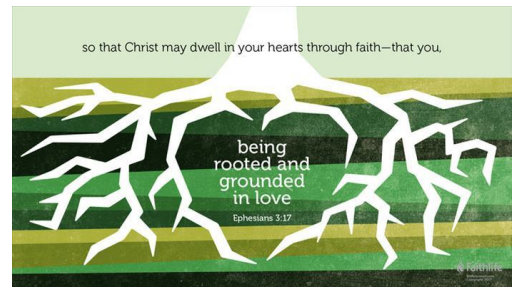


# St John the Evangelist, Poulton

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

Thursday of the Twenty-ninth Week of the Year  
(Thirty-first Thursday 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:

## **Friday Morning Mass this week:**

Please could you pass on to others that Friday Mass will be at **8.15am** at St John's (Not as usual)

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))

### **Ephesians 3:14-21**

*This is what I pray, kneeling before the Father, from whom every family, whether spiritual or natural, takes its name:*

*Out of his infinite glory, may he give you the power through his Spirit for your hidden self to grow strong, so that Christ may live in your hearts through faith, and then, planted in love and built on love, you will with all the saints have strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and the depth; until, knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond all knowledge, you are filled with the utter fullness of God.*

*Glory be to him whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine; glory be to him from generation to generation in the Church and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.*

### **Luke 12:49-53**

*Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!*

*'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'*

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

Babies are nice, aren't they – well usually, as there are some who can't really be described as 'cute'. Mothers are suitably admirers of their baby and express their appreciation, amazement and love by 'cooing' and 'ahh-ing'. After some years, when they become 'snotty' and 'smelly' - and they keep parents from their sleep – there are still words of appreciation. But these words can become more about dedication, loyalty and promised security for the future rather than expressed feelings of delight and relationship (or am I wrong?). I do not

doubt most parent's love and dedication, but the words used are different!. Visit the words you use to express your love to those closest to you – for example.

Paul has been opening to us his amazement at what God has done for us in Jesus! He has sometimes used words that have come from him so fast that we may not understand – and he certainly has forgotten about sentence construction (Keep in mind that Paul probably didn't write most of his letters – but dictated them – and very excitedly we can imagine!) He has tried to excite us in our faith, too, but we are Western people of our own day and don't naturally break into poetry at the drop of a hat – and if we run out of words and start to 'gabble' we feel embarrassed! (Just listen to how ordinary people look into a pram and start talking wonderful rubbish – and in a high-pitched voice – “Don't you, don't you!”) Paul wants us to be able to express our appreciation of God's gift to us in Jesus in the way we can express our appreciation of others about us – and speak it to others!

In the Gospel the disciples invited Jesus to teach them how to pray – as John the Baptist had done before him. This is a revelation of relationship! It looks like the followers of Paul had asked him to do the same. Paul says: 'Ok.....'

*“This is what I pray,  
kneeling before the Father,  
from whom every family,  
whether spiritual or natural,  
takes its name:”*

Paul uses words and images to help his friends enter his own prayer. It reveals who Jesus is to Paul and so allows others to 'feel', to imagine, the same relationship. These images and groups of words will become part of the prayer of the communities Paul is teaching – and scripture is helpful in allowing us to make its message our own.

We are Catholic Christians and our history over the past centuries has encouraged us to express our beliefs in God and Jesus in Doctrine! When people discover we are Catholic Christians others may well sum us up as 'those people who believe in the doctrine of..... whatever'. This may well be something we have to train ourselves out of so that, like Paul, we can express our appreciation of what Jesus has achieved for us – and so speak freely to others?

It seems to me, as we have discovered Paul in this special time, that our faith is not about how different we are from Anglicans or Methodists, but how wonderful is our understanding of God when compared with that of other world faiths. People of world faiths can be afraid of their differences, but if we agree we are looking for God's own revelation of himself we are more likely to work together, listen to one another and move forward in trust.

As a Catholic Christian I would suggest we simply use the opportunity Paul has given us to pray his prayer – read it through a number of times (You probably know it anyway) but make it yours. How does it make you feel?

THURSDAY OCTOBER 22, 2020

*"The Psalms are not texts created on paper; they are invocations, often dramatic, that spring from lived existence. To pray them it is enough for us to be what we are. We must not forget that to pray well we must pray as we are, without embellishment. One must not embellish the soul to pray. "Lord, I am like this," and go in front of the Lord as we are, with the good things and also with the bad things that no-one knows about, but that we inwardly know. In the Psalms we hear the voices of men and women of prayer in flesh and blood, whose life, like that of us all, is fraught with problems, hardships and uncertainties. The Psalmist does not radically contest this suffering: he knows that it is part of living..."*

Pope Francis

GENERAL AUDIENCE OCTOBER 14, 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.
- **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.)

**Wednesday:** These (Virus) times have certainly made me value faith over religion. The hamster wheel of religion can blind us to what truly matters. It's an opportunity to deepen our faith. Thank you 🙏

**Tuesday:** Thanks to you Fr. for keeping us close together with the Virus Times. Also a big thank you to all the good kind people who have looked after us with their virus protection kit as we enter and leave church.

**Sunday:** The other day you asked for 'thank yous' - rather than 'pleases' Clare and Pete Cobb's glorious music - they have sung us through Covid; it's been a joy

**Friday:** "It is in Christ that we were claimed as God's own" reminded me to share with you a lovely moment on Friday morning when I was on the school run.

A lady walking back to her car with a little toddler (not school age) paused outside the church doors as the little girl asked if it was open. She said 'no, would you like to pray here, outside?' Looking up at the doors, the little girl made the sign of the cross and began to pray with her mother. Could there be a more fitting scene for faith in 2020?!? Perhaps I'm over sensitive at the moment but it brought a tear to my eye!

**Tuesday:** I suppose, in a way, it's a bit like keeping school rules after you have left school. I remember visiting the school a couple of years after I left. The nun who was seeing me out said, "Are you not going to pay a visit to the chapel"? My automatic response was "But, I've nothing to cover my head" (we were always made to wear our school hats when we were going in to chapel and always had our heads covered in our own church). I never expected it to be a nun who would be the first to tell me, in effect, that the ceiling would not fall down if I went in without a head covering.

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

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
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> )	Maureen died this morning, at home with her three girls. Please remember them in your prayers.
Paul Sharrock ( <i>Not Covid-19</i> ) (and family: Kathryn, Mary & Rachael)	<i>Is showing continued, but slow, progress. Paul had his operation and the physio that has been dealing with him at both hospitals has seen him today and says he is looking very well! He was smiling a lot last evening Good Facetime yesterday evening. Please pray for them. Fr Peter</i>
Our Teachers	

**'Thanks You, God'** - Do we have any news to thank God for - as well as other people we are praying for?

Clare and Pete Cobb's glorious music	they have sung us through Covid; it's been a joy