

Reflection from Fr. Colm on the feast of Corpus Christi

Audio posted to the Parish Website on Sunday 14th June 2020

Good morning everybody. Happy feast day of Corpus Christi to you today. For those who want to come to church with as little contact with others around them then over the next few weeks your time has come. Post Lockdown there will be no sign of peace, no greetings at the front porch, no sharing stories over tea or coffee after Mass that you were bothered with that anyhow. In fact, those with whom you wish to have as little as contact with as possible will be screened, sanitised, and kept as far away from you as possible. Even praising God in song may not be possible. Masks may prevent that intrusion on your space as indeed the masks will protect you from any warm friendly smiles around you.

And so that long held wish that you may have had for quiet, personal, insular Mass may be yours for the time being. And if you don't wish to be in touch with the senior members of the community and do feel somewhat ageist then you need not worry about them for the next few weeks. However, as I said earlier your enjoyment of such tranquillity may be short lived so do make the most of it.

The social dimension of our Eucharist however outlined in St John's Gospel chapter 13 has already been in full flow almost secretly, unknown to so many in our parish. So much of what Christ asks by way of service at the institution of the Mass is now taking on a most dynamic and new, and wonderful dimension that could be the changing of all parish landscapes forever and yes that's before I come to the webcam which has indeed been a great gift.

That familiar Liturgy, the choice of location we have been able to have at the press of a button, even the muting of the long sermon, most sermons, I would think, though I haven't listened, are good. And then there's the church decor - ornate, plain, modern, old - I'm not just talking about the priests here now. Be it in Westminster, Newcastle, New York, Derry, Glasgow, Cork I have even seen two rather large clergy in full vestments doing a jig. I would presume immediately after Mass or was it in a sense of spiritual joy at an acclamation after the consecration.

Yes indeed, there is a lovely familiarity about what I'm watching when I'm on the webcam and I do seem to connect to it. It is the Mass, it is the Eucharist the world over, but and the big but of course is, I can't receive it.

However, did Jesus only say, "*Do this in memory of Me?*" Didn't He also say, "*What I have done to you do also to each other?*" Indeed, He did add, indeed "*to the least.*"

I've got more good news for you. We may have been deprived of church gatherings in buildings during lockdown, but some truly great things are being done. Christ is being made presence in each other in so many different ways. Quietly the Eucharistic Jesus has been revealed in the parish packs delivered to the houses of vulnerable parishioners. Then there's the food delivered, cooked meals even, my Lord how Eucharistic can that be? Then there's the phone calls, the texts, just to remind you that you still matter. That you are missed and that we love you. Those distanced chats from outside the garden gate, through the windows, all efforts as we just try to remind each other that we are in this together and we shall come out the other side together as that one body, the body of Christ but it will be as never before. Yes, all reminders, "*Do this in remembrance of Me*" Corpus Christi, body of Christ. Good morning everybody.