

**DEANERY OF ST EDMUND CAMPION
ENGLISH MARTYRS—
VALE OF THE WHITE HORSE PASTORAL AREA**

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

www.hendredcatholicparish.org.uk

East Hendred Catholic Parish Corpus Christi

6th – 13th June 2021



Reflection

Corpus Christi

ON THE NIGHT before he died, Jesus had supper with his disciples. They were showing signs of bewilderment and stress, though they did not know exactly what was to happen. Later, Jesus would be betrayed, handed over for trial, kept overnight, mocked and tortured. In the morning he was led out to be crucified, and his disciples fled in terror. Only the women stayed by to watch. His crucifixion was not the end, however. He was laid in a tomb but on the third day – the first Easter Day – once the Sabbath was over, his followers came to embalm the body only to discover that the tomb was empty. As he had promised, he had risen from the dead. He appeared to over 500 of his followers (1 Cor. 15) and fifty days later, following the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, 3,000 were converted in one day (Acts 2). Thereafter, the Faith spread like wildfire.

Before he died, Jesus took the bread and wine used for the *Kiddush* and said 'This is my Body...This is my Blood...Do this in memory of me'. Ever since, the Church has gathered, Sunday by Sunday, and day by day, to repeat this act. We don't have another supper – in fact it is usually in the morning that we meet – because we are remembering the whole mystery: Maundy Thursday (Last Supper), Good Friday (Passion and Death), Easter Sunday (Resurrection). Catholics believe – because this is what Jesus said – that the bread and wine we take and bless becomes the Body and Blood of Christ, the food of eternal life for us.

Why have this celebration today, *Corpus Christi*? *Corpus Christi* goes back to the thirteenth century and arose from the realisation that the dark shadow over Maundy Thursday, and the incompleteness of that occasion, means that we should really set aside a special day to give thanks to God for the wonderful gift of the Mass and of Holy Communion. Such a special day had to be after Easter – to include Easter – and, once Pentecost and Trinity were out of the way, we are free to focus very closely on the gift of the Blessed Sacrament. Normally *Corpus Christi* is on the Thursday after Trinity but, by special arrangement, the hierarchy of England and Wales (amongst those of other nations) transfers the solemnity to the following Sunday, in practice drawing more people into the celebration.

Holy Communion is the beginning of a regular relationship with Jesus Christ, present to us in the Blessed Sacrament. Few can manage to receive Holy Communion as their 'daily bread'. Most can manage to celebrate Sunday, the day of the Lord's Resurrection, by attending Mass faithfully and receiving Holy Communion devoutly and frequently.

Fr Andrew

WEEK 10 YEAR 1

6th – 13th June 2021

All masses live-streamed www.churchservices.tv/easthendred
please book for Sunday masses: hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Church is open from 9am until late afternoon

CORPUS CHRISTI			[White]
6th June	9.30am	Parish Mass	<i>Pro populo</i>
	6pm	Holy Mass	
Monday 7th June	<i>Of Week 10</i>		[Green]
	9.15am	Holy Mass	<i>FM Col S V Daughish 1925</i>
Tuesday 8th June	<i>Of Week 10</i>		[Green]
	9.15am	Holy Mass	<i>FM Cecilia Margaret Mary Dearlove 1942</i>
Wednesday 9th June	<i>Of Week 10</i>		[Green]
	9.15am	Holy Mass	<i>FM Monica Wheeler 1945</i>
Thursday 10th June	<i>Of Week 10</i>		[Green]
	9.15am	Holy Mass	
Friday 11th June	MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS		[White]
	9.15am	Holy Mass	<i>Holy Souls</i>
Saturday 12th June	Immaculate Heart of Mary		[White]
	No Mass		
SUNDAY 11B Per Annum			[Green]
13th June	9.30am	Parish Mass	<i>Pro populo</i>
	6pm	Holy Mass	

CONTACT DETAILS

Fr Andrew: 01235 835038 or 07976 437979

aburnham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk is monitored by the Parish Administrator and her Assistant.

East Hendred Catholic Parish

NOTICEBOARD

BISHOP'S PASTORAL LETTER

Along with this Bulletin, we are sending out the Bishop's Pastoral Letter for Corpus Christi, announcing the Year of the Eucharist, beginning today.

CHURCH SERVICES LIVESTREAM

On Sunday 30th May, there were 235 hits from 75 machines, with 108 remaining on-line long enough to take part in Mass. 57 viewers were from the UK, 7 from Ireland, and 11 from the rest of the world.

BOOKING FOR MASS AT ST MARY'S

Please book for 9.30am, and 6pm Sunday Masses before 12 noon on Fridays hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk On Saturday contact Fr Andrew on aburnham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Space limited. Book early. Masks and social distancing required.

CHILDREN'S PAGES

- (1) Have you tuned into '**Morning Prayer for Children**', 9am on Sundays? It's ten minutes on Church Services TV.
- (2) **Special stuff for Sunday** 6th June, Corpus Christi, follows on the next couple of pages.

YOUNG CATHOLICS

The **Fanning the Flame Camp for Young Catholics, age 12 - 18**, will take place Monday 16th - Fri 20th August. If you are interested, details at www.fanningtheflame.co.uk Cost £130. It is usually held at the Dominican Priory in the New Forest but this year it will be at the Kintbury Retreat Centre, near Newbury. If you would like to support teenagers whose families struggle to pay for this camp, then please consider making a donation to sr.veronicabrennan@gmail.com

ROOTED IN LOVE

Congratulations to Annette Goulden, a member of our congregation, who has published a book, *Rooted in Love*, which tells the story of Louis and Zélie Martin, the parents of St Therese of Lisieux. Ss Louis and Zélie were canonised in 2015. Annette, a retired psychiatrist, has served the Discalced Carmelite Secular Order, locally and nationally, in various ways since 2002. www.icspublications.org ISBN 13:978-1-939272-89-8.

Feast of Corpus Christi B

Sunday 6th June 2021

The Body and Blood of Christ

Mark 14: 22-24

Jesus and his disciples had gathered to celebrate the Passover meal together. While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, gave thanks to his heavenly father, broke the bread, and gave a piece to each of his disciples saying, 'Take this and eat it, this is my body.' Then he took a cup of wine. Again, he praised his father, and passed it to each of his disciples saying, 'Take this and drink it, this is my blood, poured out for you. Do this in memory of me.'

Reflection

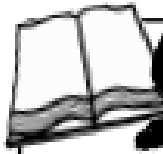
The Passover meal was when Jewish people remembered how God had freed them from slavery in Egypt. At the Last Supper, Jesus shared a loaf of bread and a cup of wine with his friends. He changed the bread and wine into his own body and blood, to nourish them with its life-giving power. Just as our bodies need nourishment to live, so do our souls.

When we come to Mass, we come as one large family to celebrate something which has happened for all of us: the resurrection of Jesus. We share a meal together just as Jesus did at the Last Supper. At Mass we believe that, through the power of God, the bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus, who gave himself to each of us in an incredibly special way.

Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life,' and when we share in the eucharistic meal, we share life with the son of God himself.

Closing Prayer

*Lord Jesus, you are the living bread which comes to each one of us in a special way. Help me to share the joy of your love with others
I meet. Amen*



Speak, Lord



Exodus 24:3-8
Psalm 115
Hebrews 9:11-15
Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

SUNDAY LITURGY FOR CHILDREN

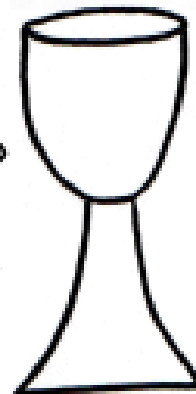
Year B — The Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)



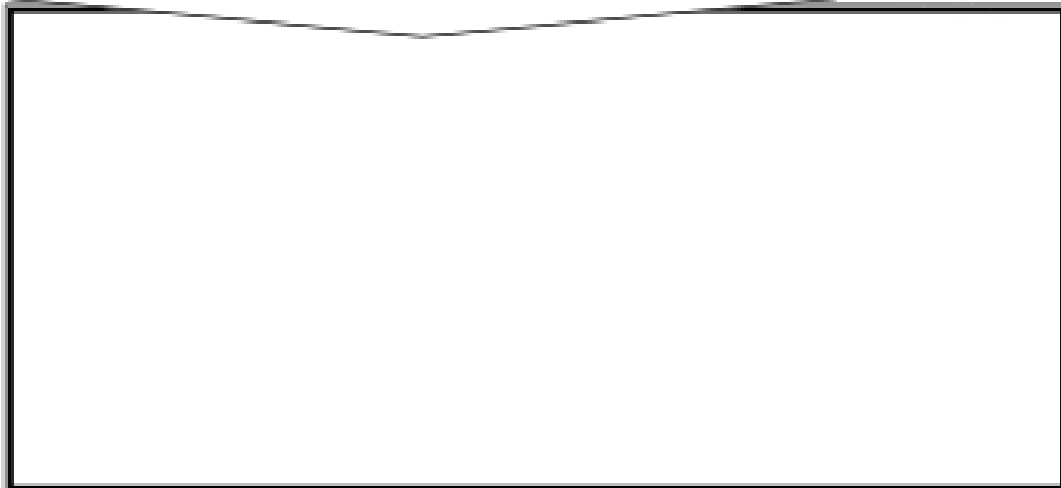
JESUS SAID:

"TAKE IT AND EAT IT,
THIS IS MY BODY."

"TAKE IT AND DRINK IT,
THIS IS MY BLOOD."



Draw Jesus and his apostles around the table during the Last Supper.



ANOTHER NAME FOR TODAY'S FEASTDAY IS

C _____

CH _____

CHARITY

Didcot

To help with supplying the Didcot Foodbank, contact Veronica Paget: veronicapaget@hotmail.com or leave suitable food outside her front door.

Wantage

Jackymattam@btinternet.com helps with the poor locally. Contact her about what practical help she needs. It is usually children's clothes, push chairs &c.

TEA TALKS

Oxford Playhouse – our local contact is Jo Noble – is organising Tea Talks, bringing people together in difficult times with a cup of tea and a weekly chat. This began in May and continues through June and is open to everyone over 60. (It's in partnership with Age UK). There will be a further project in the Autumn.

To take part in this free initiative, please contact Beth Sedgwick on 01865 305346 or e-mail community@oxfordplayhouse.com

GIVING TO THE PARISH BY REGULAR STANDING ORDER OR GIFT

BANK DETAILS: PRC DTR East Hendred, St Mary

Sort Code: 309304 Account Number: 00877183

To arrange Gift Aid, contact : hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

A donation to the parish may be made on

www.hendredcatholicparish.org.uk

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

HOLY FATHER'S JUNE PRAYER INTENTION

Let us pray for young people who are preparing for marriage with the support of a Christian community: may they grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness and patience.

FIRST COMMUNION GROUPS

Pray for children who have just begun First Communion Preparation through St Amand's School: Felicity, Keeleigh, Elijah, Anna, Eamonn, Luca, Mia, Isobel, Julia, Stephen, Thomas. Pray also for George and Toby from Hendreds Primary School, undertaking preparation with Mary Harrison.

THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED

Special prayers for Sr Catherine at this time, who has been staying in hospital. Also, pray for Baby Martha, John Castle, Petal Connell, Daniel Cuevas, John Stringer, Louise Woodhouse, Mary Wallace, Brenda Paddon, Karen Greig, Kitty Teasdale, Mary McNichol, Andrew Gunn, Elizabeth Gunn, Des McNichol, Christine Robinson, Rose

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Recent: Angus Clark

Week 6th- 12th June: James George Goodman, Philip Dearlove, John Joshua Eyston, Kitty Connolly, John Dixie, James Higgins, Captain George Edward Eyston, Mary Moore, Edward Bernard Castle.

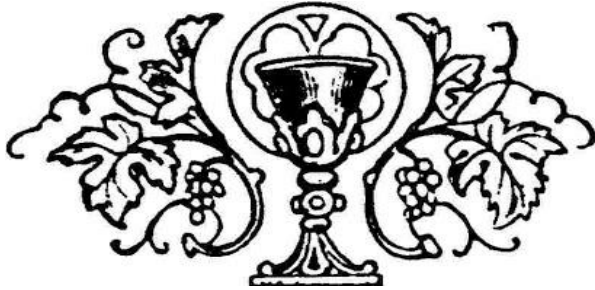
CARMELITE CONFERENCES

Scripture and Spirituality Conferences are run from Carmelite Friary on Boar's Hill (which has been local to us and will be again once we get beyond the Zoom-only stage).

Key dates at present are 10th-11th July for a Conference on St John of the Cross and 7pm on 11th July for an event called 'Teresa's Four Waters in Word, Image, and Song'.

For further details, contact: ruth.preston@carmelite.org.uk

East Hendred Catholic Parish



**The Most Holy Body
and Blood of Christ
(*Corpus Christi*) (B)**

6th June 2021

**Antiphons,
Prayers and
Readings**

Entrance Antiphon

He fed them with the finest wheat and satisfied them with honey from the rock.

Cibavit eos

Cf Ps 80:17

Collect

O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament have left us a memorial of your Passion, grant us, we pray, so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood that we may always experience in ourselves the fruits of your redemption. Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

First Reading

Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice, and said, 'All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do.'⁴ And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD. And he rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel.⁵ And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD.⁶ And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar.⁷ Then he took the book of the covenant, and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, 'All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient.'⁸ And Moses took the blood and threw it upon the people, and said, 'Behold the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.'

Exodus 24:3-8 (RSV)

Psalm 116:12-13, 15-18 R/13

**R/ The cup of salvation I will raise;
I will call on the name of the Lord.**

How can I repay the Lord
for all his goodness to me?
The cup of salvation I will raise;
I will call on the name of the Lord. **R/**

How precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.
Your servant, Lord, your servant am I,
you have loosened my bonds. **R/**

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;
I will call on the Lord's name.
My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people. **R/**

Second Reading

Hebrews 9:11-15 (RSV)

When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹² he entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God. ¹⁵ Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred which redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant

Alleluia

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

Gospel

Mark 14:12-16, 22-26(RSV)

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples said to him, 'Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?' ¹³ And he sent two of his disciples, and said to them, 'Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, ¹⁴ and wherever he enters, say to the householder, 'The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I am to eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹⁵ And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready;

Scripture Reading (Week 10 [i] of Ordinary Time)

Monday	2 Corinthians 1:1-7	Matthew 5:1-12
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 1:18-22	Matthew 5:13-16
Wednesday	2 Corinthians 3:4-11	Matthew 5:17-19
Thursday	2 Corinthians 3:15 – 4:1, 3-6	Matthew 5:20-26

SACRED HEART B

	Hosea 11:1, 3-4, 8c-9	
	Ephesians 3:8-12, 14-19	John 19:31-37
Saturday	2 Corinthians 5:14-21	Matthew 5:33-37
Sunday 11B	Ezekiel 17:22-24	
	2 Corinthians 5:6-10	Mark 4:26-34

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FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

7th – 11th June 2021

Monday in Week 10 [Year 1]

7th June

Reading

2 Corinthians 1:1-7 (RSV)

Salutation and Paul's Thanksgiving after Affliction

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother. To the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Acha'ia: **2** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, **4** who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. **5** For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. **6** If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. **7** Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.

Reflection

ST PAUL had a deep relationship with the Church in Corinth. Corinth, a prosperous centre by the mid-first century AD, had been devastated by the Romans a couple of centuries earlier, before being re-established in 44BC by Julius Caesar, as a Roman colony. A few years later (29 BC) it became the capital of Achaia, a busy cosmopolitan city, with Greek, Latin, and Near Eastern speakers. We cannot be entirely certain about St Paul's correspondence with Corinth. It does seem that, in addition to the two letters we have in the New Testament, there was a previous letter and a further letter which might have been incorporated into 2 Corinthians 10-

13, which are clearly different in tone from the preceding chapters. The period covered by St Paul's dealings with Corinth seems to have been AD 49-55, with a first visit establishing the Church, followed by letters, and a third and final visit in AD 55. Whereas 1 Corinthians is mildly admonitory in tone – taking the Corinthians to task for lack of unity, for difficulties over meat offered to idols, for doubting the truth of the Resurrection – 2 Corinthians is more defensive. The first chapter, as we heard, plunges straight into St Paul speaking about affliction. He links affliction with comfort and salvation, much as, in traditional Catholic spirituality, we are urged to 'offer up' suffering and unite them with the Passion of Christ.

Tuesday in Week 10 [*Year 1*]

8th June

Reading

2 Corinthians 1:18-22 (RSV)

All the promises of God find their Yes in him

¹⁸As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No. ¹⁹For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we preached among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No; but in him it is always Yes. ²⁰For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why we utter the Amen through him, to the glory of God. ²¹But it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has commissioned us; ²²he has put his seal upon us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

Reflection

WHAT begins as St Paul defending his truthfulness (v18) becomes a testimony to the faithfulness of God. In God, the answer is 'Yes', to which we respond with 'Amen'. God who establishes, commissions, and seals those who do his work also gives us the Holy Spirit as an internal guarantee. The Gospel of Jesus Christ – the Good News – means that, given a choice between 'Yes' and 'No', between being thankful and resentful, hopeful rather than despairing, we are called always to be positive. It is strange and paradoxical but often those who seem to have least to be thankful for are the most grateful, those whom life has treated kindly grumble most. The Christian response is one of gratitude: just as Jews have always given thanks as a way of blessing, so we live eucharistically, giving thanks for the

life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, celebrated and made present to us in the Mass. Indeed most Pauline letters – though 2 Corinthians is one of the exceptions – begins with *eucharisteō*, giving thanks.

Wednesday in Week 10 [Year 1]

9th June

Reading

2 Corinthians 3:4-11 (RSV)

The Spirit gives life

⁴ Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. ⁵ Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our sufficiency is from God, ⁶ who has qualified us to be ministers of a new covenant, not in a written code but in the Spirit; for the written code kills, but the Spirit gives life.

⁷ Now if the dispensation of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such splendour that the Israelites could not look at Moses' face because of its brightness, fading as this was, ⁸ will not the dispensation of the Spirit be attended with greater splendour? ⁹ For if there was splendour in the dispensation of condemnation, the dispensation of righteousness must far exceed it in splendour. ¹⁰ Indeed, in this case, what once had splendour has come to have no splendour at all, because of the splendour that surpasses it. ¹¹ For if what faded away came with splendour, what is permanent must have much more splendour.

Reflection

TODAY'S reading begins with a *hapax legomenon*, that is, a phrase used only once in the whole Bible. 'Confidence toward God' is a strange expression, all the more so because St Paul is referring to the Corinthian Church as his 'letter', 'written on our hearts', another strange expression. He makes a contrast between the written code of the Old Covenant and the New – lifegiving – Covenant, given in and through the Spirit. He does not dismiss the Old Covenant: its splendour was such that no one could look at the face of Moses who had communed with God. And yet that splendour is surpassed by the New. For one thing 'righteousness' is more splendid than 'condemnation'. For another thing, the first covenant 'faded away' whereas the new covenant is permanent. One of St Paul's preoccupations is the

relationship between Old and New Covenants and how this relationship affects Jewish and Gentile converts to the Christian Gospel. He is clearly of the view that the new covenant supersedes the old one and that view has caused problems throughout the ages for relationships between Jews and Christians. Particularly since the Second Vatican Council declaration *Nostra aetate*, the Catholic Church has taken the view that the Old Covenant is supplemented, rather than superseded by, the New and that the Jewish people remain in faithful relationship with God.

Thursday in Week 10 [*Year 1*]

10th June

Reading

2 Corinthians 3:15 – 4:1, 3-6 (RSV)

God has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ

¹⁵ Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their minds; ¹⁶ but when a man turns to the Lord the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

⁴ Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart....³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the likeness of God. ⁵ For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

Reflection

2 CORINTHIANS has some telling moments. We had 'all the promises of God find their Yes in him' on Tuesday'. In 2 Corinthians 2:15, a passage omitted from this sequence of readings, there is the striking phrase 'we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and

among those who are perishing'. Yesterday we had 'the written code kills, but the Spirit gives life'. Today we have 'what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake'. Had we been able to stay with 2 Corinthians tomorrow – when, this year, the sequence of daily readings is interrupted at this point by the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart – we should reflect on being 'treasure in clay jars', an immensely helpful metaphor for human beings, who are an exquisite mix of frailty and strength. Paul is writing passionately in this letter and we sense something of the fragility of the Church in Corinth: they need persuasive thinking and evocative language.

SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Friday 11th June

John 19:31-37 (RSV)

Jesus' Side Is Pierced

³¹ Since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the sabbath (for that sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. ³² So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him; ³³ but when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. ³⁵ He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth—that you also may believe. ³⁶ For these things took place that the scripture might be fulfilled, 'Not a bone of him shall be broken.' ³⁷ And again another scripture says, 'They shall look on him whom they have pierced.'

Reflection

DEVOTION to the Sacred Heart was a mediæval development, arising from the devotion to the Passion of Christ and to the Holy Wounds – the hands and the feet and side of the Crucified Jesus. It was especially popular with religious communities. Foremost amongst the many saints who have subsequently encouraged devotion to the Sacred Heart is St Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647-1690) who saw visions of Christ over eighteen months. These led to the reception of Holy Communion on the First Friday of the month, the Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration on Thursdays, and an hour

each Thursday evening in meditation on the Agony in the Garden. In a final revelation, the Lord asked, through St Margaret Mary, for the celebration of the feast of the Sacred Heart on the Friday of the week following the Thursday kept as Corpus Christi. Several people in the parish have been in the habit of keeping 'First Fridays'. In a larger parish we might manage a full Holy Hour on Thursdays, perhaps on Thursday evenings, combined with the Watch of the Passion.

Recent Popes have made their contribution to the devotion. Pope Leo XIII consecrated the entire world to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on 11 June 1899. The encyclical letter also encouraged the First Friday Devotions, and the month of June as the Month of the Sacred Heart. Pope Pius X made the consecration an annual event. Pope Pius XI confirmed St Margaret Mary's Visitations in his encyclical *Miserentissimus Redemptor* (1928). The hundredth anniversary of the feast which Pope Pius XI had instituted was celebrated by Pope Pius XII in an encyclical *Haurietis aquas* (1956) and fifty years later, Pope Benedict wrote, affirming the importance of the devotion. In the meantime, focusing on the eternal significance of the Sacred Heart, Pope St John Paul II had this to say: 'To celebrate the Heart of Christ means to go to the inner centre of the Person of the Saviour, the centre which the Bible identifies as his Heart, the seat of the love that has redeemed the world. If the human heart is really an unfathomable mystery known only to God, how much more sublime is the Heart of Jesus, in whom the very life of the Word is pulsating.'

XX

June is the Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Meditation by St Thérèse of Lisieux

I need a heart burning with tenderness,
Who will be my support for ever,
Who loves everything in me, even my weakness...
And who never leaves me day or night.
I could find no creature
Who could always love me day or night.
I could find no creature
Who could always love me and never die.
I must have a God who takes on my nature
And becomes my brother and is able to suffer!
You heard me, only Friend whom I love.
To ravish my heart, you became man.
You shed your blood, what a supreme mystery!
O heart of Jesus, treasure of tenderness,
You yourself are my happiness, my only hope.
You who knew how to charm my tender youth,
Stay near me till the last night...
Ah! I know well, all our righteousness
Is worthless in your sight.
To give value to my sacrifices,
I want to cast them into your Divine Heart.
You did not find your angels without blemish.
In the midst of lightning you gave your law!
I hide myself in your Sacred Heart, Jesus.
I do not fear, my virtue is you!