

Weekly Message from Fr William for Nineteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time 2022

Dear People of St Mary's

I've just returned from four nights away. I look forward to seeing you on Sunday and celebrating Mass with you.

And let's have Eucharistic adoration again after all three masses this Sunday. This was a request that came my way after we introduced it on Corpus Christi this year to have it again from time to time, maybe even once a month. The host we're now using in adoration is a host consecrated in that same mass. This serves to highlight the way in which this devotion that we call Eucharistic adoration springs from the liturgical action of the Eucharist itself.

We've re-introduced this devotion in the parish just at the time when the latest letter from Pope Francis, published in June this year, is about the liturgy and our celebration of the liturgy (see last Sunday's weekly message). This side-by-side timing, coincidental, helps make the important distinction between these two elements of Christian spirituality, 'liturgy' and 'devotions', but also how they complement each other. Liturgy – instituted by Christ; Eucharistic adoration – one of the devotions, and probably the most treasured, introduced down the Christian centuries as an expression of love from his people. Liturgy – the action of Christ, his self-offering to the Father, and our participation in that action. Eucharistic adoration – highlighting one key element of this sacrament, the real presence of Christ in the consecrated host. Liturgy – the dynamic presence of Christ in his 'going to the Father' (eg John 16:28). Eucharistic adoration – the still presence of Christ among his adoring people.

So please feel free to stay behind after mass for adoration if you'd like to. There'll be some suitable background music as usual.

The church hall has been resurfaced over the last week or so, which is why we couldn't have refreshments in the hall last Sunday. The resurfacing is now finished, so other things being equal we can have refreshments again in the hall this Sunday, and I think you'll be pleased with the final result. This is part of a larger programme of improvements on the Old School now underway.

God bless you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William". The script is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a large initial 'W'.