

## Spiritual Communion

*written by St Alphonsus Ligouri*

My Jesus,  
I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar.  
I love you above all things  
and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
come spiritually into my soul  
so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and for ever.  
Amen.

## Prayer

God our Father,  
as we hear the word that brings salvation, make our hearts burn within us.  
In the breaking of bread, open our eyes to recognise the One whose feast it is.  
Through the presence of every friend and stranger, reveal to us the face of the Christ  
who had first to suffer but who has entered now into glory,  
the Lord Jesus, our Passover and our Peace  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

## Sign of the Cross

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK . . .

Wednesday is the **European Feast of St Catherine of Siena** – a member of the Dominican Order, it was through her example of holiness, and her wisdom, that she made a great impact on the Church of her time, which was split by the 'Great Schism'. St Pope Paul VI gave her the title 'Doctor of the Church'. She died in 1380; her tomb is under the high altar in the Roman church of *Santa Maria sopra Minerva*.

Friday is the **Memorial of St Joseph the Worker** – the Church reminds us today, International Labour Day, of the true nobility and value of work, pointing to the working life of Joseph the Carpenter (the scriptures use the word *tekton* which is better translated as "handyman") of Nazareth.

### *Please remember in your prayers*

#### **Those who are ill, including . . .**

Neil Abrahams, Isabella Ayres, Mary Brennan, Lesley Carroll, Tom Coddington, Pat and Janet Defreitas, Brenda Duke, Father Paul Dynan, Compton Glasgow, Father Tom Jordan, Eddie Margot, Gary Martindill, Maureen Mongan, Helen Murray, Sue Read, Stephen Smithers, Sue Spelling and Mary Treston.

#### **Those whose anniversaries are recalled at this time, including . . .**

**25 April – 1 May:** Win Eyley, Anne Hay, Bert Waterfield, Millie Kromer, Patrick Callcut, Nancy Harrison, Joyce Baxter, John Patrick Long, Margaret Gallacher, Bill Hughes, Gladys Galvin, Peter Graham and Darren Margot.

#### **THE CHAPEL OF OUR LADY**

This week, the light burning in honour of Our Lady is in memory of Nancy Harrison.

*When is the Lord made known? In the breaking of bread.  
Learn where to seek and find the Lord: he is there when you partake of his flesh.  
From a Sermon of **St Augustine of Hippo** Died AD430)*

# Catholic Church of Corpus Christi

Lowshoe Lane, Collier Row, Romford, Essex RM5 2AP

#### **Parish Priest:**

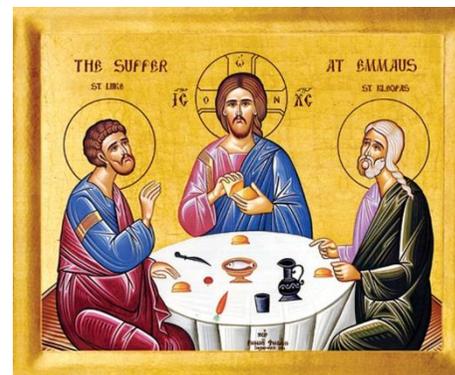
Father Philip Denton

☎01708-749050

✉collierrow@dioceseofbrentwood.org

#### **to contact Church House:**

## Third Sunday of Easter *Prayers and Readings* 25-26 April 2020



*May you be filled with joy and hope  
as we celebrate the resurrection.*

*Christ has conquered death  
and is risen to newness of life!*

*Due to the Coronavirus pandemic,  
all public acts of worship are suspended  
and churches are locked until further notice.  
This newsletter includes readings and prayers  
from Sunday's Mass, which you might like to use  
as an aid to personal prayer and reflection.*

#### **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

available at any time on request

#### **PARISH WEBSITE**

[www.corpuschristicollierrow.org](http://www.corpuschristicollierrow.org)

(for use at home)

## Sign of the Cross

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## Prayer

May your people exult for ever, O God,  
in renewed youthfulness of spirit,  
so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption,  
we may look forward in confident hope  
to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## First Reading

Acts 2: 14, 22-33

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: "Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and foreknowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him: I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy: my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence. "Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is

still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit."

## Psalm

Ps 15

Show us, Lord, the path of life.

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you. I say to the Lord: "You are my God. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; it is you yourself who are my prize."

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart. I keep the Lord ever in my sight: since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my body shall rest in safety. For you will not leave my soul among the dead, nor let your beloved know decay.

You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right hand happiness for ever.

## Second Reading

I Peter 1: 17-21

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

## Gospel Reading

Luke 24:13-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, "What matters are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped short, their faces downcast. Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, "You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days." "What things?" he asked. "All about Jesus of Nazareth," they answered, "who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing." Then he said to them, "You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?" Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. "It is nearly evening," they said, "and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at the table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?"

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, "Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

## Reflection

**Pope Francis, Regina Caeli Address, St Peter's Square, 4 May 2014**

The Gospel from this Sunday, which is the Third Sunday of Easter, is that of the disciples of Emmaus (cf. Lk 24:13-35). They were two of Jesus' disciples who, after his death and the Sabbath was past, leave Jerusalem and return, sad and dejected, to their village which was named Emmaus. Along the way the Risen Jesus draws near to them, but they do not recognise him. Seeing them so sad, he first helps them to understand that the Passion and death of the Messiah were foreseen in the plan of God and announced in the Sacred Scriptures: and thus he rekindled a fire of hope in their hearts.

At that point, the two disciples experienced an extraordinary attraction to the mysterious man, and they invited him to stay with them that evening. Jesus accepted and went into the house with them. When, at table, he blessed the bread and broke it, they recognised him, but he vanished out of their sight, leaving them full of wonder. After being enlightened by the Word, they had recognised the Risen Jesus in the breaking of the bread, a new sign of his presence. And immediately they felt the need to go back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples about their experience, that they had met the living Jesus and recognised him in the act of the breaking of the bread.

The road to Emmaus thus becomes a symbol of our journey of faith: the Scriptures and the Eucharist are the indispensable elements for encountering the Lord. We too often go to Sunday Mass with our worries, difficulties and disappointments ... Life sometimes wounds us and we go away feeling sad, towards our "Emmaus", turning our backs on God's plan. We distance ourselves from God. But the Liturgy of the Word welcomes us: Jesus explains the Scriptures to us and rekindles in our hearts the warmth of faith and hope, and in Communion he gives us strength. The Word of God, the Eucharist. Read a passage of the Gospel every day. Remember it well: read a passage from the Gospel every day, and on Sundays go to Communion, to receive Jesus. This is what happened to the disciples of Emmaus: they received the Word; they shared the breaking of bread and from feeling sad and defeated they became joyful. Dear brothers and sisters, the Word of God and the Eucharist fill us with joy always. Remember it well! When you are sad, take up the Word of God. When you are down, take up the Word of God and go to Sunday Mass and receive Communion, to participate in the mystery of Jesus. The Word of God, the Eucharist: they fill us with joy.

*[We look forward to being able to celebrate Mass again and share together the Word of God and Holy Communion]*

## Prayers of Intercession

*For the Church, as we journey through the centuries:*

May we know the Lord in the word, the breaking of the bread and the welcoming of every stranger. Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

*For those who suffer as a result of the coronavirus:*

May they find strength in Christ who had first to suffer before entering into glory. Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

*For those whose lives were marked by faith and loving service:*

May God lead them in the paths of eternal life.

Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.