

Tridentine Community News

June 17, 2018 – Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Corpus Christi Maiden Lane

The hymn *Sweet Sacrament Divine* is a staple in our repertoire, used often on Feast Days thematically related to the Blessed Sacrament. It was written by Fr. Francis Stanfield, who was pastor in the 1880s of London, England's Corpus Christi Parish. This small but ornate church is located on Maiden Lane in the Covent Garden theatre district. Msgr. Ronald Knox was a regular visitor, preaching for decades at their 40 Hours Devotions.

In recent times Corpus Christi Church has been an important site for Catholics devoted to the Traditional Mass. It is one of the few locations in the world where the Tridentine Mass has been offered consistently for decades. In the wake of the Agatha Christi Indult in 1971, the Latin Mass Society of England and Wales, whose office is also in Covent Garden, began to organize weekly Monday evening High Masses at Corpus Christi. Those Masses continue to this day.

Following a multi-year restoration project, in which the sanctuary was restored, a new Communion Rail installed, and gold leaf applied throughout, Westminster Archbishop Vincent Cardinal Nichols raised Corpus Christi Parish to the status of a Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament. On Sunday, June 3rd, His Eminence led a procession with the Blessed Sacrament from Corpus Christi through the streets of Covent Garden, yet another example of the exuberant display of Catholicism which one often sees in London. [Photos by John Aron from Corpus Christi Church's Facebook page]



A few days earlier, on Thursday, May 31, a Pontifical Mass in the Extraordinary Form was celebrated there for the Feast of Corpus Christi by Abbot Hugh Allan, O.Praem. [Photo at top of next column].

On a personal note, Corpus Christi was the locus of a particularly terrifying memory: this writer was invited to sing in the choir there several years ago. Expecting to sing psalm tone Propers, at the last minute the choir decided to sing the full Liber version instead, a moment of true panic for someone not accustomed to the challenge of singing those complicated notes on the fly.



An upgraded web site invites the faithful to make a pilgrimage to this place of devotion to the Real Presence, certainly a worthy stop among many other Catholic landmarks in London. See: <https://corpuschristimaidenlane.org.uk>.

Tridentine Mass at the Pantheon in Rome

One of the oldest buildings in Rome is the Pantheon. Dating to the second century A.D. and originally built as a temple to the Roman gods, since the seventh century it has functioned as a Catholic church. A main tourist stop, liturgically the Pantheon is known for the ceremony of rose petals dropped from the opening at the top of the dome each year on the Feast of Pentecost. From time to time the Pantheon hosts Masses in the Extraordinary Form. One such Mass was held in January of this year.



The complete set of photos may be seen at: <https://tridentini.com/2018/01/29/mass-at-the-pantheon-photos/>

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Tue. 06/19 7:00 PM: Low Mass at *Holy Name of Mary, Windsor* (St. Juliana of Falconieri, Virgin)
Sat. 06/23 8:30 AM: Low Mass at *Miles Christi* (Vigil of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist)