

# PARISH NEWSLETTER

St Arvans with Penterry, Itton, Devauden, & Kilgwrrwg

## IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE

St Arvan's Church is open for worship at 10 a.m. on Sundays. Places must be booked and social distancing maintained in the building and following services. Again we stress there is absolutely no obligation to attend in person, and that your own safety and health & those of others must remain paramount. Our broadcast services will continue as follows: Sunday Eucharist at 10. a.m. and a reflection & celebration of Night Prayer on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. are live-streamed on the St Arvans Parish Group page on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/vicaragecello1/> and are available to watch at any time

Please help to keep us informed of anyone who is in need or is isolated over the next weeks and months, and anyone in need of our prayer and support  
Parish Priest (Vicar / Rector):  
Fr Michael Gollop,  
The Vicarage, St Arvans  
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6<sup>th</sup> June 2021

**Corpus Christi**

*The Body and Blood of Christ*

## The Collect

Lord Jesus Christ,  
we thank you that in this wonderful Sacrament  
you have given us the memorial of your passion:  
grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood that we may know within ourselves and show forth in our lives  
the fruits of your redemption;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## A reading from the book of Genesis.

King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. He blessed him and said, 'Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!' And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

[14, 18 - 20]

*Reader/ This is the Word of the Lord*  
*Response / Thanks be to God*

## Psalm 116 10-17

**R/ I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.**

How shall I repay the Lord for all the good things he has done for me?  
I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord.  
I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

**R/ I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.**

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his servants.  
O Lord, I am your servant;

I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me from my bonds.

**R/ I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.**

I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the Lord.  
I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.  
In the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Alleluia!

**R/ I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.**

## A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians [11. 23 - 26]

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

*Reader/ This is the Word of the Lord*  
*Response / Thanks be to God*

## [Gradual Hymn]

Alleluia, Alleluia!  
I am the living bread which has come down from heaven, says the Lord.  
He who eats this bread will live for ever  
**Alleluia!**

The Lord be with you:  
**And also with you**

## Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St John.

**R/ Glory to you, O Lord.**

**J**esus said: 'I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.' The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son

of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.'

[6, 51 - 58]

This is the Gospel of the Lord  
**R/ Praise to you, O Christ.**

## For Your Prayers

That we may come to an ever deeper appreciation of the Eucharist and the Real Presence of Christ it brings to us.  
Those who work in tourism and hospitality in our local area  
The people of Israel & Palestine and for peace and reconciliation in the Holy land and throughout the Middle East.  
Those throughout the world suffering from the Coronavirus pandemic - for doctors, nurses and all medical staff, all carers, medical scientists and researchers.  
All who are anxious for their health and well being and those of their loved ones.  
For those in government throughout the world, that they may make informed, wise and compassionate decisions for the good of all

### For the Church:

For the bishops of the Church: Cherry, Bishop of Monmouth, Philip, Episcopal Visitor of the Society of the Holy Cross in Wales, Jonathan, Bishop of Ebbsfleet; Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury. & for all who hold and teach the Catholic faith that comes to us from the Apostles.  
All bishops, priests and deacons and all baptised Christians  
For the reunion of all Christians: for Pope Francis, for Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew, & for the leaders of the Reformed traditions

### For the Sick & those in need:

Roy Staples, Ralph Hamilton, Patricia Hamilton; Sylvia; The Revd Helen Rodwell; Kim; Elisabeth; Helen Herbert; Dave;, John; Sue; Elizabeth.

### For the Departed:

The recently departed; John Sherwood; our own departed relatives & friends, & those whose anniversaries of death fall at this time: John Humphries; Leslie Harry Farley

## Thought for the Week

“This Sacrament is not a special part of our religion, it is just our religion, sacramentally enacted.”

from ‘*The Crown of the Year*’  
by Austin Farrer, (1904 – 68)  
Anglican priest, theologian

## The Jereboam Interview

*We continue our series of extracts from the Jerusalem and Galilee Gazette, an imaginary first-century newspaper. Week by week the correspondent Jereboam interviews various people whose lives have been affected in some way by Jesus Christ and his teaching.*

*Thanks to the Parish of St Catharine’s Chipping Campden & to the author for permission to reproduce ‘Jereboam’*

## Daniel

**Jereboam:** To be honest, I didn’t recognise you, Daniel.

**Daniel:** It was thirty years ago that we met. I was about twelve or thirteen at the time.

**Jereboam:** I do remember our conversation though, now you mention it. You were the lad who offered loaves and fish to feed all those people gathered to hear Jesus.

**Daniel:** That’s right. It was an extraordinary day: the spiritual and the material in perfect combination. That happened all the time with Jesus, of course.

**Jereboam:** Would you still count

yourself as one of his followers?

**Daniel:** Certainly: once I had experienced his love and authority, I could never turn away from it. The life we lead can be difficult at times, but, as I say, I could never reject the source of such goodness, such wholeness. Once you encounter something like that, you can’t dismiss it and leave it in your past: it’s too valuable to lose. I’ve just had to allow myself constantly to be replenished by Jesus.

**Jereboam:** Through prayer, presumably...

**Daniel:** Yes, but also by receiving his Body and Blood. That’s also bound up with that old story of the loaves and fish – “my “ story, if you like.

**Jereboam:** What’s the particular connection?

**Daniel:** Well, that day Jesus was able to transcend normal reality, to share my food with everyone. He saw to it that we all had what we needed. In the same sort of way he offers himself to his followers whenever we revisit his sacrifice through the Eucharist. Again he gives to any number of people what they most need and desire: somehow the usual material laws are suspended to make this possible. It’s a wonderful process. Just don’t ask me to explain it. I don’t understand it any more than I understood what went on with the loaves and the fish. I just know it happens, that’s all, and that it’s very, very beautiful.

**Jereboam:** Thank you, Daniel. Maybe you’ll give us another update in another thirty years’ time?

**Daniel:** Maybe...

## A Prayer of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are in the Blessed Sacrament.  
I love you above all things, and I long for you in my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.  
As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

*(The Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament)*

## This Week

We keep today as Corpus Christi, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. We celebrate the sacramental presence of Christ with us his people until the end of the ages – his life shared for the life of the world.

Friday is the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

This week we begin a two-week cycle of readings from Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians, as he confronts the challenges to this early Christian community.

We have ended our readings from St Mark for this Liturgical Year and now take up the Gospel according to St Matthew, which will be part of our readings until Advent. The week begins with Jesus teaching the Beatitudes, the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount. The Kingdom of God belongs to the lowly, the peacemakers, those persecuted.

These words are some of the most familiar of all the gospels. Jesus urges us to not hide our gifts under a bushel basket but to recognize that "you are the light of the world." Jesus transforms what the people had been taught. We are to go beyond not killing; we are to love our enemies. He tells us that he has "not come to abolish laws but to fulfil them." Jesus tells us that if we haven't forgiven someone, we should leave our offerings on the altar and go forgive those with whom we need reconciliation. He speaks about adultery saying, "If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body thrown into Gehenna." By the end of the week, we hear Jesus encouraging us to live honestly, making elaborate promises and oaths unnecessary. "Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No,'" he says. The words we use are less important than the life we lead.

**Next Sunday** we begin the long sequence of Sunday after Trinity. The liturgical colour is green. The Gospel for the Second Sunday after Trinity sees Jesus compares our faith to the mustard seed. Our faith, like that tiny seed, can grow large and put forth large branches touching all those around us.

## A Reflection for Corpus Christi

+ There's an ancient church in a village called O Cebreiro on a mountain top in Galicia in Northern Spain. It's on the Camino de Santiago, and it's the first village you come to in Galicia after yet another steep climb straight up the side of a mountain. When I got there in 2013 it was starting to rain heavily and a strong wind was blowing - it's about three and a half thousand feet above sea level. The church was open and staffed by a small community of very welcoming Franciscans. In the church there is an ancient 10th century wooden statue of the Virgin and child - formal, but full of life and, like the church itself, possessing a deep sense of stillness and peace. But by far the best known story about the church at O Cebreiro is that sometime in the fourteenth century a peasant farmer from a neighbouring village struggled there through a terrible winter storm, risking his life to do so, for the sole reason that he really wanted to go to Mass and receive Holy Communion. The priest presiding at the Eucharist, a man, we are told, of very little faith, found this altogether too much, for he didn't value the Eucharist nearly as much as did the farmer. And as the peasant approached to receive communion, the priest cynically looked at him and despised him for the naïve faith, lack of sophistication and simple devotion that led him to risk his life just to participate in the Mass - just for, as the priest thought to himself "a little piece of bread." But at that very moment, when he said the words of Our Lord, "This is my body ... this is my blood ..." before the doubting priest's own eyes and in his own hands, the consecrated Wine in the chalice turned into physical blood and the consecrated Host on the paten became physical flesh, visibly the very Body and Blood of Christ.

The legend implies that this was clearly the Lord's own way of correcting the cleric's scepticism, his lack of faith and love, and (as we might say these days) his 'elitist' arrogance toward a humble countryman who, in fact, was far richer in faith and understanding than he was himself. We are told the chastened priest and the peasant farmer are now buried together in the small side chapel where

the chalice and paten of the Eucharistic Miracle are still displayed.

I tell the story - not to bang on about the Camino de Santiago - as you know I don't need any excuse to do that, nor do I repeat the story to imply that we are all committed to believing that things actually happened as the legend says - because we're obviously not - but just to say that the point of the story, whether it's true or not, is that it is so easy - fatally easy - to take the Eucharist for granted; after all, it's just what the Church does when we come together to worship. It's just there; it's what we tend to do when we come to church. But, of course, that's not enough, because the Eucharist should above all fill us with wonder. There is a profound mystery here hidden here beneath the ordinary material things of life, the bread and wine of an everyday meal. These are commonplace realities of human living taken and given by the Lord and which we in our turn receive and drink. They have Biblical resonances too - the bread eaten in haste by God's people before the Exodus from Egypt, the wine which has echoes of the banquet of the Kingdom of heaven, as Our Lord calls it, where the Saints rejoice for ever in the presence of God.. They are firmly rooted in the New Testament where in the Gospel today where Our Lord explicitly rejects the language of mere symbolism and in the mysterious actions and words Jesus uses at the last Supper, as St Paul describes in the second reading today, when he was seated at table with his Apostles, one having gone out into the darkness of the night ...

What we have here is nothing less than the mystery of the Lord's dying and rising given to us in a sacramental form, where symbol and reality become one. Jesus at the Last Supper acts out in advance his sacrifice for the sins of the whole world, and under the forms of bread and wine gives himself to us so that we can receive his Easter life. The presence of Christ is with us always; but here at the altar he is really and substantially present as he is at no other time.

This is the mysterious, sacrificial meal of God's people; by it we are given the grace to increase in faith, in hope, in love, and become more like the Lord who lives within us and around us and beyond us. Here the link between faith and life, between belief and living out that belief, is made explicit. The link between the two

great commandments to love God and love our neighbour is spelled out here and becomes possible...

This is the food for our journey from the people we once were to the people we are called to become, from the shadows and images of this life to the blazing clarity of light of the kingdom of heaven. So today we are not only celebrating the gift of the central act of worship of the Christian community: that would be too exclusive and inward looking and the Eucharist is meant to be the exact opposite of that. No, we are celebrating the presence of Christ himself with us and among us. This simple act of communion and sacrifice which we are celebrating here at the altar is the living expression of the future hope of our perfect unity and communion with God. Here we receive the life of the Resurrection - the life of Christ himself - and *that* is the daily, weekly, miracle of the Eucharist which we celebrate today. +

## **CORPUS CHRISTI**

Corpus Christi (translated as Body of Christ from the Latin) occurs on the Thursday (or the Sunday) after Trinity Sunday, and celebrates the real presence of the body and blood of Jesus in the Eucharist. On Maundy Thursday we celebrate the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist, and on that day we celebrate the Eucharist in a more sombre atmosphere as we lead into Good Friday. The feast of Corpus Christi celebrates the Eucharist and Jesus' gift to us in a way that we can focus on the Blessed Sacrament. This feast was proposed by St Thomas Aquinas in the 13th century, and he wanted a feast that would express this joy of receiving the body and blood of Jesus in the Eucharist. Many of the texts of the Eucharist on this day and the hymns that are sung were composed by St Thomas Aquinas himself.

## **Saint Columba**

*June 9<sup>th</sup>*

Columba lived from 7th December 521 to 9th June 597. Columba was born and educated in Ireland. In 563 he travelled to Scotland with 12 companions to evangelise Scotland. The island of Iona was made over to him by a kinsman and it may have

been this family member who had invited him to come to Scotland in the first place. On this island, Columba founded an Abbey and Iona remains a place of pilgrimage to this day. Columba, and his companions spread the Christian faith throughout Scotland. Columba also had significant diplomatic skills, which assisted him in his mission. He was also a man of great learning and 12 of the hymns he wrote still survive. He also transcribed over 300 books.

Almighty God,  
who filled the heart of Columba with the joy of the Holy Spirit and with deep love for those in his care:  
may your pilgrim people follow him,  
strong in faith, sustained by hope,  
and one in the love that binds us  
to you; through Jesus Christ your Son  
our Lord, who is alive and reigns  
with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen