

## **The Giving of The Spirit, a reflection from Father Charles:**

### **Pentecost**

Here we are, already! As I write this Pentecost approaches, the 50<sup>th</sup> day after Easter, and it seem just the other day that we were in action for the Triduum. Pentecost is a Major Festival, in it we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and followers of Jesus, and remind ourselves why this event is so often described as the Birthday of the Church. It is also the festival that coincides with the Giving of the Law on Sinai.

These two events have many parallels. The Law both unified the people of Israel and caused them to act, it established a covenant with God. The giving of the Holy Spirit is a critical feature of the new covenant with God; it unites us and causes us to act, with purpose. These two aspects of the Spirit, ***pulling together and sending out***, are distinctive gifts that we should cherish.

### ***Pulling together***

Luke paints a very clear picture of how the Spirit unites. We read in Acts how suddenly, people of different nationalities and backgrounds could understand each other. In the carefully constructed list we are reminded of all peoples, from around the Mediterranean, the Jewish people scattered for centuries by the diaspora and those whose background is either gentile or Jew. For the Apostles this would have been extra-ordinary! What they saw as 'scattered' was suddenly brought to coherence; and, more than this, the Tower of Babel had, in their minds, been put into reverse.

We, in the Church and in society, are divided in so many ways. We can see this as we look around our globe; but we also see it as we look at our, rather closer, world. It very often seems to me that we confuse unity with agreement. I don't think the Holy Spirit leads us to agree with one another, instead we are provided with a platform upon which we can hear one another, understand the issues and points of concern, and move forward with coherence. We are enabled to have diversity without enmity.

### ***Sending out***

You'll remember what happens next in Luke's account. Peter goes out and stands, with the eleven, in front of the crowds. He says that he and the followers of Jesus from Nazareth are behaving strangely but not drunk (it's too early in the morning - for one thing). He then uses scripture, known to the crowd, to explain what's happening and who Jesus is. And you recall the people were 'cut to the heart' and said "What shall we do?" And several thousand were baptised.

As we see the Spirit does not only pull together and unite; he also sends out and leads to action, he calls us to do something. What this action is differs hugely between individuals but the purpose and the power remain the same. Whether it be small actions of care, to grand gestures on a large scale; each is driven by the Spirit, and each has the same value in the eyes of God.

### ***Bringing this home***

When I read my words and think of the meaning of Pentecost, it feels like one of those challenges that's so large it's just not going to happen. I can look at it and say 'where is the place to start?'; echoing the words of Peter's crowd "Brothers, what shall we do?"

Well, I think we do what we have done, in the past and over the last couple of years. Sometimes disagreeing, often in agreement, always in unity, we step out, reach out, look within and beyond our world, confident that God, working through the Holy Spirit, will enable us to bring coherence and meaning where we can.

With every blessing,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Charles Jupp', written in a cursive style.

### **GLASTONBURY PILGRIMAGE**

**21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2014-05-23**

The annual Pilgrimage to Glastonbury Abbey takes place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June and follows its usual format. Solemn Mass will be concelebrated in the ruins of the Abbey at noon; the Principal Celebrant will be Bishop Rodger Jupp, Chairman of the Pilgrimage Association, and the preacher will be the Rt Revd Jonathan Goodall, Bishop of Ebbsfleet.

At 3.00pm the Procession will wind its way down Glastonbury High Street and enter the Abbey for a Devotional address, followed by Solemn Benediction. The theme of the Pilgrimage this year is "Behold the Lamb."

The lovingly preserved ruins of the Abbey provides a beautiful backdrop to catholic worship; the site is the very cradle of Christianity in this country with its association with St Joseph of Arimathea - legend has it with Our Lord himself.

For further information visit the Association website, [www.glastonburypilgrimage.com](http://www.glastonburypilgrimage.com).

*Chris Verity*

### **The Soup Run – experiences of a first timer**

How many times, when I pass by a homeless person on the street, have I thought 'there, but for the grace of God.....', and say a quiet prayer thanking God for my many blessings.

However, I've never got involved with homeless or disadvantaged people such as those who rely on the weekly food provided by the Soup Run, so when the call for volunteers went out at a PCC meeting about a year ago, I felt very strongly that I needed a bit of a jolt out of my comfortable middle-class existence, and that I should get actively involved in something that – quite frankly – felt rather outside of my comfort zone.

The Soup Run that we at All Saints' get involved with is operated by Clifton, Cotham and Redland Council of Churches and relies on volunteers from churches all over Bristol working on a rotational basis, usually for a month at a time. It provides an opportunity every Saturday for anyone who's sleeping rough to come to the Bearpit (the sunken underpass in the St. James Barton roundabout in Broadmead) for a chat, sandwiches, cake, fruit etc. and a hot drink. All Saints usually helps out in August, and volunteers are needed not only to help prepare and make the food but also to distribute it every Saturday of that month.

Linda Trude and Caroline Plaice do a marvellous job co-ordinating the All Saints effort every year, and Caroline was very grateful that I wanted to help. She was quite open about the fact that the experience can be a little daunting at first since there can be quite a few people every Saturday – particularly in the summer, when the weather's better – none of whom have much of a sense of orderly queuing! So, armed with Caroline's advice as to what to wear (plain clothes, with no obvious jewellery) and how to behave (kind but firm), I met up with Linda, Caroline and other helpers like me at All Saints, mid-morning, in order to get things ready. As well as food, toiletries are also distributed, and even dog biscuits, since for so many homeless people, their dogs are a vital part of their lives.

The various bundles were packed up and put into several wheelie trolleys, and off we went. We parked at St. James Priory – which for so long as been a centre of help and support for so many disadvantaged people in Bristol – and wheeled the trolleys down into the underpass. As we approached the Bearpit itself, I could see quite a throng of people who'd obviously been anticipating our arrival for some time. We made our way to the usual spot for food distribution and pretty soon we were surrounded by quite a crowd. There certainly wasn't much willingness to queue and quite a bit of jostling for position, but Linda and Caroline have such a good system for distributing the food, that things really did flow pretty smoothly. I was in charge of handing out drink cartons, and fruit, and soon familiarised myself with certain individuals who miraculously kept appearing at the front of the queue time and time again! Caroline's advice to be 'kind, but firm' certainly paid off, particularly with those who kept asking for extra supplies for any number of friends and relatives who 'hadn't been able to make it along today'!

I was amazed at the different people there – mostly men, but some women, too. Some clearly had drink or drug problems, but there were those who had obviously fallen on hard times through no fault of their own, for example crises in their personal lives or experiencing severe financial hardship due to the recession. The one thing that the majority of people there had in common was a real need and a genuine appreciation of our help. Once again I was reminded that one should never be complacent in one's life and always to be thankful to God for our numerous blessings.

Things came to a natural close when the food ran out, but quite a few wanted to stay and chat to us – I felt that the whole thing provided a focal point during the week for many whose lives are lacking in any real focus or purpose.

Overall, I found it a thoroughly worthwhile experience, and I shall certainly be offering my services again this year. Of course The Soup Run isn't just about turning up to hand out the food; you can contribute hugely by signing the rota in the porch for making sandwiches or supplying other food. No matter how you help, you're supporting an incredibly worthwhile cause.

A list of the supplies we will need for the month of August, together with a rota for helping out, will be going up in the Porch shortly . Please consider offering your time or donations of food or money. If you would like further information, please don't hesitate to speak with Linda or Caroline. Thank you.

**Stewardship** – June a month to consider our commitment to All Saints Clifton as a witnessing community and as a thanksgiving to God.

It is some time since we held a Stewardship renewal and now seems an appropriate time for us to again consider our commitment to God and the future of All Saints as a vibrant and positive community in the Church. 'Stewardship' is an opportunity for us to think about and be thankful for all that God has given us and how we can use these gifts to share that generosity with others.

But before we move on to the future we must thank all those who have contributed to the life and work of All Saints over the last 146 years. Their commitment in time, dedication, talents and money has made All Saints a beacon in the community, in Bristol and nationwide. THANK YOU..... and 'thank you' to all those who continue to support All Saints Clifton in the many ways that you do.

All Saints church provides us with a presence within the community which proclaims our faith and provides a special place of prayer, witness and teaching. We are fortunate to have inherited 146 years of faithful dedication from those who established this beautiful spiritual place of worship. We too have a responsibility to continue that witness and ensure that future generations can learn of God's redeeming love and the message of hope and resurrection through Our Lord Jesus Christ.

'Stewardship' comes in many forms – time , talents and money.

Time to commit to God's work – to take our faith and gladness of knowing God's love into the world and to make our worship at All Saints very special.

Talents – we are very blest at All Saints Clifton with many talents – intellectual, business, artistic, musical, caring, openness and friendship. All of us have something to offer towards the work of God in this City and towards the coming of God's kingdom throughout the world.

Money – there are many ways in which we can and do contribute – Mission giving including Lent and Harvest are all important aspects of our personal financial commitment. Maintenance of the building and the overheads of All Saints are just as important. Of course we are currently promoting and supporting a major fund raising campaign for the organ – music is also an important aspect of our thanksgiving to God and sharing our musical talents with others. But we still need to keep the day to day running of this beautiful building and active witness alive.

A few facts and figures:

The weekly cost of running All Saints day to day is approx. £2,000

Our current Income from individual giving is approx. £1150 per week of which £220 is income tax refunded through Gift Aid. We generate income of approx. £155 per week through letting the Randall Room.

The number of people on the Electoral Roll is 132. The number of regular givers is 67.

Somehow we need to bridge the gap..... £695 per week

Another thank you is to those who have remembered All Saints by leaving a legacy in their will. Again we have been very fortunate in some very generous bequests. The PCC are keen that these bequests are used to enhance the prayerful presence of All Saints. Recently we have been able to refurbish the bell, re-silver and repair some of our Altar furnishings and make a substantial contribution to the organ fund.

The importance of making a will is something we all need to consider for our families and loved ones and for future generations. It is an act of good stewardship. It is also an opportunity to help ensure that God's work continues and the Gospel is heard by those who come after us.

Please consider and pray over these things. A pack including a pledge form and a Gift Aid form is being circulated. Packs can be found on the Atrium table or email [allsaintsclifton@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:allsaintsclifton@tiscali.co.uk).

All forms to be returned by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

Norman Drewett

Treasurer

On behalf of All Saints PCC

## **CORPUS CHRISTI – THE BODY OF CHRIST**

The month of June this year sees one of the greatest feasts in the Church's calendar - the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. Our separated brethren, with their fondness for perhaps overstating the case in pursuit of historical clarity (*cf* The Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed) refer to it as the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ; Common Worship refers to it as The Day of

Thanksgiving for the Institution of Holy Communion; most of us simply refer to it by its more succinct - and descriptive - title of Corpus Christi, The Body of Christ.

But why, where is the necessity for the feast? Maundy (or Holy) Thursday most clearly saw the institution of Holy Communion at the Last Supper, when Our Lord gave specific instruction as to how he is to be remembered. Maundy Thursday, however, does not stand on its own. It is part of Holy Week and more particularly of the Holy Triduum, overlaid with the foreboding of grim events to come. As the overriding importance of the Last Supper, or the Holy Communion, became more and more apparent to the early Church, and with it an increasing understanding of the doctrine of transubstantiation, so also came the realisation of the desirability of a more specific celebration of Our Lord's body, solely in its own right.

Cometh the hour, cometh the man, in this case a woman and a man. Juliana (1192-1258), a nun in a convent in northern France, had a vision of a full moon with a dark spot or shadow on it. This she interpreted as the liturgical year with the dark spot signifying the absence of a festival in honour of the body of Christ. She dedicated her life to repairing this omission, and in 1246 her bishop gave permission for such a feast to be observed in his diocese of Liege. A few years later, in 1261, the Archdeacon of Liege who had supported Juliana's efforts, was elected Pope as Urban IV, and in 1264 he proclaimed it as Corpus Christi, to be observed throughout the Universal Church. This was confirmed by subsequent Popes, Clement V and John XXII. The propers for the Mass, including the magnificent sequence *Lauda, Sion, Salvatorem*, were in all probability written by St Thomas Aquinas (c.1225-1274) one of the greatest of all writers on the Body of Christ and its attendant doctrines. The propers include one of the very few Collects addressed directly to the second person of the Trinity.

From the thirteenth century onwards the practice of great outdoor processions of the Blessed Sacrament grew rapidly, particularly in southern Europe. Many such processions are now common in this country, in both Roman and Anglican Catholic circles.

As might be expected, the early reformers, particularly Zwingli and Cranmer, would have nothing to do with transubstantiation or anything arising therefrom. However, following the Oxford Movement and the nineteenth century Ritualists, there is now a rather more sympathetic approach to religious symbolism, and both ASB and CW allow the Thursday after Trinity Sunday to be observed as 'A Day of Thanksgiving for the Institution of Holy Communion', CW coyly adding (Corpus Christi). In the Roman Catholic Church the feast is more often than not transferred to the following Sunday.

At All Saints Clifton Corpus Christi has always been observed (since the 1940s at least!), but not always with the present degree of ritual. In the 1980s the Blessed Sacrament was carried in procession in a monstrance, and some years later the present practice of concluding Mass with a solemn procession of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction was established. This procession gives the faithful a unique opportunity for adoration of Our Lord, an extension as it were, of the elevation at Mass - *hoc est enim Corpus meum*.

Some people may notice that the processional crucifix is not used in the procession; this is due to the theory that two manifestations of the Word of God in the same procession may cause confusion among the faithful. Modern Roman liturgists now advocate the use of the crucifix in such processions, but allow that it can be replaced by a 'suitable' banner.

Corpus Christi in a way 'rounds off' the great series of festivals of Our Lord starting with Palm Sunday, the Triduum and Easter. We celebrate it with proper dignity and reverence on its traditional day - the Thursday after Trinity Sunday; let us fill the church on this joyful occasion.

*Chris Verity*

*I am indebted to my late friend and colleague Professor Jack Metford for much of the information in this article.*

## **CORPUS CHRISTI: THANKSGIVING FOR THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST IN THE EUCHARIST**

There are various jobs done at All Saints so often and so well that perhaps we take them too much for granted – the tasks performed before each Mass by the Sacristan and the Servers. Preparing the sanctuary and the altar before Mass, there are several things to get ready and put out either on the altar or on the credence in the wall to the right of the altar. A fine linen cloth covers the altar and the table is laid in preparation for a meal. The best silver is used and things put out in an orderly way so that the Mass runs smoothly with everything to hand. The food put out is unleavened bread, in the form of wafers, and special wine. Everything is just so because each and every Mass is a meal of the utmost importance. Our host is the most important VIP and we are his specially invited guests.

It doesn't matter whether it's a big occasion, with lots of people, or a small intimate affair. Jesus said 'where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.' He could have been talking of a prayer meeting, of course, or godly talk, but he could just as easily have meant the Eucharist, the meal which he himself instituted on the night he was betrayed by Judas Iscariot, the Last Supper eaten with the disciples before he died.

Ten days after the great feast of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit, (this year on June 8<sup>th</sup>), the Universal Church gives particular thanks for the Eucharist, where we feed on ordinary food and drink, which - when it is taken, blessed, broken and given, as Jesus commanded his disciples to do - becomes holy food and drink (*corpus et sanguis Christi* - the body and blood of Christ). This holy food and drink is called the Blessed Sacrament or Holy Communion. When the bread and wine has been taken, blessed, broken and given, it becomes the body and blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ because of what he said and did at

the Last Supper. The priest re-enacts this at each Eucharist by saying and doing what Jesus himself did, and commanded to be done for ever until he comes again in glory. He meant his risen body, heavenly food which enables us to share his risen life. By taking eating and drinking this, we grow in a spiritual sense; we grow in grace. We dwell, make our home, in the risen Christ and he dwells, makes his home, in us.

It's a great mystery of course, which we can never fully understand, but that should not deter us. We must keep feeding on the Lord and let him transform us into the people he wants us to be. He doesn't tell us to keep trying to understand. He tells us to keep doing this - feeding on him - and all will be revealed, though probably not completely in this life.

In this church and others like it, the Blessed Sacrament is kept, reserved in a special place, which at All Saints is a small silver-fronted cupboard in the wall to the left of the altar – called the tabernacle or aumbry - so that it is there ready for any who are prevented from coming to Mass because of infirmity. Many of us have experienced what a great strength and comfort it is to have the sacrament brought to us when we are unable to come to church. It revives and heals us, as well as assuring us that we do indeed belong to the body of Christ, even when we may not feel that way at all.

The gift of Our Lord himself in the Blessed Sacrament is the best gift we shall ever be given, and however often we receive it we should never take it for granted. It is a life-changing gift every time, even though we may not always notice. We are what we eat – or so we're often told by health gurus. There is (sometimes conflicting) advice from various sources to eat good wholesome food, but Christians are what they eat in a very special way. As we feed on his body, we become his body. At the peace during the Eucharist the priest says 'We are the body of Christ.' Indeed we are, together with Christians all over the world who will be giving thanks, on Thursday June 19<sup>th</sup> this year, for the most precious gift of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is one of the most beautiful summer feast days in the Church's year, and not to be missed if we can help it.

*Jessica Smith, Parish Lay Minister*

**THE BRISTOL CATHOLIC SOCIETIES ASSUMPTIONTIDE FESTIVAL**  
**SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2014**

This year's Festival follows the usual format of Solemn Concelebrated Mass and Vespers of our Lady & Benediction. The Mass is at 12.00 noon in Bristol Cathedral, by kind permission of the Dean and Chapter to whom we give our grateful thanks. Vespers and Benediction will be at 3.00 pm in the Lord Mayor's Chapel, on the other side of College Green. The Principal Celebrant at Mass will be the Rt Revd Roger Jupp, Superior-General of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament, who will also preside at Benediction.

We shall again have the services of the choir of St Mary's and St John's, Bathwick, directed by Tim Barrett, who will sing works by

This Festival is organised on behalf of the Bristol Catholic Societies by the Church Union and the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary, who will be celebrating their annual corporate Mass at the Festival. It has the support of these and other Catholic Societies, in particular the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament and the Additional Curates Society.

Priests wishing to concelebrate the Mass are asked to advise Chris Verity (see below) if possible; this will ensure sufficient chasubles and stoles being available.

To those unfamiliar with Bristol, follow the signs to Bristol City Centre; both the Cathedral and the Lord Mayor's Chapel are situated on College Green which adjoins the Centre. There are ample car parking facilities in the area, the Cathedral Coffee Shop will be open, as will local restaurants, cafés and pubs. College Green and the secluded Cathedral garden are ideal for picnics. Country and City bus services stop on College Green and Anchor Road, and there is a frequent bus service from Bristol (Temple Meads) Station.

This Festival is a wonderful opportunity for Catholic Anglicans to mark the Glorious Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, and, through her, to worship Almighty God in the manner that they would wish. Please make every effort to attend, and persuade friends and colleagues to do so. Further information may be obtained from the writer.

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