

CONVERSATIONS

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1. As the years go by, have your understanding and practices during Lent changed? Do you see this time as a preparation for the events of Holy Week and Easter or does it have a life of its own?
2. How important is forgiveness to you – as a receiver of forgiveness and as a giver or agent of forgiveness ?
3. On Good Friday we have the opportunity in church to venerate the Cross. It's easy to do and lasts just a moment. I wonder if we prepare thoughtfully enough about doing this? Should we take time also afterwards to dwell on the significance of Jesus' death and what we mean by our kissing the Cross?
4. The Resurrection was traumatic for the apostles and many of Jesus' contemporaries. Would you consider spending some time thinking about, what impact it has/doesn't have on you? Begin with a simple prayer and silence perhaps.
5. Spring is a joy – new growth in the trees and the garden, birds nesting etc. Can you rejoice in the annual change of seasons and see in the cycle of dying and rising again something of the pattern of our faith?
6. What are the 3 things you like best about churches, about young people and about yourself? And what are the 3 things you like least about each of the above?
7. Easter is so important in the Church's calendar that we have a 50 day celebration called Eastertide – it lasts until Pentecost. What do you want to do in that time?

Thank you.

HOLY COMMUNION

As you know, the COVID pandemic caused us to halt our being able to receive Communion from the chalice – the Precious Blood of Jesus.

Our bishops have authorized us to re-commence being able to receive Communion from the chalice beginning this Thursday's Mass. Jesus gave himself to us in bread and wine at his Last Supper. We celebrate that at Thursday's Mass of the Lord's (Last) Supper.

To receive only the Host or to receive both the Host and the Precious Blood is to receive the Lord completely. We can choose. No one is under pressure either way. Jesus invited us to 'take and eat', 'take and drink'. Over the years Church practice has had different ways of how we offer Holy Communion – on the tongue, in the hand, and/or receiving also from the chalice. We each decide.

Some parishioners are cautious about receiving Communion from the chalice at this time. We all respect that.

From this Thursday at Communion time there will be a Eucharistic Minister administering the chalice to those wishing to receive Communion under both kinds.

Initially, as we feel our way forward in reinstating this option, only a small amount of wine will be put in the chalice at the offertory so as to avoid a considerable amount of the Precious Blood having to be consumed at the end of Communion time. If a Eucharistic Minister wishes not to purify the chalice, it is to be left and I will do so.

Some have raised the possibility of intinction – the practice of dipping the Host you have received into the chalice and then consuming the Host. It is certainly permitted. Personally I find it an unappealing compromise, but please, you decide.

At all times we must receive Holy Communion in a dignified manner. It's an amazing privilege. We'll proceed gently and monitor how our renewed practice progresses. Thank you everyone.

Fr Dennis 31/03/2023