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In Church

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Please note that 'booked' places are only kept until 5 minutes before Mass. They will then be available to others who come.

Sunday Prayer Resource – "The Lord's Day at Home"

For those still at home and not attending Mass, the Liturgy Office has prepared a service called "The Lord's Day at Home", based on the Sunday Scriptures, that you can pray on your own or with your family. It is particularly aimed at those not able to follow a Mass on the internet. (Available on the website newsletter.) Please click here to view the Mass sheet for Sunday 22nd August (Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time).

All Souls Cemetery Annual Mass and Blessing of Graves

This year, please God and a favourable direction taken by Covid, we will celebrate the Cemetery Mass and the Blessing of Graves once again. We have set the date for Saturday October 2nd at 11.00am and all are welcome.

"Amen" (which means yes, I agree, so be it) - an act of Faith and commitment.

We have now reached a stage, especially as we conclude our Gospel readings from John chapter 6, where it is appropriate to make a return to our personal act of Faith when receiving Holy Communion. I shall now say, "The Body of Christ" to each communicant. **This is both a statement and a question.**

The statement is that this is truly the Body of Christ, the Real Presence of Our Lord and God. **The question** is three-fold:

- 1. Do you **believe** this?
- 2. Do you want to **invite** Jesus Christ intimately into your life?
- 3. Do you want to **be** 'the Body of Christ' as a member of the Holy Catholic Church which, as St. Paul clearly tells us, is the Body of Christ?

If the answers to these are "Yes" then your response and act of Faith is to proclaim, "Amen" and to receive the Body of Christ in a prayerful and thoughtful manner.

What does this mean in practice? It means that you may find that after I say, "The Body of Christ," I wait for you to answer before giving you the Sacred Host. It really is important that you respond by affirming your faith in the Real Presence of Christ in the Sacred Host, that you affirm that you wish to welcome Christ into your life and that you want to be part of this particular "Body of Christ" which is the People of God in this Church who are members of and united with the Catholic Church throughout the world and throughout all history!

Receiving Holy Communion is a massive gift of God and all he asks is a simple but sincere "Amen."

Saint Peter and Paul church and hall.

I'm sure that many of you will know that this building is now sold. Perhaps you were watching the auction on line and were as surprised as I was at the final winning bid. It sold for £316,000. I presume there will be fees, expenses and the cost of clearing the building to be deducted from that before it evenutally reaches the parish bank account. It will still be a great asset to the parish. I am aware of a number of repairs that are needed to parish property which we can start to consider once we receive the money. We will not rush into anything and we need to retain most of that money for future eventualities. I am aware from previous experiences that disaster can strike and I've been faced with sudden, unexpected bills of over £100,000 in the past. I'm also aware that our parish finances lost £50,000 over the last financial year and although collections have risen in recent months they are still far short of what they were two years ago. It allows us to be comfortable without being complacent.

I must say that being in the building on the day of the sale was a sad experience, not just the loss of the building but the loss of a congregation that made it once viable and thriving. Fr. Peter

Please wear a face covering in church

whenever there are more than just a few people in church, unless you are exempt. This is to protect you but more especially to enable people who still feel vulnerable in places where people gather to feel comfortable and safe in coming to church. What we do not want is for people who have been coming to church to stop coming because what was for them a safe place is no longer a place where they feel safe.

Also, please remember to keep a safe distance from others when coming forward for Holy Communion and when entering and leaving church.

Also, please do not hold conversations in church. Yes, greet people briefly and quietly, but for 'catch ups' please invite them to see you outside either before or after Mass. It is important that we give people the ability to pray undisturbed both before and after Mass.

We need to rediscover the real sense of awe in the presence of God in church.