

St John the Evangelist, Poulton

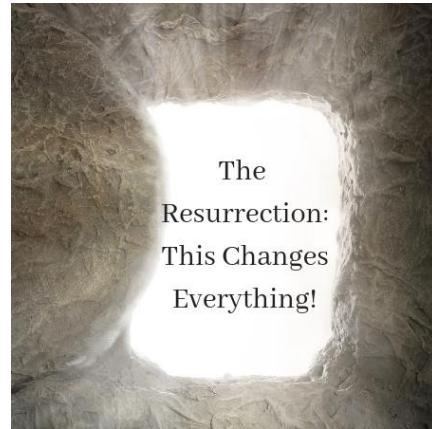
17th September 2020

Thursday of the Twenty-fourth Week of the Year

(Twenty-sixth Thursday of Isolation)

Sign on at: saintjohnpoulton@gmail.com

Parish Website: www.stjohnspoulton.org.uk



The
Resurrection:
This Changes
Everything!

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:

Please note John O'Hagan's Funeral is on 22nd Sept – see details in the prayer section below.

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)

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, the gospel that you received and in which you are firmly established; because the gospel will save you only if you keep believing exactly what I preached to you – believing anything else will not lead to anything.

Well then, in the first place, I taught you what I had been taught myself, namely that Christ died for our sins, in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; and that he was raised to life on the third day, in accordance with the scriptures; that he appeared first to Cephas and secondly to the Twelve. Next he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died; then he appeared to James, and then to all the apostles; and last of all he appeared to me too; it was as though I was born when no one expected it.

I am the least of the apostles; in fact, since I persecuted the Church of God, I hardly deserve the name apostle; but by God's grace that is what I am, and the grace that he gave me has not been fruitless. On the contrary, I, or rather the grace of God that is with me, have worked harder than any of the others; but what matters is that I preach what they preach, and this is what you all believed.

Luke 7:36-50

One of the Pharisees invited Jesus to a meal. When he arrived at the Pharisee's house and took his place at table, a woman came in, who had a bad name in the town. She had heard he was dining with the Pharisee and had brought with her an alabaster jar of ointment. She waited behind him at his feet, weeping, and her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them away with her hair; then she covered his feet with kisses and anointed them with the ointment.

When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, 'If this man were a prophet, he would know who this woman is that is touching him and what a bad name she has.' Then Jesus took him up and said, 'Simon, I have something to say to you.' 'Speak, Master' was the reply. 'There was once a creditor who had two men in his debt; one owed him five hundred denarii, the other fifty. They were unable to pay, so he pardoned them both. Which of them will love him more?' 'The one who was pardoned more, I suppose' answered Simon. Jesus said, 'You are right.'

Then he turned to the woman. 'Simon,' he said 'you see this woman? I came into your house, and you poured no water over my feet, but she has poured out her tears over my feet and wiped them away with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but she has been covering my feet with kisses ever since I came in. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. For this reason I tell you that her sins, her many sins, must have been forgiven her, or she would not have shown such great love. It is the man who is forgiven little who shows little love.' Then he said to her, 'Your sins are forgiven.' Those who were with him at table began to say to themselves, 'Who is this man, that he even forgives sins?' But he said to the woman, 'Your faith has saved you; go in peace.'

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

Yesterday we had a chance to see the poetic and relatively gentle Paul as he spoke to the Christian people of Corinth about the centrality of Love. But before we join those people who say, out loud: ‘Love. That’s what it is all about really, isn’t it?’ Paul bounces in with great force reminding us about the essential foundations of this love. He reminds the Corinthians that Christian love will not be born unless it is born from the foundations of the Gospel.

He reminds us all that we must stay firm to what we have been taught – and that means:

*“namely that Christ **died** for our sins, in accordance with the scriptures; that he was **buried**; and that he was **raised** to life on the third day, in accordance with the scriptures; that he **appeared** first to Cephas and secondly to the Twelve....”*

And all this “in accordance with the scriptures”

Is it possible that the some of the community in Corinth were thinking some things were more important in the Church than the Resurrection? Even in our own times we find some Catholics who place some aspects of the Church as more important than Jesus’ incarnation, death and Resurrection, don’t we? Certainly Paul begins, from here, to insist on the centrality of the Resurrection in a way which suggest some of the Corinthians were having difficulty teaching it.

It is here that we can spend some time pondering what we understand to be the core of Church teaching – and what might be simply our own particular interests.

Pope Francis, on one of his flights back from a pilgrimage was challenged by the media staff – here is a report from the time:

Sep 22, 2015

ABOARD THE PAPAL FLIGHT FROM CUBA — Pope Francis defended his position on the economy, the environment and other social issues as faithful repetitions of the basic Catholic social doctrine.

Speaking to reporters flying with him from Cuba to Washington Sept. 22, the pope was asked about comments, mainly from the United States, claiming the pope is a communist and about the Newsweek headline, "Is the pope Catholic?"

"I am certain I have never said anything more than what is in the social doctrine of the church," he responded. "I follow the church and in this, I do not think I am wrong."

*"Maybe I have given an impression of being a little bit to the left," the pope admitted. "**But if they want me to recite the Creed, I can!**"*

There it is again! Pope Francis copying St Paul! The Nicene Creed is split into three sections – about the Trinity. What follows in these blocks of Father, Son, Holy Spirit, are the core truths of Christianity. I hope the Corinthians got the point?

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

"How many times have we had this experience: someone comes and tells us: 'But listen, you were mistaken about this. You should change a little in this regard.' Perhaps in the beginning we get angry, but then we say 'thank you', because it is a gesture of brotherhood, of communion, of help, of rehabilitation. And it is not easy to put this teaching of Jesus into practice, for various reasons. There is the fear that the brother or sister may react badly; at times you may lack sufficient confidence with him or with her. And other reasons. But every time we have done this, we have felt it was precisely the way of the Lord."

Pope Francis

ANGELUS SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

PARISH NOTICES:

• **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

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 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.)

Thursday: After the various Readings, your Commentaries and Parishioner's thoughts during these last few days (in particular re God's profound Love for us ALL...no matter who or where we are) a passage from my current read struck me in a big way.. deep inside self

'Jesus tells us in the Gospels, "Don't be afraid." He's saying it is radically okay. You can trust yourself because God trusts you, using your journey, your experience. Nothing will be wasted; all has been forgiven; nothing will be used against you. In fact, God will even use your sins to transform you! God is a lover (not an account manager, not a dictator) who receives and forgives everything.'

Wednesday: Thanks Fr & thanks Elaine for the Julian of Norwich readings.

This passage struck a chord with me. A mother [...] will never allow any real harm to come to the child because of her love. When we fall, our mother holds us lovingly and graciously and swiftly raises us.

Can we also remember and pray for mothers, especially new mothers, who are looking after babies in a global pandemic - often without the support they would normally have? It can be a very lonely and anxious time. I know that the care some new mums are getting after birth has been compromised by COVID - even if the babies are (thankfully) thriving.

Tuesday: Your piece on the family and us all being one body made me rethink my position in life. Sometimes we go around thinking "Gosh I'm very glad I don't have his life or her life" or "thank goodness I'm not addicted to drugs and all that goes with it" etc. when we see folk out on the streets of our towns and cities (which we still do even in these COVID times). It's difficult when we think of some people we really would not want to share the one body with in Christ and to accept that God loves us all the same - whatever our background. Food for thought.

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 14th century England."

DAY 5 – PERHAPS JULIAN'S MOST FAMOUS SAYING “ALL SHALL BE WELL”

Trust God in the face of “evil” or “sin”

Because of our Lord’s tender love to all, he quickly comforts us, saying “the cause of all this pain is sin. But all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well”. These words were said so kindly and without a hint of blame to me or to any who shall be saved. In these words I saw the deep, high mystery of God which he will show us in heaven. Then we shall understand why he allowed sin to be.

People being prayed for by our parish groups:

John O'Hagan who has died	John's requiem will be on the 22 nd 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 – the family suggest 12.00. The 9.30am Mass will be for John – others are welcome.
Alan	<i>Could we pray for Judith Reeves' dad She says: 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(<i>Not Covid-19</i>)	Mrs Donnelly's Mum
Paul Sharrock (<i>Not Covid-19</i>) (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	