the passion,
death, resurrection and ascension of the Lord is
recalled. So today, after the words of institution
and the proclamation of our faith: I will say:

*"Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial
[- the Anamnesis – that is, 'we make that past
event become present now.']*

*of the saving Passion of your Son, his wondrous
Resurrection and Ascension into heaven, and as we
look forward to his second coming, we offer you in
thanksgiving this holy and living sacrifice."*

The sacrifice of Christ on the cross *and* the
sacrifice of the Mass are inseparably united as one
single sacrifice. And it is because of 'anamnesis'
that the Church has always taught that Christ is
not *re-sacrificed* at each Mass, but that it is us who
enters into that one moment in history. As one
teacher of the faith put it, *"at Mass the veil of time
is torn open and we kneel in the presence of that
divine moment, which conquers what appears to
be unconquerable."*