



## 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. ■

### 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.

### 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. ■

**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**

Glory to 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.

1. 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.)

2. 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.)
3. 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.

# ***Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon*** ***1 Radley Rd, Abingdon on Thames, Oxon, OX14 3PL***

We are a **LiveSimply** parish aiming to live Simply, Sustainably and in Solidarity with the Poor

Parish Priest: Fr. Jamie McGrath Tel: 01235 520375  
Parish Secretary: Lisa Paterson Tel: 01235 520375  
Office Hours: 10.30am-12.30pm Tuesday to Friday  
Office Email: abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

*We live stream all services*

Safeguarding Team: Tel. 07572 935 230  
Visits at JR Hospital: Priest/Chaplain 01865 221732  
Visits and Help: Society of Vincent de Paul Group, contact via Parish Office  
Parish Website: [www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk](http://www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk)  
Primary School: St. Edmund's School, Radley Road, Abingdon, OX14 3PP Tel 521558



Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No 246871

[www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Confessions: Saturdays 11.00 – 11.30am or by appointment**

## **PARISH OFFICE**

Please see the current opening hours above, and note that the parish office will be closed from Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> August.

## **MASSES:**

Please note that the government strongly recommends that face masks/coverings continue to be worn in indoor public spaces.

**From Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July, the 8.45am Mass on Sundays will resume.**

## **NEWSLETTERS**

Items for the newsletter should be sent to the parish office by the Wednesday of each week please. Due to the office closure dates (see above), if you have anything which you would like to be included in the newsletters for that period, please ensure that you send it to the parish office (email address above) **by Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July.**

## **CONFESSIONS**

Confessions resume on Saturdays between 11am and 11.30am in the Church, or by appointment.

## **PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS**

This week we pray for a greater appreciation of the richness of every vocation to love Christ and that more men and women will respond to His invitation to follow Him as priests, deacons and consecrated religious.

## **BABY & TODDLER GROUP**

We are hoping to restart our St Edmund's *Baby and Toddler Group* on Friday mornings in the parish centre in September and we are in desperate need of volunteers. We especially need help setting up before the sessions start at 9.30am. It would not be every Friday as it is in term time only. Please contact Karen on 01235 555167 or email [kazy@sky.com](mailto:kazy@sky.com) if you can help or would like to know more.

## **17<sup>th</sup> Week of Ordinary Time (Year B)**

### **Sunday 25 July**

8.45am Mass (Celia Smith, Intentions)  
10.15am Mass (Iris & Richard Camello, intentions)  
2.00pm Mass in Polish  
6.30pm Mass (William Holmes, RIP)

### **Monday 26 July**

### **Saints Joachim & Anne**

8.30am Rosary  
9am Mass (Jeremiah & Edith Collins, RIP)

### **Tuesday 27 July**

NO Mass See: [www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse](http://www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse) for other Masses

### **Wednesday 28 July**

6.30pm Rosary  
12pm Funeral (Paddy McKenna)  
7pm Mass (Derota, special intentions)

### **Thursday 29 July**

### **St Martha**

9.00am Rosary  
9.30am Mass (Pam Pennington, RIP)

### **Friday 30 July**

6.30pm Rosary  
7pm Mass (Edward Logan, RIP)

### **Saturday 31 July**

### **St Ignatius of Loyola**

11am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
11-11.30am Confessions  
12pm Mass (Frank Murray, RIP)

## **NEW TO THE PARISH?**

We warmly welcome all new parishioners who have joined our parish in the last year. Please do make yourselves known if you have not already done so, and also let us know if you would like to contribute to parish life in any way. You can use the form on our website to register:

[www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/register](http://www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/register)

## WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS

Pope Francis has established a **World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly** on **Sunday 25th July**.

You may have also read the prayer for Grandparents written by Pope Benedict (see below). Both of these innovations resulted from pleas from The *Catholic Grandparents Association* which, despite being formed as recently as 2009, has had an influence in the hierarchy of the Church. It states that its objective is "To provide advice and information to help Grandparents pass on the faith." Regular meetings provide an opportunity for members to socialise and share experiences. The existence of the association was unknown to many but now there has been some interest in the formation of a Parish branch of the *Catholic Grandparents Association*. To register an interest please send your contact details to [delanypeter@btinternet.com](mailto:delanypeter@btinternet.com) or by leaving them at the Parish Office.



### PRAYER FOR GRANDPARENTS

Lord Jesus,  
you were born of the Virgin Mary,  
the daughter of Saints Joachim and Anne.  
Look with love on grandparents the world over.  
Protect them! They are a source of enrichment  
for families, for the Church and for all of society.  
Support them! As they grow older,  
may they continue to be for their families  
strong pillars of Gospel faith,  
guardians of noble domestic ideals,  
living treasuries of sound religious traditions.  
Make them teachers of wisdom and courage,  
that they may pass on to future generations the fruits  
of their mature human and spiritual experience.

Lord Jesus,  
help families and society  
to value the presence and role of grandparents.  
May they never be ignored or excluded,  
but always encounter respect and love.  
Help them to live serenely and to feel welcomed  
in all the years of life which you give them.  
Mary, Mother of all the living,  
keep grandparents constantly in your care,  
accompany them on their earthly pilgrimage,  
and by your prayers, grant that all families  
may one day be reunited in our heavenly homeland,  
where you await all humanity  
for the great embrace of life without end. Amen!

Benedictus 11<sup>th</sup> in

## CHURCH CLEANERS

As we resume normal functioning, we would like to restart a rota for cleaning the church. If you would like to volunteer, please could you give your name and contact details to the **parish office** as soon as possible ([abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)). You will most likely only be needed on a fortnightly basis and it would be helpful if you could let us know your preferred day(s) when you would be able to clean.

## CHURCH GROUPS

Our parish website is currently being updated. Please could you have a look at all the entries in the *Groups* section, especially if you are a representative for any of the groups, and let us know of any necessary changes **as soon as possible**. If you are part of a group which is missing, or you would like to start a group, please could you also get in touch and let us know. Please use the email: [contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk](mailto:contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk). Thank you.

## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Our **Parish Day**, which had to be postponed, is now planned for **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September**. This will be a wonderful opportunity to welcome and meet new parishioners and to re-establish contact with existing ones after this long pandemic period. We pray that plans for this day will be fruitful. More information will be given nearer the time.

## VACANCIES

- **Our Lady's Abingdon School** seeks a permanent, part-time (approx. 0.5) **Teacher of Religious Studies** for September 2021. The successful candidate will have experience teaching the subject to GCSE level, and ideally beyond. There may also be the opportunity of increased hours with chaplaincy work.
- Our Lady's Abingdon has two part-time vacancies for **Minibus Drivers/Site Managers**. We are looking for reliable, enthusiastic and proactive individuals to work either 6.30am to 12.30pm, or 12.00 noon to 6.00pm in this job-share role.
- **Our Lady's Abingdon School** seeks a committed and proactive **nursing professional** for September in this term-time only role. The nurse's key responsibility is to provide a clinically effective, high-quality service of nursing care to pupils alongside first aid care to all members of the school community. The post holder will also be responsible for the strategic development of school nursing provision in line with recommended best practice guidelines from the RCN.

For further details and application pack please visit the School website: [www.olab.org.uk/about-us/job-vacancies/](http://www.olab.org.uk/about-us/job-vacancies/)

Closing date for applications: **Monday 26 July 2021**.

## WE PRAY FOR

The repose of the soul of Paddy McKenna