



## Holy Trinity Catholic Church

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Holy Trinity is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

**Sunday 4 August 2024 – Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Readings: Year B**

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### Dear Parishioners

We continue on our journey through the Sixth chapter of St John's Gospel, and after last week's miraculous feeding of the Five thousand, another food story this week...but of a vastly different variety! The crowds following Jesus are as fond of their food as we all are but He is trying again to refocus their sight, to elevate their understanding of what is the ultimate satisfaction in their lives. Is it the things that give temporary pleasure, like food and drink, good as they are...or could there be something more lasting? He tells them: "Do not work for food that cannot last, but work for food that endures to eternal life." The people are puzzled This wonder-worker from Nazareth should be listened to...after all, look at what he did with the loaves and fishes. But what does he mean exactly? "the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

Now he is really speaking in riddles. Moses gave the people of Israel miraculous food...manna. This shows that God will always protect His chosen People, doesn't it? "Sir...give us that bread always." No doubt the crowds were awaiting something astonishing. And they got it, but not quite in the way they were expecting. "I am the Bread of Life. He who comes to me will never hunger; he who believes in me will never thirst." Outrageous. Scandalous. Blasphemous. This is the first of the seven "I am" sayings in St John's Gospel which all the people listening would have recognised as the essential and fundamental self-description of God, Yahweh the Almighty, unknowable Creator of the Universe. And the wonder-worker was claiming it for himself. He has gone too far.

Do we think like the crowd? Are we hungry for Jesus Christ, only Son of God, personal and cosmic Saviour, or are we confused/ shocked/embarrassed by His self-description as The Bread of Life? Every day He presents Himself on our altars as that Bread of Life in the Eucharist when the offering is first made: "Blessed are You, Lord, God of all Creation. For through Your goodness we have received the Bread we offer You. Fruit of the Earth and work of human hands. It will become for us the Bread of Life." And we say together " Blessed be God forever." "Lord Jesus, create in us a hunger for You as the Bread of Life, so that loving the things of this world, we may love You even more, who lives and reigns for ever and ever."

**God bless everyone and please keep praying for the sick and struggling.      Father Clive**

## Parish Notices

**Next week: Masses** 09:15 Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Holy Rosary for Peace Friday 9.15 am

**Tuesday is The Transfiguration, one of the major feasts in the calendar...** Father Clive urges us to 'come to Mass and enjoy the stillness of mid-week worship!' Also coffee afterwards...we are trying to think of a name for the Tuesday morning post Mass coffee club! **All suggestions welcome.**

**Activities such as Catechism/Children's Liturgy etc are on hold through August** with so many people away, coming and going. A huge thank you to all Father Clive's helpers. We will start up in September once we are all back on board.

**In August we pray with Pope Francis for Political Leaders: We pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and the common good, especially caring for the poor and those who have lost their jobs.**

**Please continue to pray for our sick, housebound and frail parishioners of both our Parishes.**

**Please also pray for all who can no longer be with us at the Lord's Table:** Lynette, Gerard, Paula, Serita, Catherine, Richard, Tom, Mary, Carol, Betty, Audrey and Peggy.

**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, Morocco, Ukraine, Turkey and Syria.

**The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies and procedures at all times.** Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is **Tammy Lawson**. Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concerns.