



## Weekly News

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Corpus Christi

***Knowing, loving and following Jesus***

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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 <sup>st</sup>	Mass	11:00
	Vespers	17:30
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Funeral Mass</b>	<b>11:00</b>
	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	18:20
	Mass	19:00
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mass	11:00
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	(Sacred Heart)	Mass
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Mass</b>	<b>10:00</b>
<i>(13<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### Parish Church of St Richard

Vicar: Fr Christopher Brading SSC

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Hon Assistant Priest: Fr Gordon Bond SSC

Deacon: Revd Canon Rebecca Swyer

[www.strichards.co.uk](http://www.strichards.co.uk)

### 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:*

21<sup>st</sup>) Margaret Field, Charles King,  
22<sup>nd</sup>) Mabel Steer, Betty Hollands, St John Bell,  
24<sup>th</sup>) Charles Roberts, Raymond Dilks,  
25<sup>th</sup>) 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](http://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.*"