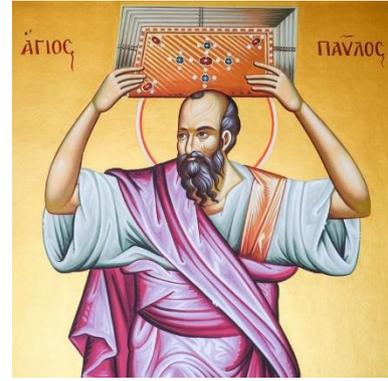


# St John the Evangelist, Poulton

9<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Wednesday of the Twenty-third Week of the Year  
(Twenty-fifth Wednesday 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:



## Please notice the Parish Quiz advert under 'Parish Notices'

Tuesday last week began Pope Francis time of reflection on Caring for Creation and placing ourselves for the Good of creation – I will put some resources at the back of this newsletter.

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 7:25-31

*About remaining celibate, I have no directions from the Lord but give my own opinion as one who, by the Lord's mercy, has stayed faithful. Well then, I believe that in these present times of stress this is right: that it is good for a man to stay as he is. If you are tied to a wife, do not look for freedom; if you are free of a wife, then do not look for one. But if you marry, it is no sin, and it is not a sin for a young girl to get married. They will have their troubles, though, in their married life, and I should like to spare you that.*

*Brothers, this is what I mean: our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.*

## Luke 6:20-26

*Fixing his eyes on his disciples Jesus said:*

*'How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God.*

*Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied.*

*Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh.*

*Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.*

*'But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now.*

*Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry.*

*Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.*

*'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'*

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

This is a strange passage from St Paul. Don't forget that he was replying to questions from the community in Corinth and, we have seen, he was getting annoyed that they had not 'listened to him properly the first time'!

On top of this there are some realities to take into account. There was a rumour spreading that it would not be long before Jesus would come again in glory (We saw this a few week's ago in 2Thessalonians) and this could cause some men to panic about marriage, or neglect their marriage to prepare for this event – stop it!? Life was not getting any easier for the Christians and we can see persecution on the horizon (Many of these Christians were executed – including Paul himself)! Although it was some years later that the Christians were excluded from praying at their local Synagogue their presence was beginning to be increasingly uncomfortable. All these were challenges to Christians – and especially converts from Judaism.

If you have family who were made to feel very uncomfortable when they wished to marry someone who was not a Catholic you will have heard the edges of this difficulty. Many non-Catholics who wished to marry a Catholic in 'Catholic Lancashire' were pressured to become Catholics or have the wedding in the sacristy – but the real difficulty was trying to help couples share their faith together. This will have been a problem, also, for a Jew who wished to become a Christian in Paul's day whilst being married to a Jew who did not approve. Paul may have been asked about the issue as there may have been a case in Corinth – he answers in a similarly harsh way. But he does add that: *"About remaining celibate, I have no directions from the Lord"*

(Interestingly, being from Lancashire and knowing well the harshness shown by our church leaders to mixed Christian couples, I was surprised, when in a parish in the north of Cumbria, that the vast majority of Catholic Church weddings since 1850 were ones with a dispensation from mixed religion – the practical reality was that, only 100 miles north of Preston, there were not enough Catholics for Catholics to marry! A different pastoral policy ruled up north!)

Anyway, the final reality to keep in mind is that Corinth had a famous reputation for sexual promiscuity! Paul may be suggesting to the 'brothers' (He does tend to speak to them – Oh and the original letter seems to have come from Chloe) that sexual purity, seen by others, would be a good sign of the community's standard of dedication to their faith in what Jesus had done for them. A sign, whether it was in the married or single state.

Finally, I have to come to a strange passage which I have looked at in various translations:

*"Those who have wives should live as though they had none"*

I have to admit that, regarding this passage, in Paul's words: *"I have no directions from the Lord"* (if anyone finds some clues please pass them on)

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

*"It is not just a matter of patiently enduring daily tribulations, but of bearing with faith and responsibility that part of toil, and that part of suffering that the struggle against evil entails. The life of Christians is always a struggle. The Bible says that the life of Christians is a military undertaking: fighting against the evil spirit, fighting against Evil."*

*Pope Francis*

**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.
- **17.08.2020 Update from Victoria Hospital:** The latest statistics from the hospital are as follows: To date the Trust has seen 1,949 COVID-positive patients with just 1 patient currently being treated as an inpatient. As of 5pm on August 17th, the Trust had reported 243 deaths. A total of 480 patients from across the organisation have been discharged.
- As you can see, the figures relating to current in-patients are considerably reduced from what they were previously, although deaths are still occurring – albeit also at a reduced rate.
- Revised guidance has been issued regarding the isolation of patients coming into the hospital for procedures:

### **NICE self-isolation guidance**

Below are the agreed bullet points relating to NICE guidance on self-isolation:

- For diagnostics, including endoscopy, we do not ask for isolation or swab. Clinical assessment to be undertaken prior to and repeated on arrival.
  - Inpatients having cancer surgery or other intracavity surgery will be advised to continue self-isolating for 14 days.
  - For day cases or 23 hour stays we anticipate that most of these patients will be advised to follow the swab and 3-day isolation guidance.
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- **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 of anonymous responses from these Virus Times Reflections from our parishioners: Thanks to contributors.)

**Thursday:** *I have never before heard the word gentle in association with St Paul - must give that some thought.*

*A mother, years ago was heard to grumble that her child had been at school for (?) weeks and had still not been taught the Hail Mary!!!!*

**Thursday:** *Love the recipe reference and very true, that's why I like your thoughts Father, I can reread and digest - bit like carrot cake! (Isn't it great when a recipe become so well known that it has become part of you? It even become known as 'mum's scone recipe' Fr Peter)*

People being prayed for by our parish groups:

Alan	Could we pray for Judith Reeves' dad who has become suddenly very ill and the cause is not clear. It is difficult caring for people during Covid!
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>
Parents home schooling AND home job-ing	Thank God for our parents – but, after so long, finding it difficult to fulfil their work responsibilities and 'entertain' their children under lockdown.
Our Teachers	Who are preparing to return to school!

## Caring for Creation



**Novena to St Francis  
For a world under threat**

**Ninth prayer: Creation**

“Most High, all-powerful, all-good Lord,  
all praise is yours, all glory, honour and blessings.  
To you alone, Most High, do they belong.” *(St Francis of Assisi)*

“Let us sing as we go.  
May our struggles and our concern for this planet  
never take away the joy of our hope.” *(Pope Francis, Laudato Si’)*

Creator God we praise your world  
and look with awe on all that is.  
May we commit to heal the earth  
and share your gifts in faith and trust.

Brother Francis, in purity of heart  
you gazed upon the world with love.  
We ask you joyfully to intercede for us,  
As guardians of our common home.

**St Francis, pray for us.**