

**CORPUS CHRISTI
PARISH MAGAZINE
JULY 2020**



Field Flowers

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.

Comfort from the Psalms

We are Judeo-Christians. We draw on the riches of the Old Testament as well as the riches of the New Testament. In the Psalms we discover prayers that are important for our Christian journey. Psalm 130(131) is one of the shortest in the Bible. It ends with the prayer that we should hope and trust in the Lord. Now is a time to hope for help from the Lord. We run to the Lord as a young child would run to her or his mother. We rest in the Lord and are comforted. We get a wonderful image of God from this psalm that will sustain us throughout these difficult times.

Canon Tom

A FEW JOKES TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY

Two hedgehogs were in the middle of the road by a zebra crossing. One hedgehog said to the other "Don't cross here". "Why not" said his friend. "Look what happened to the zebra!"

Some strange signs



Now something for the mums....

WHEN YOUR "MOM VOICE" IS SO LOUD THAT EVEN YOUR NEIGHBORS BRUSH THEIR TEETH AND GET DRESSED

A LOVELY TUNE

The little boy next door to me
plays a chopin nocturne calm and sweet,
and as I go on my daily round
with lighter happier feet.

How dull is domesticity
bereft of rhythm and of rhyme,
if I can never draw a breath,
if I can never spare the time

To listen to a lovely tune that softly filters through the wall
to dream and leave the beds unmade
and let the duster fall.

Author unknown

Sent in by Margaret Rogers



Margaret also sent in this lovely picture



He has the world in his arms during Covid-19

Jesus is holding a little girl very close to him and she is wearing the protective mask and gloves with lilies in her hand, but her clothes are made up of all the flags of the nations affected.

I think it is a very tender picture of our Lord having a stethoscope around his neck as the Divine Physician – it gives hope – He is in charge of it all.

Margaret

JULY

The Catholic Church dedicates each month of the year to a certain devotion. July is dedicated to the Precious Blood of Christ.

The early Church Fathers wrote “the Church was born from the pierced side of Christ and the Sacraments were brought forth through His Blood.”

Our Lord shed His Blood at every stage of His Passion, from the Garden of Gethsemane, through to His crucifixion and death on the cross.

St John's gospel (ch.19v33) We hear: “one of the soldiers pierced His side with a lance and immediately there came out blood and water” The very Blood which Jesus shed is present to us at every Mass. Our offering of wine consecrated by the Priest.

When we contemplate the Precious Blood of Christ we touch on the profound depths of God's love for mankind and the forgiveness of our sins. Many of the saints had a lifelong devotion to the Blood of Christ. They offered their pain and every day trials to the Passion, uniting themselves to Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins & those of the world. As Jesus said “Take up your cross and follow Me!”

June, is dedicated to the Feast of the Sacred Heart which is so closely associated to the Precious Blood. The Feast of the Sacred Heart celebrates Jesus' great boundless & compassionate Heart full of love for all mankind so deep a love that defies our human understanding.

In 1673 –76 a French Nun, Margaret Mary Alacoque received a series of apparitions where she saw Jesus in person with His Holy Heart on fire. His Heart like a burning furnace of Divine Love, a Glorious heavenly light shining from within. A love so spiritually deep and intense, embracing and encompassing all peoples.

Jesus explained to St. Margaret that He wanted a Feast to be celebrated in Honour of His Sacred Heart. Wanting believers to take refuge and to place their lives completely under His protection, totally trusting in His providence and omnipotence. St. Matthew (11.v.29) “for I am gentle and humble of heart and you will find rest for your souls.”

Come, let us adore Jesus' Sacred and Eucharistic Heart in the Mass and let us say “Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in You”. Amen.

Saturday, the day after the Feast of the Sacred Heart is dedicated to The Immaculate Heart of Mary.

It has been said that if one contemplates on the Loving Heart of Mary, the Christian is directed solely to God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit dwelling there!

A Prayer to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

O Holy Mother, transform my heart into thine.

Place a wreath of purity, adorned in virtue,

Take my heart, dear Mother, consecrated as thine own and

Present it to God the Father as an offering from me to you.

May I make Your Heart known and loved. Amen.

Sonia Briffitt

GARDEN WATCH

Jobs for July

- Check plants for pests and diseases
- Continue watering
- Continue trimming hedges
- Dead head flowers
- Start to take cuttings of plants
- Cut back early flowering border plants to encourage a second showing.
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Flowers are at their peak now and should be giving you a good show, make the most of the good weather to enjoy your garden and on warm nights make sure you stroll around after dusk to appreciate the night scented flowers.



CAPE MAY BIRD FESTIVAL

On several occasions in the past, Peter and I have flown out to new Jersey in autumn to participate in a fall Bird Festival in Cape May, situated right at the bottom of the New Jersey peninsula. Peter has also previously attended their Spring Bird Festival.

Cape May is a fantastic hot-spot for seeing birds on their migration, and both festivals gather together not only the birds but a great following of birdwatchers from all over the states and indeed further afield. Three action packed days of guided field trips, talks presentations and workshops are led by experienced and enthusiastic staff and volunteers from new Jersey Audobon society and Cape May Observatory and we have a fabulous time.

Obviously Spring 2020 was going to be somewhat different! With most festivals at this time being cancelled and just rescheduled for 2021, the team at Cape May decided to organise a virtual festival over the weekend 23 & 24th May, using Zoom to link participants and presenters., and what a fantastic weekend it was!

For us in the UK, we avoided the early 7am start time, joining in as the event went live at 12 noon, commencing with a dawn chorus event. Cape May has such a wide variety of habitats over a relatively small area so attracts a similarly wide variety of bird species. American warblers are very much more colourful than their British cousins and several presentations were aimed at helping us to identify the different species.

Another highlight of Spring on the Delaware Bayshore is the prehistoric-looking horseshoe crabs which come onto the beaches to lay their eggs, which in turn attract thousands of feeding shorebirds (waders) who eat the fat-rich eggs to sustain them on their long migration journeys north. Red Knot, Sanderling and Ruddy Turnstone are amongst the birds feeding – all of which are also seen in the UK.

Another of our virtual field trips was 'birding by boat' and I felt I could almost smell the salty air as we motored around the back bays.

Although with up to 300 participants online at any one time we couldn't talk to the presenters, we could type our questions and comments and they responded to them at the end of each session. It was great to hear "Julie and Peter from the UK asked" And have our questions answered directly on screen. I think we were the only Brits taking part. On Saturday there was a lady from Kenya, but the vast majority were, unsurprisingly, US and Canadian. Some of the presentations were more scientific and technical, some involved quizzes to test our knowledge, and we finished with a panel discussing what they loved about birding the area. As well as showing and telling us what was around this time of the year, it brought back lovely memories of our previous visits and another excuse to look through old photos.

I probably wouldn't have chosen to spend an entire weekend glued to the computer screen in 'normal' times, but in this time of lockdown it provided a very creditable alternative to getting out and about to view birds and see somewhere different from the footpaths we can reach from our house here, and our son even cooked and served us dinner each day so we didn't miss any of the live streamed broadcasts!

I have included a selection of photographs that Peter has taken at Cape May in previous years, showing some of the wonderful variety of colourful warblers, and the shorebirds feeding frenzies on the beaches, as a result of the Horseshoe crabs spawning.

The Horseshoe crabs



The shore

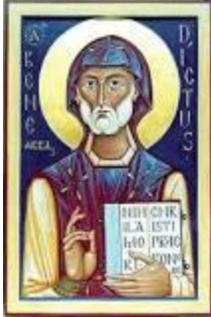


Warblers



Julie

Feast of St. Benedict, Abbot, Patron of Europe



Benedict (c.480-550) was born in Norcia, Italy and educated in Rome. He chose to live a solitary life, in mountainous Subiaco, in a cave. He lived there for three years. Later he organised a form of monastic life in twelve monasteries. The monks who joined Benedict devoted themselves to work and prayer. In the great abbey of Monte Cassino, which he founded, he wrote his Rule. This wonderfully combines the Roman genius with the monastic wisdom of the Christian East. He was proclaimed patron of Europe because of his influence in the formation of Christendom in the Middle Ages. The 11th July is the anniversary of the translation of his relics.

Feast of St Bridget, Patron of Europe



Bridget (c.1303-73) was born of a rich governor of Upland, Sweden. She was married to a young prince at the age of 14. They had eight children of whom one was St Catherine of Sweden. Her husband died soon after pilgrimage to Compostela and she founded the Order of the Most Holy Saviour, building a double monastery for monks and nuns a Vadstena. In 1349 she moved to Rome to obtain approval of her Order, where she worked for the return of the popes from Avignon. Her austerity of life, her devotion both in visiting shrines and in serving pilgrims, the poor and the sick were impressive.

THE WORLD IS CLOSED.

They said the world was closed today
So, I went to have a look
I found it with the shutters down
and the phone was off the hook.

So, I stood for a little while
but no one was around
then silence came and startled me
with the most alarming sound.

I asked him where the others were
and why the streets were bare
he whispered "life had run away
while death was playing there".

"Oh no" I said "It can't be true
for life is not afraid".
"But no one ever goes where" he said
"where death has ever played".

I understood and walked away
as Hope was standing there
with Courage in her afterglow
and the sunlight in her hair.

She said "go home to those you love"
this is no place to be,
for if we walk the streets today
then no one will be free.

She threw her light to lead the way
and showed me where to go,
the very road that life had gone
where the future flowers grow.

Then, death showed me another way
but I didn't want to look,
so, I stumbled home in time for tea
and read another book.

It was called 'The World was closed today
and the streets we shouldn't roam'
the first line said "Just please be safe"

By Peter D Hehir

Sent in by Marie

A KNITTERS RAINBOW



Through this crisis people have been pulling together to help others and to promote kindness.

One of the loveliest things to arrive was the idea of putting rainbows in the window, children across the country entered into this in a big way and it was lovely to see. A young mother, a play therapist from Somerset came up with the idea and thought it was a good way to spread positivity, she put the idea on her Facebook page and was surprised to see it take off with such enthusiasm, it meant when children went for their walk they had something positive to look for.

Another initiative that has taken off is teddy bear hunts, this seems to have been inspired by the book "We're going on a bear hunt" by Michael Rosen.

The books about children going on a real-life bear hunt, as there are not many of those in the UK, it was easier for teddy bears to be put in windows.

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The editor, fueled by mountains of biscuits, gallons of tea and Somerset radio has finally put the magazine “to bed” -



Yay!

Items for inclusion in the August edition to Angela no later than
Friday 24th July please.
Otherwise I cannot guarantee that they will be included.
Thank you for your patience and ongoing support.