

LOCKDOWN DAY 77 – 11 JUNE 2020

CORPUS CHRISTI: COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY COMMUNION

Molweni to the Body of Christ in False Bay and our dear friends,

Scripture: John 6:51-58

Hymn: *Dear Lord, to you again our gifts we bring*

Corpus Christi is a major feast of our church, when we would usually come together in our numbers in combined Archdeaconry services and lay on extra Parish Eucharists. Where we may have missed these in the past, I am sure that we will make every effort to attend next year. Despite the health scare of Covid 19 that presently prevents us from physically worshipping together in church, we have not been kept from worshipping God through online services. Our houses have been turned into worshipping spaces. Lockdown does not mean spiritual isolation. Please also visit our website for worship resources and feel free to send any that you would want to share, to our Diocesan Administrator.

Reports of flooding have come in from Helderberg, Blue Downs and Mountain Bay Archdeaconries. Please contact the relevant Archdeacons or our Social Development Department via email, if you can offer any help. One of the gifts of Corpus Christi is to give communion to others by being light in their darkness, hope in their despair and strength in their weakness. God will give us a vision of what our witness and worship can do beyond our wildest dreams.

Jesus' teaching on *the bread of life* reaches its conclusion and climax in today's reading. To the expressions *bread from heaven, bread of God and bread of life*, Jesus now adds the claim, *I am the living bread*. He begins to speak about eating this bread, and explains, *this bread is my flesh*. Jesus also teaches that his flesh, that is *his life, will be given for the life of the world*. These words foreshadow the new meaning Jesus gave to the Passover in the sharing of bread and wine in the Christian community: *do this in remembrance of me* (Luke 22:19 and 1 Cor 11:24)

We have often heard these words '*do this in remembrance of me*'. What do they mean to us during these days of lockdown when we receive Spiritual Communion? I invite you to reflect and discern what these words mean to you today? They require a pastoral and responsible response from us. How do we present the best face of Jesus to the world? We are asked to enlarge our hearts to be more inclusive. The key to our spiritual life is discernment. What is God asking and empowering us to do as junior partners of God? Do not be afraid. God's grace is sufficient.

Jesus became the **broken bread**. What does this mean in our reality today, with so much violence in our communities, country and world? Are we also connected with Jesus **on the night that he was betrayed**? He was betrayed by one of his inclusive, core group. Yet Jesus did not and we must not lose sight of the dignity of all people.

We are invited today to suffer **with** Christ who suffered **for** us. We pray for the **grace** to suffer **with** him as we bring into our hearts and minds how people are suffering. How is God speaking to you and what desire is being placed in your heart? What new perspective and learning are we making about being grafted into the Body of Christ? We are invited to go in peace to love and serve the world. *Phumani ngoxolo niyithande niyikhonze iNkosi. Gaan in vrede om die Here lief te hê en te dien.*

Happy Corpus Christi celebrations everyone. God willing, I will share some more thoughts tomorrow.

Instead of **reaching out** to someone today, I invite you to bake a loaf of bread or bread rolls. Maybe you can share a recipe in your family, in your Archdeaconry, in your organisation and share the results. As we **bake bread together**, let us **feed the hungry together**.

We continue **to pray** for those who are infected with the Coronavirus. May they have the certainty that God's presence penetrates barriers of fear, hopelessness and vulnerability. We remember their families, friends, clergy, colleagues who long for their healing. We continue to pray for peace and justice, especially remembering the brutal killing of Tesego Pule. We pray for all who have been negatively affected by the rains. Pray the hymn suggested today. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

I am, Because We are, Because God is.....Opening hearts to heal God's world. *Dear Lord, to you again our gifts we bring.*