

WEEKLY NOTES

18 June 2006

CORPUS CHRISTI

At the 8 o'clock Eucharist we frequently use extracts from a lovely book by Dr Austin Farrer, entitled *The Crown of the Year*, a series of weekly paragraphs for the Holy Sacrament, which he delivered to his students at the 'early service' on Sundays at Trinity College, Oxford. Here are some passages particularly suitable for today:

'This is my body', said Christ at the supper, and it was so. He is well able to consecrate bread, for he speaks the word of God. The world itself only exists because God said that it should be, and it was so. Christ has consecrated bread, and it is consecrated; his consecration takes effect upon our altars. But why should he consecrate bread? Only that the consecration of the bread might extend, and embrace the company which partakes of the bread. 'This is my body', he declares, and it is his body. We receive it, and we are his body, signed, sealed, consecrated by the word which made the world.

This sacrament is not a special part of our religion; it is just our religion sacramentally enacted. It is whatever Christ is, and Christ is everything to the Christian. In particular, he is the supreme bond between us. Every one of you communicating is bound to his neighbour by this, that the same Christ who lives in one, lives in the other. You care for your fellow Christian as you would care for Christ; and that in you which *does* the caring is also Christ. Christ in each cares for Christ in all when we communicate together. The same bond unites us with the saints in paradise, who make up by far the greater part of Christ's people, and with our departed friends who may not yet be in paradise, but for whom we care, and for whom we pray.

Our prayers today. We pray for our church and parish, and in the worldwide Anglican Communion for the Episcopal Church in the U.S.A. In our diocesan prayer we pray on this particular Sunday for the Guildford Ward of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament (a society which promotes eucharistic devotion and spirituality; the Vicar is a Priest-Associate). In the parish we pray for those who (through infirmity) regularly receive the Blessed Sacrament at home, and in our systematic parish prayer we pray for those living in Cullerne Close.

SUNDAY SERVICES

0800 HOLY COMMUNION

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Eucharistic Prayer A page 184

Common Worship rite

Collect of the Day page 407

Proper Preface page 314

The Men's cake-making competition at the Village Fair. We are looking for some more entries, because so far we only have 11 as against 19 last year. This is a really good money-spinner, and over the years it has raised a very considerable sum through sponsorship, and it can be FUN. So please join in. If you would like to know more about the competition or to join in, please contact Joan Boulden as soon as possible.

Advance notice that we shall be having a **Michaelmas Market** on Saturday, 23 September. This will be instead of the equivalent pre-Christmas event, and will be held over the Harvest Festival weekend, the harvest having been brought back, for various reasons and probably permanently, from the usual first Sunday in October to the last Sunday in September. More about this in due course, but book the date now.

About the hymns. This is the appropriate day to use the fine set of Eucharistic hymns, which St Thomas Aquinas wrote for this festival. The 1100 service contains two: the famous hymn 268, the *Pange lingua*, consciously modelled on the ancient Passiontide hymn with the same opening words at 78, and also (as the anthem) the second part of the equally famous hymn 269, *Verbum supernum prodictum*, similarly echoing the ancient Advent office-hymn at No.2 in our book. The great Doctor of the Church is actually making by this device a theological point about how the sacrament encapsulates the full reality of the incarnation and of the passion of Christ. At 0930 we have some verses from St Thomas' powerful *Lauda Sion*, the Sequence for the day, though not in its proper slot because of its length, and also his very popular hymn *Adeoro te* (for the anthem) to its English familiar words from hymn 308. The 1100 has three other fine hymns, two Victorian and one medieval, probably from an English Cistercian milieu. At 0930 the Processional hymn is a nineteenth century hymn of fairly basic but clear Eucharistic theology; it has that fine French tune from Auxerre which we sing to 'the Bible Hymn' on Bible Sunday*. (The tune is available on a slip for anyone who can't remember it, obtainable on request at the book-trolley.) The Gradual hymn is part of an eighteenth century office-hymn. (Both these hymns have been 'worked-over' by the Vicar). There is also St Thomas' *O salutaris* again (269, part 2), a verse from 'Lord enthroned' as the Consecration Acclamation, and a splendid hymn at the end by a twentieth century Bishop of Truro to a tune by a distinguished Church of England musician, Michael Fleming, who died earlier this year. It is a matter of some importance that good doctrinal hymns are sung at the major festivals of the Church, since it is fair to say that most Church of England folk assimilate their theology from the hymns. That is why 'O come all ye faithful' is a far better Christmas hymn than (say) 'Ding-dong, merrily on high.' Today's hymns are full of good things, telling us of the Mystery of Faith which we proclaim in the Holy Eucharist, and of the nature of the Eucharistic gift. Do enjoy them.

* Although this is certainly not intentional, one might possibly see in this association a subtle allusion in the style of St Thomas: in this case the union of Word and Sacrament.

Next Sunday: The Second Sunday after Trinity, and the 'green' Sundays begin. Morning arrangements are as normal. Although Holy Baptism is scheduled for Evensong at 1630, there are unusually no takers on this occasion, but we shall stick to the same time of 1630 for Evening Prayer since it is printed as such on the various service-lists.

Sharing the love of Christ, the Light of the world, with the people of Ewell.

There is a separate leaflet for this service today, though as usual the Readings are on a separate paper. No other books are needed.

Setting of the Eucharist: *Britten, Missa Brevis* in D.

Preacher: *The Vicar.*

Anthem: These we adore, O hidden Saviour. *Holman*

Organ: From *'La Livre du Saint Sacrement.'* *Messiaen*

Last week we had some splendid organ music at the Eucharist by J S Bach. This week Jonathan Holmes will be playing two movements from the powerful series of Eucharistic meditations by Olivier Messiaen. One does not need much French to understand something of the spirituality upon which these pieces are based; the titles and captions are given below. The whole work is uniquely suited to this particular Sunday.

During the Communion:

XVI: Prière après la Communion.

'Mon parfum et ma douceur, ma paix et ma suavité ...'

St Bonaventure

At the end of the Eucharist:

XVIII: Offrande et Alleluia final.

'Je vous offre, Seigneur, tous les transports d'amour et de joie, les extases, les ravissements, les révélations, les visions célestes de tous les âmes saintes ...'

Thomas à Kempis, 'The Imitation of Christ' Book 4: 17.

Welcome to any visitors or newcomers to St Mary's today.
Please make yourselves known, and join us for coffee in the church hall across the road between the 0930 and 1100 services.

Setting of the Eucharist: *White in E, flat, and Merbecke.*

Sermon by *the Vicar*

Introit hymn: 292

Then green Prayer Book: page 31

Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy): page 33

Greeting and the Collect of the Day

(There is a separate leaflet for the Collect and Readings)

The Epistle: A reading from St Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

Gradual hymn: 276 [Second tune]

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St John.

Nicene Creed: page 34.

Offertory Hymn 268 *part 1* (Collection

[Tune 202]

After the hymn, all kneel for the Prayer for the Church (page 36), the

Prayers of Penitence, etc., and for the Prayer of Consecration

Hymn at the Consecration: 268 *part 2*. [Tune 202]

During the Communion: O Lamb of God (page 44)

After Communion:

The Lord's Prayer and the Prayer of Thanksgiving: page 44

Then all stand for Gloria in excelsis

The Blessing

1800 Evening Prayer

In church this week

Monday 1530 **Funeral of Patricia Barber**

Tuesday 1000 **Holy Communion**

Friday 1300 **Funeral of Sandra Green**

Other events and notices

Monday 2000 Meeting of the Finance Group.

Wednesday 1030-1200 Coffee Morning in the Church Hall, and a time for fellowship, friendship and fine blend.

2000 Final planning meeting for the Village Fair. Anyone who would like to help in any way is welcome to attend.

Thursday 0930 The coach leaves from the lych-gate for the Coffee Morning outing to Eastbourne.

The pre-Fair Welcome Area. Normally at this time of year the Welcome Area starts to resemble Petticoat Lane, Muldoon's Picnic or Paddy's Bazaar. It can't be helped, since there is nowhere else to put things. However, there are screens in position, so that it is not too unsightly. *Please do not move the chairs*, which are there for demarcation purposes; they will enable any visitors to see our important late medieval brasses (they are not often specifically visited, but they must be accessible), and also they enable the Vicar to get to the cupboard in the corner, which contains various service papers.

The Printed-out text of the Sung Eucharist. This is the second time for doing this with a Sunday morning service. We did so on Whitsunday, and it made things much easier. Today it is different, since the rather short readings are included as well. With various texts now stored electronically it is possible to produce services of this sort fairly easily. Since they generally incorporate material from several sources, which would otherwise need to be available in book form, this clearly makes life simpler on a Sunday morning. Whether we get as far as doing this on a regular basis remains to be seen, but it will certainly be much easier today, just like it was at Pentecost.

The Organ Voluntaries at 0930. Some may remember that I said the week before last that Messiaen was like whisky -- an acquired taste. There is some more today, as noted above. However, he did not write much for ordinary Sundays of the year, so it will probably be a little while before his distinctive sounds are heard again. Today's excerpts from *La Livre du Saint Sacrement* are from Messiaen's last great organ work, and our great instrument here has the capacity to produce much -- though not all -- of the tonal qualities which the composer intended. I understand that only the organ at Passau Cathedral is actually capable of producing exactly what the composer required. W R H