

## ST. BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Owen Street, Atherstone  
 Warwickshire, CV9 1DG  
 Parish Priest: Fr. Paul R. Lomas  
 E mail: [Stbenedict.atherstone@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:Stbenedict.atherstone@rcaob.org.uk)  
 Tel No: 01827 736286



[www.saintbenedictscatherstone.com](http://www.saintbenedictscatherstone.com)  
 Mobile No: 07973239942

### Reflection Corpus et Sanguis

Are you squeamish when it comes to the sight or even the mention of blood? Hopefully not, because blood is one of the main themes of the feast we celebrate this weekend. It is in every one of our readings. There is blood in the prayers we offer for this Mass, and before our celebration is through there will be blood in the chalice on the altar. Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ. Not just Corpus Christi—the Body of Christ—but Corpus et Sanguis Christi, the Body and the Blood of Christ.

Sacrifice and the shedding of blood was a sign that would be repeated over and over again as the people of Israel renewed the covenant God had made with them. They would offer the sacrifice of bulls, of goats, and of lambs, as an outward sign of their fidelity to God. But why so much sacrifice?



Why the shedding of so much blood? It is only with the coming of Jesus Christ that we begin to see that the entire Old Covenant (and all of the sacrifices and shedding of blood that took place for the renewal of that covenant) was really just a preparation for the one sacrifice of Christ and for the shedding of His blood on the cross.

**When Christ came as high priest . . . he entered once for all into the sanctuary, not with the blood of goats and calves but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.**

(Hebrews 9:11-12)

It is the blood of Christ and His sacrifice that renews us and gives us new life. It is the blood of Christ freely offered on our behalf that obtains for us the forgiveness of sins. The New Covenant written in the blood of Christ. Today, and at every Mass, we renew that covenant as we hear again the words of Christ from the Gospel, when he takes bread and says: **"This is my body"** Then he takes the cup and says: **"This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many."**

We are here today to offer the one eternal sacrifice of Christ to the Father; then here from this altar we will receive the body and blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Do you believe that? Do you ever doubt that the body and blood of Christ are truly made present here in this Church at every Mass? It is not an easy thing to grasp. In fact, without faith, it is impossible. He gave us Himself as an everlasting memorial of His suffering and death. He gave us Himself—body and blood, soul and divinity in the Eucharist—so that we might renew this covenant of love He has made with us.

That miracle is about to take place once again on this altar. Let us bring before Him now all our doubts and fears, our joys and hopes, our prayers and intentions, and place them here on this altar; and then let us receive from this altar all that God longs to give to us: nothing less than the sacred body and blood of Christ.



**This Week :**  
**Saturday 13th June**  
**Vigil Mass 4 pm**  
**Corpus et Sanguis**  
**Christi 14th June**  
**Mass at 9.30am**  
 "This is my Body"  
 "This is my Blood".

Saturday	13th	Vigil Mass 4 pm	parishioners
Sunday	14th	The Body and Blood of Christ Mass 9.30 am	An end to racism
Monday	15th	Feria	No Mass
Tuesday	16th	Feria	Mass 10 am All in the retail industry
Wednesday	17th	Feria	Mass 10 am For those of other religions
Thursday	18th	Feria	Mass 10 am All deceased parishioners
Friday	19th	The Most Sacred heart of Jesus Mass 10 am	The frontline in the Pandemic
Saturday	20th	The Immaculate Heart of Mary Vigil Mass 4 pm	Parishioners

**Next Week Twelfth Sunday Ordinary Time –**  
**SATURDAY 13th. June Vigil Mass 4.00 pm**  
**SUNDAY 14th. June Mass 9.30 am**

## The Association of Christian Counsellors

HAVE SENT AN E MAIL it reads

Dear Friend

We hope this email finds you well in these challenging times.

We wanted to let you know about a new service set up by the Association of Christian Counsellors (ACC) in response to the evident distress and suffering of many people as a result of the situation caused by COVID-19.

ACC's COVID-19 Crisis Counselling Support Service is for anyone in the UK, whatever their faith, who has been bereaved during the time of the epidemic and anyone working within an NHS setting in a frontline role.

The service offers anyone who is eligible up-to ten sessions of counselling on a no-fee basis from a professionally trained counsellor. All the volunteer counsellors belong to ACC or an equivalent professional body for example: BACP, UKCP and NCS.

Further information is available by visiting ACC's website <https://www.acc-uk.org/news/hidden-holding-pages/covid-19-crisis-counselling-support-service.html>

**Covid 19 – The Pandemic and the Closed Churches** We hear all kinds of news in the social media. Recently I have received guidance from the diocese on what we need to do when the churches are to be open. It looks like we would have to have a deep clean before we can open the doors. Then social distancing will have to be in place. Arrangements for people to exit and enter and so on. I know Cardinal Nichols has talked about being open for private prayer, but many of our churches are closed most days normally. **As I have read the Risk Assessment document from the Archdiocese I am not convinced that with only one entrance/ Exit we can maintain social distancing. So the church will not be opening for private prayer** . I think it will be some weeks before the church will be open for us to gather together to celebrate Mass. See the other news about praying together in the church front garden. Stay safe, stay home, keep praying.

## **Maryvale Sacred Heart Novena**

All are invited to join online for the Annual Novena to the Sacred Heart at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart at Maryvale Institute.

There will be a Mass, Sermon and Novena live streamed each evening at 8pm from Thursday 11 June to Friday 19 June 2020 (Feast of the Sacred Heart).

Archbishop Bernard Longley will be celebrating Mass on Sunday 21 June at 11am (on the day the 'physical' Pilgrimage would have taken place). It will be live streamed from St Chad's Cathedral.

Full details, and how to access each event, are available on the Diocesan website: <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news/join-online-maryvale-sacred-heart->

**Masses you can see on the internet with live streaming or on the radio -**

**The BBC Radio 4 programme will be broadcasting Mass live on Sunday June 14. Mass for the Feast of Corpus Christi will be celebrated by Cardinal Vincent Nichols from 8.10 am**

**Mass for the sick, their families and all health workers live stream Mass celebrated by Archbishop Bernard in St. Chad's Cathedral Thursday 18 June at 7 pm.**

## **PRAYER FOR THE SICK & HOUSE-BOUND**

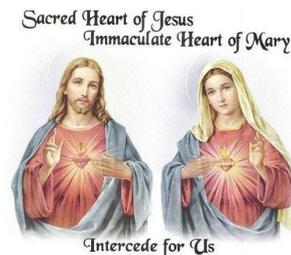
May the Communion we share today with the members of our parish family who are at home or in hospital, remind us to live for one another and give them a sense of belonging to our family and to this celebration.

## **Private prayer in the front garden of the presbytery.**

As we can't open church safely for private prayer. I'm suggesting the following. Those who wish to could meet in the garden with me on the two benches allowing social distancing. This would be on the Friday morning from 10.30 to 11.30 if weather is dry. A telephone call to arrange you're coming will eliminate too many people arriving at once!

Also I thought we could arrange to say the Rosary together in the garden. Perhaps at 11.30 am on the Friday after the meeting time with me. Being outside is safer than inside. We can sanitize the benches/ chairs and keep gate open to minimise danger. Maintaining social distancing is possible in this situation.

I would also be happy to meet with a parishioner in the garden on the benches any other time for a chat and maybe Sacrament of Reconciliation if required.



**MASS at St. Benedict's  
LIVE ON FACEBOOK  
(PAUL ROY LOMAS)**

## **Your weekly offering for the Upkeep of St. Benedict's.**

Those of you who make a weekly cash offering are not able to do so now. Can I suggest you either download a Standing Order form from the Diocesan Website. If not, then put your money in the weekly envelopes and bring them to Mass when we can all meet again. Can I suggest that you hold on to the Easter Offering for Fr. Paul until we are back together again. Thank you.