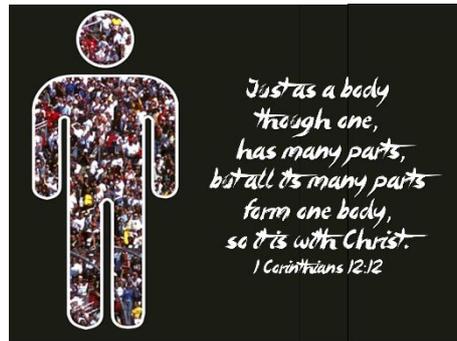


# St John the Evangelist, Poulton

15<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Tuesday of the Twenty-fourth Week of the Year  
(Twenty-sixth Tuesday of Isolation)

Sign on at: [saintjohnpoulton@gmail.com](mailto:saintjohnpoulton@gmail.com)  
Parish Website: [www.stjohnspoulton.org.uk](http://www.stjohnspoulton.org.uk)



Thanks to those who replied to my last scripture reflection with your own thoughts – if you want to be taken off the email list, or know anyone who may appreciate the contact, please let me know – or print it for a neighbour. (If you have only just started to receive these daily reflections it is because I have only just found your address, sorry) Thanks. Fr Peter.

## Note from Fr Peter:

**The Parish CAFOD Quiz went very well on Sunday – and raised (at the moment) £280. Thanks especially to Debbie and Amelie (and all who joined and donated – more ideas?)**

Thanks to Elaine for her series of quotes from Julian of Norwich (See Parish Comments below)

Please encourage those who are afraid of coming to large gatherings that our present Masses have small numbers of attenders and this is a good place to begin a return to Mass:

**Tuesday, Thursday, Friday** at 9.30am at St John's

**Wednesday** at 9.30am at Ss Martin & Hilda's Chapel

**Saturday** at 6.00pm at St John's

We still celebrate the Resurrection on Sundays – **Which day is your 'Sunday Eucharist'?**

(Daily Scripture is available from [www.universalis.com](http://www.universalis.com))

## 1 Corinthians 12:12-14,27-31

*Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.*

*Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it. In the Church, God has given the first place to apostles, the second to prophets, the third to teachers; after them, miracles, and after them the gift of healing; helpers, good leaders, those with many languages. Are all of them apostles, or all of them prophets, or all of them teachers? Do they all have the gift of miracles, or all have the gift of healing? Do all speak strange languages, and all interpret them? Be ambitious for the higher gifts.*

## Luke 7:11-17

*Jesus went to a town called Nain, accompanied by his disciples and a great number of people. When he was near the gate of the town it happened that a dead man was being carried out for burial, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a considerable number of the townspeople were with her. When the Lord saw her he felt sorry for her. 'Do not cry' he said. Then he went up and put his hand on the bier and the bearers stood still, and he said, 'Young man, I tell you to get up.' And the dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Everyone was filled with awe and praised God saying, 'A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people.' And this opinion of him spread throughout Judaea and all over the countryside.*

(What is God saying to you as you hear his Word here?)

One of the great treasures of parish life is that we see, not just people, but families – and sometimes generations of families and families of siblings.

Have you noticed that families resemble each other? – of course you have. Not just in 'he's got your husband's eyes....' but that people walk in the same manner, say similar things, share

unusual interests etc. Just walking behind a family can allow you to see they belong to the same family - is it nature of nurture; or both?

Now some of this similarity the family might not be happy to speak about! However, families are often proud to speak about the special 'gifts' or 'contributions' individuals have within the family: ("Ebenezer is a really good tea maker – aren't you, Ebenezer? Do you want to show us?"). Within families a process of discovering each other's gifts and encouraging each other to play our part in the family unit is what we are about (For the last time: get off that settee and lay the table!) This model of us playing our part in the family is true for us as members of society. Others will also recognise which family, which society, which nation we belong to because of the way we behave, what matters to us, as well as our accent or language.

And so, St Paul reminds us, the same is true of our 'belonging' to the family of Christ in the Catholic Christian Church. At our best, those who see us will recognise what we have in common which reveals who we are and what we believe. How often do we hear someone on the radio and we somehow know: 'I bet he was brought up a Catholic!'

But just as families are recognised as belonging to each other, so in the Church family, we need to share our gifts and special contributions to the whole – not just for the sake of the household, but for the sake of those outside the Church. Paul shares in today's passage a beautiful list of gifts which challenge us all to build Church – we will all know this passage.

But Paul goes further to imagine the Church family as a BODY – actually the BODY of CHRIST. He insists that we discover ourselves, and confirm in each other, which parts of the body we may be living. He makes it clear that none of these parts, singly, can be spoken of as 'the Body' – they are all parts which build it up. We are all vital when we are using our gifts to be parts of the body or the Church.

Where do these gifts come from? Paul is insistent that these gifts come from the one Spirit of God. More than this they are a shared gift:

*"In the one Spirit we were all baptised"*

Sometimes we imagine our gifts are somethings we would love to do – but we can't. This can allow some to despair. As sharers in this one Spirit we believe that we all have been given gifts from this Spirit of God and our first ministry is to confirm those about us, in our family, in our parish, in the gifts of the Spirit we can see in them.

Some people can't believe they have that gift and try to dodge it – but can others see it? Some people want a particular gift – but it is evident to others that they haven't got it!

Finally this message from the Word of God can encourage us all to name the gifts we have been given by the Spirit of God and thank God that we can make them part of the living Body of the Church. Spend some time today pondering and thanking God for them. (The 'Body of the Church' isn't, mainly, about things connected with what happens in the church building or the parish structure – it is about us as full-time Catholic Christians)

Oh, if you decide you have no gifts –  
say it out loud to someone who loves you and they will confirm you in your gifts!

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

***“In the midst of crises and tempests, the Lord calls to us and invites us to reawaken and activate this solidarity capable of giving solidity, support and meaning to these hours in which everything seems to be wrecked. May the creativity of the Holy Spirit encourage us to generate new forms of familiar hospitality, fruitful fraternity and universal solidarity.”***  
Pope Francis

GENERAL AUDIENCE SEPTEMBER 2, 2020

### **PARISH NOTICES:**

**Parish Quiz for CAFOD – Please pass this on to other parishioners and encourage them**

Hi - Because we can't all gather together in person at the moment, we have decided it would be a great idea to have a Parish online quiz. This will take place on Sunday 13th September at 12 noon. We will be raising funds for Cafod - if you would like to play, please visit

<http://cafod.org.uk/celebration>

and search "online quiz". You will then see our fundraising page where it would be fantastic if you could make a donation to take part.

If you would like to take part, please also email me on [deborahhelenwood@gmail.com](mailto:deborahhelenwood@gmail.com). We will be hosting the quiz on Zoom. I will send you the Zoom link and details explaining how you access everything. For the best quiz experience, it would be great if you are able to access Zoom on one device and have another online device, e.g. mobile phone, to play along with on Kahoot. If not, please don't worry. If you can access Zoom, bring a pen and paper along and you can play along this way too.

If you have any questions at all, please just give me a call on 07883599511 or drop me an email.

Best wishes

Debbie Sumner

- **When you come to Mass:**

*Despite getting used to physical distancing over the past three months returning to a familiar situation, like church, can make us forget we are still threatened by a virus that could kill vulnerable people. We have been asked to ensure Government and Church rules which might seem intrusive but they are designed to remind us to be careful and, above all, to keep distances. Please help us with this.*

- Government guidelines demand that all the congregation (except those with exemption certificates) wear mouth and nose masks in church
- Please maintain a 2m distance as you approach and enter church and be guided by the stewards.
- Please note there is a 'one way' system – entering church by the left hand door.
- Please sanitise your hands as you enter church
- You will be invited to leave your name and contact detail for 'Track & Tracing' in case of need.
- If you wish to wear a face mask you may do this – but please bring your own.
- To minimise movement in church Stewards will direct you to fill the benches from the front. You will probably not be able to go in your 'usual' bench but that will give you a new perspective!
- Please remove your mask just before approaching for Holy Communion and then replace afterwards.
- You will receive instructions for coming forward for Holy Communion. But please respect distancing (don't bunch), move for Communion using the one-way system, please stretch out your arms fully as you request Holy Communion, you will not be invited to speak "Amen" before receiving Holy Communion. These will need to be kept in mind at first and we do need to remember they, though not the best liturgy, are about distancing and staying well.
- Holy Communion must be received only on the hand. (No gloves, please)
- Please sanitise your hands as you leave church by the other door than the one you entered.
- As you leave church please move away from the door and remember to distance yourselves if you speak to other people.

- **10.09.2020 News from Victoria Hospital** : Yesterday Dr Jim Gardner provided the staff of the trust with his latest weekly update. He noted that there was only one patient in the hospital who had had a positive test result in the last 14 days, and that this was good news. However, the trust had reported 2 further deaths over the last week, and these were **not** due to statistical adjustments. Locally, the rate of infection is 17 per 100,000, which is above the national average, and represents a significant increase on the previous week's rate of 9 per 100,000. Mirroring the national picture, younger people in the population represent a major part of the increase in infections. Dr Gardner's concern is that in other countries where a similar pattern has been observed (e.g. France and Germany) this is followed by an increase in hospitalisations in 3-4 weeks' time. Please continue to keep all healthcare staff and volunteers in your prayers. *Fr Andrew Dawson, Catholic Chaplain*
- **Know any parishioners housebound or who may need contacting?** - At the start of this lockdown a number of parishioners offered to find a way of being help to those parishioners who are in need or just housebound. Many people are in contact with the parish through this email or the WhatsApp group, but you may think of some who are not getting parish contacts – but they may get family support and food. If you have suggestions please email their names and addresses to the parish address and we can get parishioners to drop a message in to them. Thanks.
- **Fleetwood Food Bank:** If you know of anyone you think has need of a parcel of food from the Food Bank please telephone 01253 774313 – they will need an address to have it delivered to.
- **Local COVID19 Helplines** *(Official message from our Parish Organisers)*  
The Wyre Council have a dedicated helpline for COVID19 isolation support. If you are struggling to get essential items, or need help, please ring 01253 891000 and select OPTION 7 when prompted. Alternatively, if you have access to the internet, you can fill in the online request for help here: [https://www.wyre.gov.uk/forms/form/257/en/coronavirus\\_isolation\\_support\\_form](https://www.wyre.gov.uk/forms/form/257/en/coronavirus_isolation_support_form)  
There is also another local network being organised by the Methodist Church - called POULTONCAN. The helpline there is 01253 670800 between 8am and 10pm, 7 days a week.

We have a group of parish volunteers who are going to be working with the council to respond to requests. If anyone would like to offer help, please email Jenny at [jennifer.hillman.sutcliffe@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.hillman.sutcliffe@gmail.com) or telephone on 07568502749.

- **Parish WhatsApp Group:** Emily Halliwell (as part of the above group) has set up a closed parish WhatsApp account. I have finally been beaten into joining but am a bit of a WhatsApp virgin as yet! Emily says: "My number is 07969643648 if you want to be added just reply with your mobile number or text me."

### **Thoughts contributed by Virus Times' readers:**

(A few responses from these Virus Times Reflections from our parishioners: Thanks to contributors.)

**Sunday:** *Gosh! He's a tough teacher!*

*Thinking back, the forgiveness of the Prodigal Son is understandable, reading it as a parent, but the brother in the story had a similar dilemma in forgiving his father and his wayward sibling, as Peter had in today's reading. He often gets our sympathy.*

*I liked a quote I read in the paper this week relating to a long departed historical figure, something like, 'Praise his achievements and forgive his misdemeanours, he was human'. Thank God for forgiveness!*

**Sunday:** *Thank you, and thanks to Elaine for the Julian of Norwich quotes. Question - does anchorite come from the same source as anchor?*

*Belated comment re stewards. I am so grateful that they enable us to attend Mass. They tend to be mainly "background" people who have found the courage to be seen (perhaps the masks help?). I hope that you are going to treat them to a slap-up meal eventually.*

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**Elaine Brownwood has been reading this prayerful work and she has offered to share some revelations with us:**

*“These extracts are taken from “Enfolded in Love” Daily Readings with Julian of Norwich, Published by Darton, Longman & Todd (1980). Translation by Members of the Julian Shrine, Norwich. Original thought to have been written in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century England.”*

### **DAY 3 FORGIVENESS**

He holds us when we fall

Full lovingly does our Lord hold us when it seems to us that we are forsaken and cast away because of our sin. Our courteous Lord does not want his servants to despair even when they fall often into sin. For our falling does not hinder him from loving us. He touches us gently and shows us our sin by the kindly light of mercy and grace.

#### **Forgive yourself – because God forgives you.**

As by his courtesy, God forgives our sins when we repent, even so he wills that we should forgive ourselves, and so give up our senseless worrying and faithless fear. If we fall we are to get up quickly, for the worst pain a soul can have is to let sin take it away from God.

When we have fallen, through frailty or blindness, then our courteous Lord touches us, stirs us and calls us. Then he wills that we should see our wretchedness and humbly acknowledge it – but not that we should stay like this or busy ourselves too much with self-accusation, or despise ourselves. He wills that we should quickly turn to him and he is quick to clasp us to himself, for we are his joy and his delight, and he is our salvation and our life.

In his mercy our Lord shows us our sin and our weakness by the light of himself. In his courtesy, he limits the amount that we see, for we could not bear to see it as it is. The greatest worship we can give is, in repentance, to live gladly and gaily because of his love.

#### People being prayed for by our parish groups:

John O’Hagan who has died	John’s requiem will be on the 28 <sup>th</sup> September at St John’s. COVID19 restrictions mean that only invited family and friends can attend – but others can join us at the grave after the Mass.
Alan	Could we pray for Judith Reeves’ dad She says: <i>I wanted to drop you a short email to let you know that my Dad has been diagnosed with liver cancer. I wanted to thank everyone for their prayers and ask for their continued prayers as we move forwards. Dad was taken into hospital on Monday and is quite weak. The hope is that if he gets stronger we will be able to bring him home. He is yet to start the appropriate treatment and we will know more in the coming days.</i>
Jacinta’s Nana Lyn	Poorly and asks for your prayers
A Lady in Intensive Care	The Parish WhatsApp Group ask for your prayers
The People of Beirut	
Various Older People we worry about	Whilst we are enjoying the promise of loosening lockdown we still have concerns for relations and friends who have signs of Covid-19 and who have been taken to Hospital. Please pray for these people – and for those we don’t know as well.
From Jayne Clark	Could I please ask that our parishioners pray for all the staff in children's social care who are still working to safeguard children in our area and around the country. It never ceases to amaze me how hard they work generally, despite the abuse that they often are subjected to, but more so currently given the extra risk that they are putting themselves under to visit the vulnerable.
Maureen O’Connell & Family(Not Covid-19)	Mrs Donnelly’s Mum
Paul Sharrock (Not Covid-19) (and family: Kathryn, Mary & Rachael)	<i>Is showing continued, but slow, progress. He is eating a proper diet and having a lot of physiotherapy – which he’s not enjoying! Fr Peter</i>
Our Teachers	