

Dear Friend

Yesterday we celebrated our Golden Jubilee with Bishop Nick Baines, who used to be the Bishop of Croydon before moving north to Yorkshire, where he is now the Bishop of Leeds. Bishop Nick preached an excellent sermon about the need to remember our roots, and although time moves on and circumstances change, our vocation as the people of God remains the same.

On Thursday this week the Church celebrates Corpus Christi - the Day of Thanksgiving for the Institution of Holy Communion. At the heart of the Eucharist - which of course means 'thanksgiving' - are the words "Do this in remembrance of me". It is in this act of remembering and the ritual of reenactment that we become reconnected with our roots and the God who calls us to show the world who he is - his nature and purpose as Love.

So in one real sense every week we are giving thanks for our Communion with God and with each other through the mystery of bread and wine becoming the body and blood of Christ. Through our words and actions God forms us into a community of faith and hope and love, who are sent out into the world to continue the mission of God in bringing that faith, hope and love into every situation we encounter.

I hope that now we are moving out of the pandemic which has caused such disruption, pain and suffering to all our lives, that we can regain our confidence in returning to worship together. Our weekly sharing in the Eucharist is a vital part of our discipleship, which cannot be replaced by watching online. Although we will continue to offer our services online via our website and [YouTube Channel](#) - I hope there will come a time when all those who are physically able to attend church will feel safe to do so once again.

Although St Matthew's is soon to embark on a period of interregnum, may you be confident in the future that the Lord has planned for the church, and keep supporting those who will be seeing the church through what will inevitably be a time of uncertainty. Our God is the one and only certainty amidst the changes and chances of this world, and he promises to be with us always, and is especially present when we break bread together.

May his peace guard and keep you through this coming week.

An amusing thought:

Dear God, so far today, I've done all right.
I haven't gossiped, and I haven't lost my temper.
I haven't been grumpy, nasty or selfish, and I'm really glad of that!
But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on, I'm probably going to need a lot of help. Thank you! Amen.

With much love and prayers

Simon