

# ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC PARISH

Alton Staffordshire

**St John the Baptist Catholic Church, Castle Hill Rd, Alton, Staffordshire -  
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Parish Priest Fr Paul Whieldon

## **Newsletter for Body and Blood of the Lord, 2020**

Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Corpus Christi	6pm	Youth Mass (Streamed on Kenelm Youtube)
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Corpus Christi	12 noon	Fr Paul Ordination Anniversary 18yrs
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	12 noon	Alton Retreat Team Ints
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	12 noon	Billy and Joan Allen Ints
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Feria	12 noon	Alda Mitchell RIP
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Solemnity of Dedication	12 noon	Pro Populo
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Solemnity, Sacred Heart	12 noon	The anxious...
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of OT	6pm	Youth Mass (Streamed on Kenelm Youtube)
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of OT	12 noon	Pro Populo

## **ALL PUBLIC LITURGIES ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

### An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen

Please remember Mass is still being offered in our church daily for all your intentions even though the church remains locked for now.

**There are many Masses livestreamed on Facebook and on the internet. See the Diocesan Website for the list of websites including St Chad's Cathedral. I Hope to livestream Sunday Masses from St John's on the Parish Facebook page Catholic Parish of St John the Baptist, Alton, or from the social media page on the website**

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The Feast of Corpus Christi (Ecclesiastical Latin: Dies Sanctissimi Corporis et Sanguinis Domini Iesu Christi; "Day of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ the Lord"), also known as Solemnity of the *Corpus Christi*, is a Christian liturgical solemnity celebrating the Real Presence of the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ in the elements of the Eucharist. Two months earlier, the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper is observed on Maundy Thursday in a sombre atmosphere leading to Good Friday. The liturgy on that day also commemorates Christ's washing of the disciples' feet, the institution of the priesthood and the agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.

The feast of Corpus Christi was proposed by St. Thomas Aquinas, Doctor of the Church to Pope Urban IV; in order to create a feast focused solely on the Holy Eucharist, emphasizing the joy of the Eucharist being the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ. Having recognized the authenticity of the Eucharistic Miracle of Bolsena on input of Aquinas, in 1264, the pontiff, then living in Orvieto, established the feast of Corpus Christi as a Solemnity and extended it to the whole Roman Catholic Church.

The feast is liturgically celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday or, "where the Solemnity of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ is not a holy day of obligation, it is assigned to the Sunday after the Most Holy Trinity as its proper day".

At the end of Holy Mass, there is often a procession of the Blessed Sacrament, generally displayed in a monstrance. The procession is followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. A notable Eucharistic procession is that presided over by the Pope each year in Rome, where it begins at the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran and passes to the Basilica of Saint Mary Major, where it concludes with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The celebration of the feast was suppressed in Protestant churches during the Reformation for theological reasons: outside Lutheranism, which maintained the confession of the Real Presence, Protestants denied the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist other than as a merely symbolic or spiritual presence. Today, most Protestant denominations do not recognize the feast day. The Church of England abolished it in 1548 as the English Reformation progressed, but later reintroduced it.





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## Reopening of churches

I have completed a very lengthy (12 pages) risk assessment and sent it off to the Diocesan Health and Safety Coordinators xCenta. We will be told if it's considered safe to open or not.

Currently I think we will struggle to meet the minimum safety guidelines for opening. At least 2 Stewards present whenever church is open (preferably 3!). Maintaining a minimum of 2 metres distance between all visitors, and maintaining a one way system for entry and exit. Deep clean before opening, maintenance cleaning during open times and deep clean upon closing again. Stewards and cleaners aren't allowed to be from any persons considered at risk. (Over 70's with no pre-existing medical conditions or needing shielding) We will see how it works out. If you are willing to help with stewarding or cleaning please email me on the parish email address.

We could perhaps consider opening for a very restricted timeslot but my fear is doing that will concentrate visits into a narrow window which would in and of itself increase risks for people.

I will keep you posted as to the reply we get from Xcenta.