



The Parish of the Assumption, *Holy Trinity*

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The Assumption is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

Sunday 7th June 2026 – The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (*Corpus Christi*)

Readings: Year A

Dear Friends,

The glorious Solemnity of *Corpus Christi*, sign of the Summer months, is with us again, and that special day when our First Communion children receive the Body and Blood of Our Lord for the first time in Holy Communion. Months and months have gone towards preparing them for this celebration and I would first like to thank all in parish and school who have given so much time and effort. There will be an opportunity for families to make their own special thanks to the Catechists this Sunday.

What is this feast and how did it come to be settled into the Church's liturgical year? It has a quite fascinating history! Back in the 13th century, a Norbertine nun called Juliana of Liège kept on having visions of the Church as a full moon... but with a dark spot. She had been orphaned at the age of 5 and had spent all her life in convents, was very devoted to the Blessed Sacrament, and felt that the Eucharist deserved its own Feast day to highlight this wonderful gift. The bishop of her diocese agreed and it originally remained a local diocesan commemoration. Then it began to spread: Germany, Bohemia, Moravia and Darcy. The Archdeacon of Liège, Fr Jacques Pantaléon, eventually became Pope *Urban IV*, and he adopted the celebration for the whole Church although it was not fully observed until about 1317.

There is another feast for the Holy Eucharist, and that is Maundy Thursday. Then it is intertwined with the Priesthood and Christ's Command (*Mandatum*) to serve each other, in the sorrowful atmosphere of that Last Supper, so *Corpus Christi* became the more joyful remembrance, a sort of "stand-alone" event. Eventually, St Thomas Aquinas became involved and he wrote the most beautiful hymns for the celebration, including the famous verses we sing at *Benediction*: "*Tantum Ergo*" (Vespers) and "*O Salutaris Hostia*" (Lauds).

Corpus Christi used to be celebrated 60 days after Easter Sunday, on the Thursday, but unlike Ascension Day, it has been moved in England and Wales to the Sunday, to enable a greater participation of people in processions. All over the Catholic world the Blessed Sacrament is carried on high with great solemnity, ritual and devotion. Our best local tradition is probably the Oxford Oratory, well worth a visit into the city to enjoy!

Today we welcome 16 children to this most special of days, with their families and friends. At the end of the 11am Mass there is a reception and there will be an official photograph in front of the altar. May this day be remembered as a day of joyfulness and another milestone in their spiritual growth towards the Lord Jesus Christ, who gives Himself so freely and lovingly in this marvellous Sacrament.



*"O Sacrament most Holy
O Sacrament Divine.
All praise and all thanksgiving
Be every moment Thine"*

P.S. Next Sunday, we will be celebrating Iain Stirling's 80th birthday and he has invited fellow parishioners to join him for a glass of bubbly after Mass. Ad multos annos!

Look ahead: the week following next Sunday is the annual residential gathering of all the diocesan and religious clergy with the Archbishop and his bishops. No doubt the joys and pains of the full-scale mergers of the parishes will be the top agenda item. I will be able to report back on our successful and smooth transition to the parish of The Assumption: Holy Trinity, Chipping Norton and St Teresa's, Charlbury.

God bless everyone, Fr Clive

Last week's second collection for Let The Children Live! raised £975.10 across the Parish!

Masses & Rosary: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday Mass 9.15am. Friday Rosary for Peace 9.15am.
Friday is the Solemnity of The Sacred Heart of Jesus, one of the most popular of Catholic devotions, stressing the Humanity of the Lord and His Compassion for the world.

In June, let us pray together with the Holy Father that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth.

Please continue to pray for our sick, housebound and frail parishioners of both our Parish. In addition to your own daily prayers please remember: All those who mourn the loss of loved ones. The repose of the souls of those who have died. People whose anniversaries occur at this time. The people of the Middle East, Ukraine, Sudan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are **Tammy Lawson** and **Sharnalee Foster** (sg.stteresaoflisieux.charlbury@rcaob.org.uk). Alternatively, the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

Pilgrimage of Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life

Celebrant: Rt Rev Peter Collins,
Bishop of East Anglia

When: 1st August 2026

Where: Shrine of Our Lady Of Walsingham

Time: 12:00-17:00, beginning with the Pilgrim Mass at noon



Coaches from:

- Central London
- East London
- Aylesbury
- Bedford.
- Dunstable and Luton
- Milton Keynes
- Northampton and Kettering
- Harpenden, St. Alban's and Letchworth

Further information about the pilgrimage, booking, livestreaming and coach meeting points can be found on the website:

<https://prolifepilgrimage.org/>



  @PilgrimsForLife