

**CORPUS CHRISTI
PARISH MAGAZINE
MAY 2020**



PRIMROSES AND BLUEBELLS IN GROVE PARK

PARISH VISION STATEMENT

- The Gospel calls Corpus Christi to be a living sign of Christ.
- An open and vibrant community growing in Spirituality.
- An active community where all are encouraged to participate.
- To work with other Churches, to spread the Good News to all and seek a greater understanding of other faiths.

May – The month of Mary

For centuries the Church has designated the month of May as the special month of Our Lady. The Jesuit Fr. Karl Rahner (1904-1984) was one of the most influential theologians of the twentieth century. He helped to write the section on Our Lady (chapter 8) in the second Vatican Council document on the Church, *Lumen Gentium* (The Light of Humanity) which was promulgated in 1964. There Mary is described as the type or symbol of the Church. Rahner once wrote in his book "Mary the Mother of the Lord" (1963) "We are a holy community praising God by praising the glory of the Blessed Virgin precisely because in our very salvation we are dependent on this virgin mother of God." Our devotion to Mary stems from the incarnation of Jesus, Word made flesh, born of the Virgin Mary. In that same book Rahner also wrote that "to call Mary blessed and holy we are saying something about ourselves". "Mary conceived salvation for us all".

So let us consecrate this month of May to Our Lady. May we pray fervently the Hail Mary prayer which sets out Mary's place as the Mother of God – Theotokos or God Bearer – a title which comes from the Council of Ephesus in 431 AD.

Next year we will be able to crown Our Lady's Statue with May blossoms, something often done by the oldest and youngest child in our school. In the meantime let us keep these May devotions alive as we seek the intercession and help of the Mother of the Church.

Canon Tom

CAFOD – then and now

As a reminder CAFOD is the official overseas aid agency for the Catholic Church in England and Wales. In Scotland its equivalent is SCIAF, the Scottish Catholic International Aid Foundation. CAFOD was started 60 years ago by Jacqueline Stuyt and a group of Catholic mothers who organised the first Family Fast Day on Friday March 11th 1960 to raise money to help a mother and baby health centre in the Caribbean. Fast Days are still the main source of CAFOD funding and since the start of CAFOD, Fast Days have raised millions of pounds to help under privileged people worldwide. CAFOD has spread from that humble start to work in 165 countries around the world.

CAFOD is conscious that many prospective donors want more sense of direct connection to those their money helps. In Weston many people look enviously at the close link between a group in the town and their project in Luhimba in Zambia. For this reason, for some years our parish, in fact our deanery, were connected to Sebaya in Ethiopia under the Connect2 scheme. The extra money we raised, mainly from our stall, went to help the parish and school there. We received regular updates from the parish priest, Abba Solomon, which were posted on the board at the back of the church.

The Connect2 scheme has now ended but we are similarly linked via a “hands on” project to a region in Colombia, the Magdalena Medio region. Our project there, focuses particularly on young people and helps them to develop skills and awareness in their communities to solve problems through peaceful negotiation after many years of warfare and violence. The project is a reflection of the diverse range of help that CAFOD can provide. In a country like ours, with a long democratic history, it is impossible to imagine an environment where the first resort in settling a dispute is an AK47!

As with Sebaya, we get regular updates from the young people on the front line (sometimes literally!) They are left in the ‘outreach rack’ at the back of the church. Make sure you keep up to date!

Much of CAFOD's energy in the UK is employed in influencing politicians and other people who are important in directing international policy. Many active Catholics see their role this way. Anything from taking part in marches or mass lobbies to writing to their MP's or Ministers. It may seem like trying to move mountains but, unless we let our Catholic values be seen, how will they ever know? All too often we hear that other faiths have stood up to be counted when we Catholics are too shy! Honestly, emailing the great and the good is not a huge risk even for those of us who are a bit meek. You don't have to glue yourself to the door of no 10!

One other simple way of showing your faith, is by using one of the CAFOD money boxes. These are particularly appreciated by those on a tight budget or families who like to save a bit each day or week through Lent. We make a feature of them in the Maundy Thursday offering, a beautiful tradition echoing Jesus own words - "to love one another as I have loved you"

One of our parishioners likes to have one on display and asks all her visitors to make a donation before they leave. What a very simple way to share our faith! I know from experience that even those with no particular belief will seldom react badly. So why not let your faith be seen that way? It can open the way to a deeper conversation.

There is one thing every one of us can do. PRAY! All those working in arduous or even dangerous places, tell CAFOD how our prayers sustain them. Who knows how many of those two thirds that we can't help today, might be helped in your prayers?

Sent in by Chris Davies

Prayer for Spring

Dear Lord, we pray for -

All those we know who are lonely at this time of uncertainty in the Spring, when although the world is waking up outside, inside is barren.

Help us to find a kind word or a smile as this is all it takes to lift the spirit and spread a little happiness.

We must remember, there is always someone worse off than ourselves and we can always do something to make the lives of others more pleasant.

Amen.

GARDEN WATCH

Jobs in May

Ornamental Garden

- Check for pests on plants and treat promptly
- Feed strong growing plants
- Treat perennial weeds with herbicide
- Plant up hanging baskets, window boxes and tubs
- Dead head spring flowering bulbs
- Remove spring bedding plants, plant out summer bedding
- Continue staking border plants

Kitchen Garden

- Water as necessary, timing the watering carefully for maximum crops
- Continue to make successional sowings for maximum crops
- Sow runner beans and French beans outdoors
- Plant vegetables in pots and grow bags

I am going to try and grow a few salad crops in pots this year. I only have a backyard with a few pots that I grow summer plants in. Nobby and I have had success in the past with runner beans and tomatoes in pots, so I am going to try again.

You can complain because rose bushes have thorns or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses.

Live each day as if it were your last, and garden as though you will live forever.

Other people's tools will only work in other people's gardens

What a man needs in the garden is a cast iron back, with a hinge on it.

To turn ordinary clothes into garden clothes, just mix with compost.

Garden hose – socks you wear in the garden.

St. Dunstan



Born 924, near Glastonbury, feast day May 19th. Patron saint of goldsmiths, locksmiths and jewellers.

Of noble birth, Dunstan was educated by Irish monks and visitors at Glastonbury. Later he entered first the household of his uncle archbishop Aethelhelm of Canterbury, and then the court of Athelstan, King of the English. He then moved to the house of his kinsman Aelfheah, Bishop of Winchester, who influenced him to become a monk and later ordained him.

About 943 King Edmund made him abbot of Glastonbury, and under Dunstan the abbey became a famous school. Under Edmund's successor, Eadred, Dunstan became the chief minister of state, in which capacity he sought to establish royal authority, to conciliate the Danish section of the kingdom, to eradicate heathenism, and to reform the clergy and laity.

On the accession in 955 of King Eadwig, however Dunstan's influence and office were temporarily eclipsed. He moved to Flanders, and at the abbey of Blandinium he studied continental monasticism, which he used as a chief source in restructuring English monasticism when recalled by King Edgar in 957. In the same year Edgar made him bishop of Worcester and London, and then later archbishop of Canterbury. During this period intellectual activity flourished, and Dunstan personally reformed and re-established several celebrated monasteries and sponsored missionaries to Scandinavia.

On Edgars death, in 975, Dunstan secured the crown for Edgar's elder son, later known as St Edward the martyr. When Edward was murdered (978) and was succeeded by Ethelred 11, Dunstan's public career abated, and he retired to Canterbury, where he taught at the cathedral school.

St Rita of Cascia



Feast day May 22nd. Patron saint of the impossible, abused wives and widows.

St Rita was an Italian widow, who after her abusive husband and two sons died, joined an Augustinian community of religious sisters where she was known both for mortification of the flesh and for the efficacy of her prayers. Various miracles are attributed to her intercessions and she is understood to have had a partial stigmata – a bleeding wound on her forehead. Pope Leo X111 canonised Rita on 24th. May 1900.

Riddles

1. What is greater than God
more evil than the devil
The poor have it
The rich don't need it
If you eat it, you can die.
What is it?
2. It's invisible
It can strike anytime, any where
It can last days, weeks or a lifetime.
There is no known cure.
What is it?

Answers on back page.

Sent in by Marie Reynolds.

The Lamb

Little Lamb who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life, and bid thee feed
by the stream and o'er the mead:
Gave thee clothing of delight,
softest clothing, wooly, bright;
gave thee such a tender voice,
making all the vales rejoice?
Little lamb who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?

Little Lamb I'll tell thee,
Little Lamb I'll tell thee;
He is called by the name,
For he calls himself a Lamb.
He is meek, he is mild
He became a little child.
I a child, and thou a Lamb,
We are called by his name.

Little lamb, God bless thee!

Little lamb, God bless thee!

William Blake



Sent in by Maggie Woods

In Lock down.



Tracey working from home with Gizmo keeping an eye on her.

A word of warning for all those working from home.



In lockdown



Sylvia well prepared to receive her shopping.



The Queen of Seasons

The freshness of May,
and the sweetness of June,
and the fire of July
Its passionate moon.

Munificent August,
September serene
are together no match
For my glorious Queen.

O Mary, all months
and all days are thine own,
in thee lasts their joyousness
when they are gone.

And we give to thee May
not because it is the best,
but because it comes first
and is the pledge of the rest.

St. John Henry, Cardinal Newman



Sent in by Margaret Rogers

A letter sent in by Louis Samuels

Dear Brenda

My name is Louis. I live in Weston – Super –Mare and go to Corpus Christi School although I am not there due to the pandemic.

I hope you are well during this time of crisis and keeping safe. Since the beginning of the isolation I have been staying inside my home with my mum, dad, my two brothers and my dog called Baxter.

Since the isolation has started, I have been going out with my dog to the park or beach for my daily exercise.

I have also learnt to play chess and keep on beating my mum and get better every time. Do you know how to play chess?

I am also playing in my garden with my dog on sunny days. I hope you enjoy the weather too. Do you have a garden too?

Yours faithfully,

Louis



Although we don't know who Brenda is, she is in a local care home who Louis visited around Christmas time with the school.

Birding Under Lockdown

As some of you may be already aware, my husband Peter and myself are keen birdwatchers, enjoying finding and watching wild birds both in this country and abroad. For the past year I have had my dream volunteer job at Slimbridge Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, acting as a 'Guide in the Hide'.

For obvious reasons all travelling to look at birds came to an abrupt end a few weeks ago, so we are now focusing on the birds we see in the area close to our house.

Fortunately this time of year is an exciting one for our local birds. The residents who have been with us all winter are now pairing up and nest building, and summer migrants are appearing daily as they return from wintering in warmer climes, some as far away as Africa. April and May are the best months for listening to the dawn chorus - that magical time starting just before dawn when the birds sing their hearts out - attracting a mate, defending a territory, or just seemingly enjoying the joy of spring. With a few exceptions, it is only the male birds who sing - a strongly singing male is boasting of his prowess and ability to father and protect his family, and perhaps even show that as well as finding food he also has time to sing!

If you can put out food for the birds, they will quickly be attracted to even the smallest of gardens. Put out water for them too - an old roasting dish or upturned dustbin lid works as well as a formal birdbath. Try and leave 'wild' areas of the garden where insects and bugs can flourish to provide easy pickings for birds rapidly trying to fill tiny mouths back in the nest. Once the birds are visiting, just use your enforced confinement to sit and watch; you will be surprised how much you can discover about their behaviour when you have the time to spend looking out.

I have been taking my binoculars with me on my daily exercise walks - you never know when something unusual might appear. Last week we saw the first swallows of the year, but they seemed to be just passing through the area on their way further north. This week the 'local' swallows seem to be returning, and I also saw a Sand Martin, flying high and not stopping, but still great to see. Other returning migrants included Chiffchaffs, now singing everywhere, a Blackcap and the first of what will soon be many Reed and Sedge Warblers in the vegetation along the rhynes and ditches round us. Skylarks were singing high above us, and a Raven called as it flew overhead.

In addition to boosting your spirits and forming a closer link with nature, your sightings of birds can also be helpful with research, which in turn informs conservation efforts. Each spring, we normally participate in the Breeding Bird Survey, organised by the British Trust for Ornithology. It won't be possible to carry these out this year, but the BTO is encouraging people to join in the Garden Birdwatch scheme, with free membership during the lockdown. Details at www.bto.org

I'd like to finish with two quotes:

According to the **RSPB** on their website, '***Nothing lifts the spirits in the morning more than the British dawn chorus. Think of it as caffeine for the soul.***'

And from **Matthew 6:26-32**

'Look at the birds in the sky. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they are?'

Enjoy!

Julie Ottley

How we are keeping busy during lockdown:

Madeline knitted this delightful teddy for a new great-grandchild due this summer.



Maggie has decided to dig up half her lawn to grow vegetables, and has a greenhouse full of young plants waiting to go out.

I saved some tomato seeds from last years plants, and now have baby plants that will hopefully grow and produce tomatoes in September.

Take time – appreciate the wonders of life

A rainbow made of buttons.



A bear in the window to cheer children up when they are out for a walk.



This is your community magazine, now we are all at home, self isolating, let me know how your managing. If you're at home with the children how are you managing with home schooling, managing their energy levels etc.

Maybe you are, like me, living alone and not able to go out, I do have hobbies, I garden and I am a crafter- I sew, do cross stitch and like making things. I usually see most of my friends each week. Now I am phoning them every day. I go for a walk every morning, through a lovely Grove park and an empty town.

How are you keeping yourself busy, do you have hobbies, if you make things let me see photos of anything you made. If you garden photos of your garden would be good.

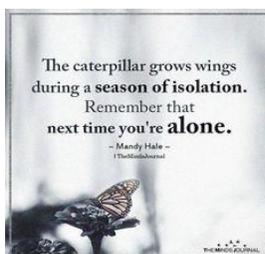
If an older couple, how are you coping with shopping, seeing your families and generally looking after each other?

These are strange unnerving times and the not knowing is the worst of it. I am heartened by the community spirit that I am hearing about on the news. People stepping forward and helping their neighbours. If this is happening to you let me know, whether being helped or helping.

Are you involved with or know of a local charity? If so let me know about it or write a piece yourself and send it in.

Do you have a poem that is important to you? Or do you write poetry and have a poem you would like put in the magazine? Please send it in.

It looks as though this will last another month, stay strong, it can only get better.



Compiler and Editor- Angela Clarke - to contact me Email:
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The editor, fuelled by mountains of biscuits, gallons of tea and Somerset radio has finally put the magazine “to bed” -



Yay!

Items for inclusion in June's edition to Angela no later than Friday 23rd May please.
Otherwise I cannot guarantee they will be included.

Answers to riddles (on page 11)

1. Nothing
2. Love.

