

Parish News

Spiritual Communion: A Message from Bishop Brian

[An] icon hangs on the wall of my Oratory, behind the altar and near the Tabernacle. The Icon is of St John Vianney, Patron Saint of priests who work in parishes. Every morning I stand before it and pray for the priests of our diocese.

St John Vianney was an exemplary shepherd. He won so many souls to God that the devil directly confronted him.....and lost. St John emphasised the importance of the Sacraments but also recognised that people cannot always receive them. Therefore, St John encouraged spiritual communion: "If we are deprived of Sacramental Communion, let us replace it, as far as we can, by spiritual communion, which we can make every moment; for we ought to have always a burning desire to receive the good God." To make a spiritual communion you simply express your love and need of Jesus and invite him into your soul. It is certainly painful for us not to be able to pray before the Blessed Sacrament just now, but St John's wisdom guides us: "When we cannot go to the church, let us turn towards the tabernacle; no wall cannot separate us from the good God."

Other saints who encouraged spiritual communion include St Thomas Aquinas, St Teresa of Avila, St Alphonsus Liguori, St Jose Maria Escriva and St Padre Pio.

We have been using the prayer of St Alphonsus during our daily live streamed masses at 10am.

Prayer of St Alphonsus Liguori

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar.

I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul

so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever.

Amen.

Covid 19

During these dark and difficult days please remember that I offer Mass for you each and every day.

Collection

Taynuilt – we raised £15.00 from Direct Debits

Ballachulish – we raised £50.00 from Direct Debits

Many thanks to you.

To all of you who will be struggling financially at this time, you can see that our parish is with you.

The Visitation, Taynuilt and St Dun's, Ballachulish & The Good Shepherd, Kinlochleven

29th March 2020 – 5th Sunday of Lent (A)

No Public Masses this week

Monday	5 th Week of Lent
Tuesday	5 th Week of Lent
Wednesday	5 th Week of Lent
Thursday	5 th Week of Lent Optional Memorial of St Francis of Paola
Friday	5 th Week of Lent
Saturday	5 th Week of Lent Optional Memorial of St Isadore of Seville
Sunday	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Confession

Is available at the Chapel House

Divine Office – Vol 2. Week 1 with proper of the season

Weekday readings: 5th Week of Lent

Please remember the sick of the parish in your prayers.

We remember all the faithful departed in our prayers. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace.



Jesus and Lazarus: This journey into the land of the dead shows Jesus more alive than ever, as the Living One and Giver of Life for those he loves. We must understand. He has the power to roll back the tombstones of the dead, even his own tombstone. His resurrection is his very person, radiating life. Now we can become witnesses to Life itself for those around us.

Love and Death

The Gospel for Sunday declares that “Jesus loved Martha and Mary her sister and their brother Lazarus,” who lived in Bethany.

This is a golden statement. It tells us so much about Jesus and his personal friendships. But it also emphasizes how very odd it was that, while Lazarus was sick unto death, Jesus camped out a fairly short distance from Bethany and would not go to heal his friend. Messages arrived calling for him. It was an easy journey, but no. His reason? “This illness is not going to end in death,” he says.

What?

The illness of Lazarus did lead directly to his death!

After the death had happened, Jesus did go down to Bethany. But by that time Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days! Martha ran out to Jesus and quickly sent back for Mary, who was so grieved she could not leave home. We are told that when they see Jesus each sister cried out, “If you had been here, my brother would not have died!” Mary was crying.

Jesus saw her tears and those of the friends who had gathered, and we behold a touching revelation of Jesus’ love for them. The famous words are unlike any others in the Gospels:

“And Jesus wept.”

Jesus’ tears sharpen their question: “You love us and you loved him; why did you not come and cure him while he was still alive?” I think many of us ask God that question when a loved one dies. Jesus asked it from the cross: “God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Pretend that you yourself are asking that question directly to Jesus right now. Listen to whatever answer comes. Take your time. If what you hear is fruitful, please stay with it.

For my part, I hear Jesus saying approximately the following:

Friend, I know that life, death, and love are hard for you to comprehend. I am revealing to you what they mean in the flesh, but of course even my example can be confusing.

So listen.

Not only life but even sorrow and even death are given by God’s gentle love. All three are like flowers pushing up from the earth. The ground from which they grow is God’s kind love. Human love gets its life from God’s love. Even life itself gets its being from God’s love. Even death gets its life from God’s love.

At this point you and I, startled, interrupt and say, but how can death beget life? Death is the very end of life. What are you talking about?

Jesus replies that there are many beautiful “plants and trees” that come forth from God’s love. Life is one of them, he says. But, look, death is one too, and suffering.

Let me show you, he says.

He calls out in a loud voice, calls unto God-love where Lazarus’ soul is buried. From God’s womb of love, Lazarus’s death wakes unto life. Out of the tomb he walks. Jesus sums it up:

You always think of love as something you can have because you are alive. But the opposite is true. Life is something you can have because you are rooted in love. Death does not erase love, it brings you more deeply back to it, to the place you came from—love’s rich loam.

Pray about it, Jesus says, because that is the reason I delayed going to Bethany.

John Foley, SJ

https://liturgy.slu.edu/5Lent032920/relections_foley.html