



SHARING IS CARING

JOHN 6:1-15

Today, and for the next four Sundays, we read from the famous bread of life chapter in the Gospel of John (6:1-69). Today's text is John's account of the feeding of at least five thousand people.

Jesus is on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. The people have gathered because they have seen him work a healing miracle or "sign", as John likes to call such miracles. Jesus retreats with his disciples to a mountain.

When Jesus sees the crowd approaching, he senses that they are hungry and asks Philip where they could buy food. He is testing Philip. Jesus knows exactly what he is going to do, but he wants to see if Philip knows. Philip does not know, nor does the other disciple, Andrew. They fail to understand that Jesus is the one who will satisfy the people's hunger.

Philip and Andrew try to come up with practical but conventional solutions. There are five thousand men present, not counting women and children. According to Philip, there isn't enough money to feed such a crowd. All Andrew can come up with are the five loaves and two small fish that are offered by a little boy. Conventional solutions will not feed the people; only Jesus can feed them. Jesus then works the miracle.

Notice something very important in John's account. It is Jesus himself who shares the food with the people, not the disciples. He is the source of the gift for these hungry people. The miracle produces so much food that twelve baskets of leftovers are gathered.

As always, the people are ecstatic about the miracle. They identify Jesus as a prophet and want to make him king. But Jesus is cautious about such enthusiasm based on his miracles or signs. He is truly a king, though not in the way the people think. His response is to withdraw by himself to the mountain. He will not be their earthly kind of king. ■

REFLECT

Our culture today places huge emphasis on the individual. There's a "rugged individualism" type of mentality around. We're inclined to focus solely or mainly on our own needs, our individual rights, our individual entitlements. Think of how some people have refused to respect the advice of health officials during the COVID-19 lockdown, how they put their own selfish needs above the welfare of the community.

The same can apply to our religion. We can reduce our religious practice to a private affair, as if it has nothing to do with our obligations to our sisters and brothers.

This blindness in our culture is the opposite of Jesus' vision of things. Jesus was totally other-centred. Food, friendship and togetherness were at the heart of his ministry. He had compassion for those who were hungry, as today's Gospel shows. The meal practice of Jesus and our celebration of the Eucharist tell us that we are a community first, that we belong together.

The feeding of the five thousand may have been due to some miraculous multiplying of food. But the real miracle may have been far simpler. It may have been that, even though the amount of food appeared small, there was sufficient for everybody when everybody shared. By his willingness to share what he had, the little boy in the Gospel story encouraged others in the crowd to share what they had. His display of generosity inspired those around him to be generous also. And when everybody shared what they had, there was more than enough to go around.

Our world produces enough food to feel everybody adequately. Our planet generates enough wealth to ensure that everyone has a decent standard of living. If only we were better at sharing.

The Eucharist is a foretaste of the heavenly feast in which we hope to share. It's a reminder that everything we have is given to us as a gift. As the little boy demonstrated, if we rely on each other, if we are willing to share, if we have Jesus' vision, then we will not only survive but thrive. ■

DO

Listen carefully to the words of consecration at Mass, during which the bread and wine are changed into the body and blood of our saviour.

SAY

"Lord, help me to realise that we are not solitary beings but are called into relationship with you and with one another. Amen."

LEARN

In Jesus, God's power is at work.

Individualism is not a Christian value.

Jesus is the bread of life, who satisfies our deepest needs.

For the Christian, power and authority are about service.

PRAY

Pray for a deeper understanding of the gift of the Eucharist. Ask the Lord to increase your faith.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his
house;
he himself gives might and strength to his
people.

GLORIA

Glorify God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God, protector of those who hope in you,
without whom nothing has firm foundation,
nothing is holy,
bestow in abundance your mercy upon us
and grant that, with you as our ruler and
guide,
we may use the good things that pass
in such a way as to hold fast even now
to those that ever endure.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

2 Kings 4:42-44

A reading from the second book of Kings.
A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing
Elisha, the man of God, bread from the first-
fruits, twenty barley loaves and fresh grain in
the ear. "Give it to the people to eat," Elisha
said. But his servant replied, "How can I
serve this to a hundred men?" "Give it to the
people to eat" he insisted "for the Lord says
this, 'They will eat and have some left over.'"
He served them; they ate and had some over,
as the Lord had said.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 144

Response:

You open wide your hand, O Lord,
and grant our desires.

- All your creatures shall thank you,
O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their
blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your
reign
and declare your might, O God. (R.)

- The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live. (R.)
- The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. (R.)

SECOND READING Ephesians 4:1-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Ephesians.

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to
lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear
with one another charitably, in complete
selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all
you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit
by the peace that binds you together. There
is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all
called into one and the same hope when you
were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one
baptism, and one God who is Father of all,
through all and within all.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Your words are spirit, Lord,
and they are life:
you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 6:1-15

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John.

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea
of Galilee – or of Tiberias – and a large
crowd followed him, impressed by the signs
he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed
the hillside, and sat down there with his
disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish
feast of Passover.

Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds
approaching and said to Philip, "Where can
we buy some bread for these people to eat?"
He only said this to test Philip; he himself
knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip
answered, "Two hundred denarii would only
buy enough to give them a small piece each."
One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's
brother, said, "There is a small boy here with
five barley loaves and two fish; but what is
that between so many?" Jesus said to them,
"Make the people sit down." There was
plenty of grass there, and as many as five
thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the
loaves, gave thanks, and gave them out to all
who were sitting ready; he then did the same
with the fish, giving out as much as was
wanted. When they had eaten enough he said
to the disciples, "Pick up the pieces left over,
so that nothing gets wasted." So they picked
them up, and filled twelve hampers with
scraps left over from the meal of five barley
loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he
had given, said, "This really is the prophet
who is to come into the world." Jesus, who
could see they were about to come and take
him by force and make him king, escaped
back to the hills by himself.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
(all bow during the next three lines)
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, we pray, the offerings
which we bring from the abundance of your
gifts,
that through the powerful working of your
grace
these most sacred mysteries may sanctify our
present way of life
and lead us to eternal gladness.
Amen.

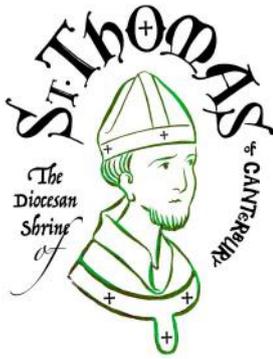
COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We have consumed, O Lord, this divine
Sacrament,
the perpetual memorial of the Passion of
your Son;
grant, we pray, that this gift,
which he himself gave us with love beyond
all telling,
may profit us for salvation.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

NEWSLETTER



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

59 Burgate Canterbury Kent CT1 2HJ

Telephone: **01227 462896** Email: canterbury@rcaos.org.uk

Web Site: <https://stthomasofcanterbury.com> St Thomas of Canterbury

Parish Priest: Canon Anthony Charlton email: anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk

Assistant Priest: Fr John Howard

email: johnhoward@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Miss Linda Scott

St Thomas' Shop (01227 462896): **OPEN SUNDAYS FROM AFTER 9.30 MASS UNTIL 12 NOON**

University of Kent Chaplaincy: Fr Tom Herbst (01843 230 774) email: tjherbst@gmail.com

St Thomas' Catholic Primary School: Head Teacher: Miss Lisa D'Agostini (01227 462539)

St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Exec Prin: Mr M Walters; Academy Prin: Mr J Rowarth (01227 826200)

The Parish Office is open Mondays, Tuesdays,
Thursdays and Fridays 10am to 3.00pm
(closed 1.00pm to 1.30pm for lunch)

ALL MASSES ARE LIVESTREAMED

6.00 pm (Vigil): Dominic Everson - birthday

Sunday, 25th July: Seventeenth Sunday (B) Jn 6:1-15

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: for the Filipino Community & Families

11.00am: Dominic Savvides - RIP (Jennifer Lang)

12.15: *Baptism of Fleur Casseur*

4.00pm: Polish Community Mass

6.00 pm: Thanksgiving (Patty Baxter)

Monday 26th July: Sts Joachim & Anne Mt 13: 31-35

7.30 am NO EARLY MASS

12 noon: Ben Mutch - RIP (*Fiona Mutch*)

6.00pm: Live streamed Prayer

Tuesday 27th July: Feria Mt 13: 36-43

12 noon: Intentions of Stephen Oly-Alawuba

6.00 pm: Live streamed Prayer

Wednesday 28th July: Feria Mt 13: 44-46

7.30 am: NO EARLY MASS

10.30am - 11.30am: Reconciliation and Adoration

12 noon: Intentions of Stephen Oly-Alawuba

6.00pm: Live streamed Prayer

Thursday 29th July: St Martha Jn 11:19-27 or Lk10: 38-42

12 noon: Intentions of Stephen Oly-Alawuba

Friday 30th July: St Peter Chrysologus Mt 13: 54-58

12 noon: Dominic & Roxanna - 10th Anniv.

After Mass, Adoration until 1.30pm

6.00pm: Live streamed Prayer

Saturday 31st July: St Ignatius of Loyola Mt 14: 1-12

10.30am - 11.30am: Reconciliation and Adoration

12 noon: Protection of the family of Stephen Oly-Alawuba

6.00 pm (Vigil): Dennis and Jerry Corcoran - RIP

Sunday, 1st August: Eighteenth Sunday (B) Jn 6:24-35

8.00am: Margaret & Joe O'Gorman - 60th Wed. Anniv.

9.30am: Thanksgiving to the Father of All Mankind

11.00am: Joseph McKee - RIP (*McKee Family*)

12.15 pm: *Baptism of Aengus Ebreo and Lottie Weston*

6.00 pm: People of the Parish

Pope Francis Prayer intention for July

Social Friendship

We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.

PARISH MATTERS

Please remember in your prayers:

Marie Strong, Angeline Frizell, Luisa Ward, Janette Hughes, Barbara Brett, Mary Dittrich, Pat Gibson, Jenni Aldridge, Mary Reynolds, Brian Wicker, Joan Sutton, Audrey Martin, Elizabeth Gilhenny, Bill Parker, Lucy Purbrick, Josie Carr, Simon Lam, Sr Anne Bross (formerly of our parish), Fr John Slater, Jennifer Lang, Pauline Lilford, Barbara Markham, Patricia Gray, Patrick Sellars, Sr Margaret McGrath, Angela Nichols, Jean Boyce and Sandra Monger and Philomena Brown

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Theresa Ramsundar, Canon Frank O'Sullivan, Margaret Willis, Rev Paul Saunders, Sylvia Guy, Pat Gill, Baby Layla Green, Paul Card, Alan Skeet, Rodolfo Ignacio, Isabella Bannon, HRH Prince Philip - Duke of Edinburgh, Dean Brazier, Marion Nash, Fr Kevin Alban (O.Carm), Apollonia Citro, Bianca Wood, Deideri Maria (Vedova Roffinella), Angelina Glynn and Baby Francis Anthony Delaney

Please pray for those whose 1st anniversaries are this month:

Anthony Kenny, Maria Daniels and Hannalore Hall

COLLECTIONS: Our retiring collections:

This weekend: 24/25 July: No Second Collection

Next weekend: 31 Jul/1 Aug: No Second Collection

Message from Fr John Boles, the Columban Missionary who did an appeal some weeks ago. "You'll be pleased to learn that contributions are still coming in to us as a result of my appeal earlier this month. I can't give you a total, as our secretarial staff is almost non-existent at present (largely due to covid "self-isolations"), but the indications are that the response has been more than generous. I would like to express a personal note of gratitude, not only to your parishioners, but also to yourself and your able and willing back-up team. Thanks once again for making my visit such a pleasant and informative one.

SECOND COLLECTIONS GIFT AIDING

Thank you to all who so generously support our regular second collections. When making these donations, please do not use your Parish Gift Aid ordinary envelopes (small envelopes with an unique number) for donations to **SVP** or **CAFOD** or other organisations because we cannot, by law, transfer gift aid donations between organisations. SVP and CAFOD gift aid envelopes are available in the Narthex or please speak to Linda in the office. Your help is appreciated.

From Fr Anthony ...

For the next five weeks the Gospel for the Sundays will be from St John, chapter six. Although this year, on Sunday 15th August, we will be celebrating the feast of the Assumption where the reading will be from St Luke. I look forward to a prayerful reading of this chapter as it will provide me with the opportunity to reflect on the meaning, significance, beauty and centrality of this most wonderful gift of the Eucharist in my life and in the life of the church. I still recall the evenings in the late 50's when I would meet in the sacristy with others to learn the Latin responses as part of my training to be an altar server. At the tender age of eleven I went off to the junior seminary and in that year Pope John XIII called the bishops of the world together for a Council. In the first two years at seminary I served Mass in the Tridentine Rite which as you know was in Latin. Every morning each priest on the staff would celebrate Mass on a side altar with their own server while at the same time the whole school would be attending Mass celebrated on the main altar of the chapel.

One of the most important documents of the Second Vatican Council was *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy. This document was approved by the assembled bishops by a vote of 2,147 to 4. Pope Paul VI promulgated it on 4 December 1963.

In the following year at the seminary we were following the norms of this document and celebrating the same Eucharist in a new way. One of the key strands of this document was the phrase we find in paragraphs 14. It spoke about "a full, conscious and active participation of the laity."

Paragraph 48 tells us what this participation is not as well as what it is: *"And so the church devotes careful efforts to prevent Christian believers from attending this mystery of faith as though they were outsiders or silent onlookers: rather, having a good understanding of this mystery, through the ritual and the prayers, they should share in the worshipping event, aware of what is happening and devoutly involved. They should be formed by God's word, and refreshed at the table of the Lord's body; they should give thanks to God; they should learn to offer themselves as they offer the immaculate victim - not just through the hands of the priest, but also they themselves making the offering together with him; and, as each day goes by, they should be led towards their final goal of unity with God and among themselves through the mediation of Christ, so that finally God may be all in all."*

The reason I am writing about this today, as we begin the reading of the Gospel of John Chapter 6, is that there has been quite a lot of adverse reaction on YouTube and Twitter to the Holy Father's motu proprio, "*Traditionis custodes*", issued on Friday 16th July 2021 and effective immediately. It concerns changes in the celebration of Holy Mass in the 'Extraordinary Form,' as it had been referred to in Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI's own 2007 motu proprio, *Summorum Pontificum*. It is important to read not only the motu proprio but also the accompanying letter to Bishops.

What I find sad is that there are Catholics who don't accept the present Rite of Mass because they think it is not as beautiful or full of mystery as the Tridentine Rite of my childhood. Therefore they seem to reject all that the Document of the Liturgy is trying to achieve.

Hopefully in the next few weeks we will allow John Chapter 6 to lead us to a deeper understanding of the Eucharist and be encouraged to make sure that the way we celebrate Mass at St Thomas of Canterbury is reverent and dignified.

'Grief in Loss, Hope in the Lord' retreat for those who have lost a loved one through death. A time to mourn and share with others. Aylesford Priory 8-10th October 2021. For more information, please contact the Retreat House 01622 717272 or email enquery@thefriars.org.uk

Christian Aid sponsored Walk Tuesday 27 July 2010. Elham Valley Way.. See details on the notice board

Diocesan Annual Marriage Mass Sat October 9 2021 St George's Cathedral, Southwark at **noon**. Please contact Carole on mfkent@rcaos.org.uk if you are celebrating your 1, 10, 25, 40, 50 or 60 year wedding anniversary and would like to attend the annual marriage mass.

Harvest Festival -26th September, The Social Committee are arranging a display in the church and items collected will be donated to Catching Lives. Hopefully some activities will take place in the hall; more details to follow.

The Archbishop's Certificate (ArchCert) is an online course for all in Southwark who wish to know their Catholic faith more deeply. Participants will take a two-year journey through the Church's teaching to understand their faith in a more profound way and be able to share it with both confidence and joy.

The course will commence in October 2021 and the cost will be £365 per year. Registration must be completed in advance. Further details can be found here: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/archcert>

There are a group of Dominican Friars are walking from Ramsgate to Oxford as part of their 800 Jubilee celebrations. The friars arrived on these shores in 1221, when having set out from Bologna, they arrived in Kent and first stopped in Canterbury where Archbishop Stephen Langton invited the friars to preach. They then went via London to Oxford, where they made our first foundation in this country, playing a role in the development of the University in its early days. They are staying with us on Monday and will be singing Vespers on that evening 2nd August at the cathedral.