



# St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mr J Clinton

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St. Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary School, 841 Shirley Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 9JJ

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome back from a much-needed half term break, to what promises to be an exciting final seven weeks of the school year. Both our residential last half-term were a great success: the children at Boreatton had a great time, and the children in Paris enjoyed wonderful weather and we enjoyed outstanding behaviour from them! The pictures from both on our Twitter feed looked amazing!

This is a busy half term, starting in the right way, with our Corpus Christi procession on Sunday. This is a new tradition and will hopefully continue to take place each year. The idea is simple: we will parade with the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance from church after 10am Sunday Mass to school, and enjoy a picnic in our grounds afterwards. There is a bouncy castle booked and we have face-painting too! Children from Year Three are invited to wear their First Communion outfits, (as indeed is anyone else, should they wish) and Father Paul has promised good weather. Please, come along and support the school and parish. Processions such as these are popular on the continent and I see no reason why we should not follow their lead.

### **Golden Book**

**Reception:** Mila Caruana for showing such determination and producing wonderful work in Literacy this week. Mila has enjoyed using the puppets to retell the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears with her peers and has been encouraging the children to share the props. She has

written an apology letter to the three bears from Goldilocks, using her phonic knowledge and showing such independence when segmenting longer words. Keep up the hard work, Mila!

**Year One:** Ethan Hughes has been a star this week. He is loving our new book 'No-Bot' in Literacy and from this he has produced some fabulous independent sentences and has been keen to share his ideas with the rest of the class. He is also working hard in Phonics to recognise digraphs and trigraphs in words. Super work this week, Ethan!

**Year Two:** Oliver Grange for completing several excellent pieces of writing this week based on our book 'The Day The Crayons Quit' by Drew Daywalt. He has used a range of punctuation, sentence tricks and thought really carefully about the vocabulary chosen. As well as this, Oliver always has his hand up in class ready to contribute his ideas. Well done and keep up the great work, Oliver!

**Year Three:** Charlie Copestick for being a good friend to others and being a great example to all on the playground. He is showing a good understanding of angles in Maths and is working really hard to improve his spellings. Keep up the hard work, Charlie.

**Year Four:** Henry Slattery for his kindness this week, as he had completed his work, he offered to assist a classmate when they were confused by a topic and explained the task patiently and clearly so they were able to catch up. He has made an excellent start to his poem based on Maya Angelou's 'Still I Rise' and also joint planned a lovely Liturgy about how John the Baptist felt about his role in Jesus' baptism. Well done, Henry!

With **St. Ambrose Barlow** as our guide and **Jesus** at our side,  
we are all **learning to live, love and work together.**

**Year Five:** Macy Melland for her outstanding attitude to work. She is always exemplary with her dedication to learning and her behaviour in the classroom and wider school community is a model example. She works really hard and demonstrates this through the edits she makes to her work through checking it after completion. She has been an excellent member of our Year Five classroom. Keep up the good work, Macy.

**Year Six:** Ayaz Unal for being logical, methodical and systematic in all that he does. His Maths work is always excellent and this week he was able to apply his skills when looking at the Mayan number system in History – some great cross-curricular links!

#### **And from the week before we broke up ...**

**Reception:** Tianna Lawton for trying her best in her independent work. She has practiced her handwriting and made a conscious effort to use finger spaces and full stops in her work. Tianna has also impressed us this week with her expression when reading in our reading practice sessions. Well done, Tianna!

**Year One:** Lawson Wilkins has worked hard this week in all his subjects. He has worked on using his phonics to read and spell words and has used some fabulous prosody in his Reading Practice sessions. Lawson has also been a very kind friend and has worked well in our P.E. lessons working well in a team. Keep it up, Lawson!

**Year Two:** Alex Currington for having a fantastic week and trying especially hard to produce some excellent pieces of writing around our text *'The Owl Who Was Afraid Of The Dark'*. He always uses lovely manners, saying please, thank you and checking if people are okay - making him a great role model for his classmates.

**Year Three:** Jonathan Qiu for really impressing Mrs Healy throughout the week, working extremely hard, giving

maximum effort in all lessons and being an excellent role model to others.

**Year Four:** Tyler Richards who has put extra effort into his presentation this week ensuring that all of his work reflects the thought and effort he applies to these subjects. He always contributes thoughtful insights during class discussions and we are looking forward to reading his version of *'The Boy at the Back of the Class'*. Keep up this great effort!

#### **Canon John Gunn**

It is with great sadness that we heard about the passing of Canon John - our former parish priest and such an important figure in the life of the parish and, indeed, the school. He was a founder governors and former chair of governors and worked closely with both Mrs Winters and Mr Jones, our former headteachers. The arrangements for the school's role at the funeral are still being finalised but it is only right and proper that some of our children are present to represent the school. They will hopefully form part of the choir. If any parents wish to attend, they are of course, more than welcome. If any parent wishes their child to attend also, then this can be arranged. The funeral will take place on **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June at midday** and will be presided over by Archbishop Bernard.

Please see below for the final details:

#### **Monday 26th June, 7pm:**

Reception of Canon John's Body into the chapel at St Joseph's, Harborne.

#### **Tuesday 27th June, 10am:**

Canon John's body will be received into church at St Ambrose Barlow

#### **Tuesday 27th June, midday:**

Requiem Mass presided by Archbishop Bernard. There will be a reception immediate afterwards in the Parish Hall and St Francis Room.

Tuesday 27th June, 3pm:

Canon John will be buried at Oscott College Cemetery

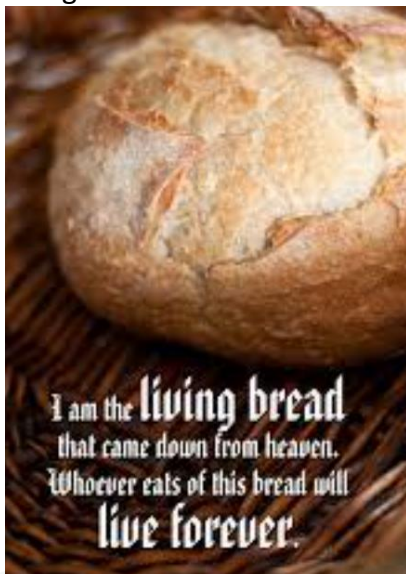
### Corpus Christi Procession

As mentioned, this will take place on Sunday after 10am Mass. Father Paul sent some communication to you about this wonderful celebration on Monday. Please come along and join the children of Year Three and the parish as we pay homage to the Blessed Sacrament and enjoy a picnic afterwards. I envisage something similar to the Feeding of the 5,000 – bring enough to feed yourself (and perhaps a little extra), and we can ensure that all are satisfied. Hot and cold drinks will be provided by school, along with cakes and biscuits.

### Wednesday Word

This can be found >>[here](#)<<

The Gospel is taken from St John and is fitting for the feast of Corpus Christi, with Jesus describing how both his Word and his body nourishes us and strengthens us. This week, in class, the children have shared the Gospel, reflected on its meaning, carried out their own prayer service and enjoyed completing the crossword.



### Intentional and Prophetic

These are our virtues pair for this half-term. We start every half-term with an assembly about what these words mean and how they inspire action, and then children complete an RE lesson afterwards. This week, I had the pleasure of doing the follow-up lesson in Year Four and I was genuinely amazed at their contributions. They were so eloquent and could recall related ideas from previous assemblies. Ailish Kingston said that as pupils of St Ambrose Barlow, we hunger and thirst for what is right. Charlie McNally said we will set the world on fire if we are who God intends us to be, paraphrasing St Catherine of Siena. Lauren Hughes said God is calling us by name and this is our vocation. It made me a very proud Headteacher to hear such passionate responses from the class. As it is, we are intentional in our actions and, like the prophets of old, show the way for others to follow.

### A message from the PTA



*The PTA are so excited to be planning the grand summer fete fundraising finale for the end of this school year!*

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With **St. Ambrose Barlow** as our guide and **Jesus** at our side, we are all **learning to live, love and work together.**

*We really hope as many of our children, parents/guardians, along with our parish and wider community, can join us on what will be an amazing day.*

*We also wanted to take this opportunity to remind all parents and guardians what your generosity so far this year has enabled us to provide for school. It would be very difficult to do these things without your support and it is hugely appreciated.*

PTA donations to school:

- Chocolate for Santa's grotto at Christmas fayre.
- Chocolate/Book Christmas gift for every child.
- Christmas theatre trips refreshments
- Christmas Pantomime
- Confirmation refreshments
- Easter bonnet competition with prizes
- KS2 Easter egg decoration comp with prizes.
- Easter egg for every child
- Donation to Lenten Charities through the Easter Raffle fundraising
- First Holy Communion refreshments
- Coronation wooden token for every child.
- Ice lollies for whole school
- French Dictionaries

Still to come...

- Holy Communion Going Forth party decorations.
- Year Six leavers' donation for celebration.
- Class end of year celebrations (details yet to be confirmed).
- Safety bollards for entrance to School

*Every event that has run this year has been a huge success and this is down to the army of volunteers who are always willing to help.*

*If anyone can help at the Summer Fete, please send your name to your class rep. We need help setting up, manning stalls, and the clear up, even if it's just 30 minutes anything will help!*

*On that note, we will be holding a coffee morning on Monday 12th June, at school, after morning drop off. We will also be holding an evening meeting at the church hall on the same day, at 6pm. We are hoping by having two meetings, it will give all who wish to attend an opportunity to do so.*

*Raffle tickets are due to be delivered this week and will be sent out in book bags soon after. See below for details of the prizes. £1 per ticket and additional tickets can be bought from class reps or from Mrs Currington herself.*

TO BE DRAWN 15TH JULY '23

ST AMBROSE BARLOW PTA

**SUMMER RAFFLE**

£1 PER TICKET

•£200 CASH	VOUCHERS:
•£100 CASH	•£100 MILLER & CARTER
•BCFC SIGNED SHIRT	•£50 OFF A COMMUNION DRESS
•BCFC X 4 HOME TIX	
•BCFC 8 FLAG BEARERS	•£50 GEMBOX
•HALF TERM OF TENNIS	•£25 KEITH EMERY
•12 WEEK SWIM COURSE	•CUT & BLOWDRY
•TUDOR GRANGE BIRTHDAY PARTY	•SHELLAC MANICURE
•SPIRIT OF BIRMINGHAM TASTING SET	•£20 POM POM PARTY
	•£20 TOBY CARVERY
	•6 CUPCAKES (BKAB'S)

DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY!

FOR EXTRA TICKETS CONTACT YOUR YEAR REP OR SARAH 07835118181

### Sports Day

This will take place at Holy Trinity Secondary School, Small Heath, on

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With **St. Ambrose Barlow** as our guide and **Jesus** at our side, we are all **learning to live, love and work together.**

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July. Holy Trinity is one of our sister schools in the St Teresa of Calcutta Multi-Academy Company that our governors voted to join, following the directive from the Diocese and it is a good thing to have ever-closer links with other schools in our local area.

Parents are welcome to attend if they wish, but there is no obligation to do so. Children will travel by coach to the venue and return to school afterwards, unless parents are spectating in which case they are free to leave directly from the venue.

By a twist of fate, it is also the Catholic Sports at Alexander Stadium that afternoon, so some of our children will go directly from our school sports day to compete against other Catholic schools in Birmingham.

### **Transition Day**

In school, this will take place on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July. This will be an opportunity for the children to meet their new teacher (and likewise) and experience life in their new classroom. It will also be the day when we welcome our new Reception children for a portion of the day (see below). For the children in Year Six moving to secondary, depending on the local authority, this also happens at some point this week but the days cannot yet be confirmed.

### **Reception Starters**

Communication went out this week to the parents of those children who join our special community in September 2023. They will have a taster session of our school on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July and meet Miss Hodgkins and Mrs Thompson. I know you will do all you can to welcome them.

### **Holidays in term time**

A reminder that **no** holidays in term-time will be authorised and it is essential that

children are in school every day (unless illness prevents this). We work closely with the local authority and employ our own Education Welfare Officer to address any concerns we may have around attendance.

### **Keyboard and Choir concert**

This is currently scheduled for Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July, although I am aware that transition days for Year Six may impact upon those who can be present, so the date may yet be rearranged.

### **An opportunity to celebrate our families...**

A reminder that on Thursday 22nd June at 5pm, there will be a special Mass for the families of the children in Year Six. This year, St Ambrose Barlow Catholic Primary school says farewell to many of the youngest children in families which have been a huge and integral part of the school community. We thought a great way to celebrate this was to start a new tradition of a family Mass. We will gather together in the prayer garden for a special celebration and unveil plaques which will have the family names on of those who are leaving our school family.

### **Birthdays this week...**

Happy birthday to Layton in Year Three who was eight on Monday and happy birthday to Amelia in Reception who was five on Wednesday! Happy birthday to Remy, also in Reception, who was five yesterday and happy birthday to Macy from Year Five who is ten today!

Also, happy birthday to anyone who celebrated over half-term. Starting from September, children are welcome to wear own clothes on the day of (or nearest) their birthday!

### June dates for your diary

**Sun 11<sup>th</sup> June:** *Corpus Christi* Parish Procession

**Mon 12<sup>th</sup> June:** PTA coffee morning 9am (school) **OR** PTA meeting 6pm (parish hall)

**Tues 13<sup>th</sup> June:** Year Six / Reception height and weight check (NHS)

**Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> June:** Year Three at Hall Green Library

**Fri 16<sup>th</sup> June:** Reception Class Assembly

**Mon 19<sup>th</sup> June – Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> June:** Other Faiths Week

**Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> June:** Year Four at Hall Green Library

**Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> June:** 5pm celebration Mass for Year Six families

**Sun 25<sup>th</sup> June:** Year Three Going Forth Mass

**Mon 26<sup>th</sup> June – Fri 30<sup>th</sup> June:** Refugee Week

**Mon 26<sup>th</sup> June:** 'Other Faith Week' sharing afternoon 2pm

**Tues 27<sup>th</sup> June:** Canon John Gunn's funeral

**Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> June:** Whole School Mass for Ss Peter and Paul 9:30

**Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> June:** Year Five at Hall Green Library

**Fri 30<sup>th</sup> June:** Reception Class Mass 2:30pm

### July dates for your diary

**Tues 4<sup>th</sup> July:** Year Six at Hall Green Library

**Wed 5<sup>th</sup> July:** Transition day: children to meet their new teacher.

**Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> July:** Keyboard and choir concert 2pm TBC

**Mon 10<sup>th</sup> July:** Sports Day. Children can return to school or be collected directly from the venue

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July:** Reports out to parents

**Sat 15<sup>th</sup> July:** Summer Fete 12pm – 3pm

**Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> July:** Year Six Leavers Assembly 9am

**Fri 21<sup>st</sup> July:** Leavers Mass 2pm in the school hall

**Tues 25<sup>th</sup> July:** Break up at 2:00pm

Hopefully, we shall see some of you on Sunday for our *Corpus Christi* procession. God bless – enjoy the weekend and the wonderful weather it promises to bring.



Mr Clinton

# ST AMBROSE BARLOW CATHOLIC CHURCH

Lakey Lane, Hall Green, Birmingham

B28 8QU. 0121 777 4524

stambrose.bham@rcaob.org.uk

Fr Paul Johnson, Parish Priest



Divine Office: Week 2, Year A

11 June 2023

## WEEK TEN OF ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 10	4.45pm 5.30pm	<b>CORPUS CHRISTI</b> <b>CONFESSIONS</b> <b>MASS</b> Maria Markey, 4 <sup>th</sup> Anniv. Thomas McGuinness, Anniv.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Coll: Mary's Meals
Sunday 11	10.00am  5.30pm	<b>CORPUS CHRISTI</b> <b>MASS</b> Eunice McDonnell, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniv. Pro Populo  <b>MASS</b> Special Intention (CW)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Coll: Mary's Meals
Monday 12	9.30am	<b>Feria in Ordinary Time</b> <b>MASS</b> Holy Souls	
Tuesday 13	9.30am 10.00am	<b>St Anthony of Padua, Priest, Doctor</b> <b>MASS</b> Monica Thomas <b>EXPOSITION</b> with Benediction at 10.30am	
Wednesday 14	9.30am	<b>Feria in Ordinary Time</b> <b>MASS</b> Robert Williams	
Thursday 15	9.30am	<b>Feria in Ordinary Time</b> <b>MASS</b> Anne Johnson Anniv.	
Friday 16	9.30am	<b>SACRED HEART OF JESUS</b> <b>MASS</b> Josephine McGurran RIP	
Saturday 17	4.45pm 5.30pm	<b>ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> <b>CONFESSIONS</b> <b>MASS</b> Mary & Patrick Keating, Family RIP Ann O'Connor, Month's Mind	2 <sup>nd</sup> Coll: Day for Life
Sunday 18	10.00am  5.30pm	<b>ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> <b>MASS</b> Brendan Nicholl, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniv. Pro Populo  <b>MASS</b> Special Intention (CW)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Coll: Day for Life

## Pope's Prayer Intention for June: For the abolition of torture

We pray that the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensuring the abolition of torture and guarantee support to victims and their families.

### Fr Paul Writes...



It is good to welcome Sue from Mary's Meals who will be making an appeal this weekend. Sue will join us for the Afternoon Tea on Saturday at 2pm (tickets may still be available as I go to press) and will speak at each of the three weekend Masses. Sue will also join us for the Corpus Christi procession down to school. You can find out more about the work of Mary's Meals here: [www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk) I pray that this weekend will start a blessed partnership between the parish and the charity.

The Corpus Christi procession (see this photo from 2001 where we can see Canon John, Fr Neil and Deacon John all leading the procession) will start after the 10am Sunday morning Mass. We will be led by the children in their First Holy Communion outfits. If you can don a Hi Viz jacket and help with marshalling that would be helpful. We also would like volunteers to help carry the canopy. Finally, if the walk is too much or the heat prevents us from walking down then we will still go ahead with Benediction down at school but will travel by car. Let's just see how this amber heat warning transpires. It will still be nice to gather for a picnic!



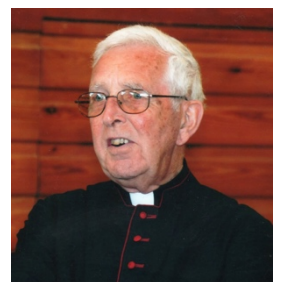
Canon John's Funeral details are now finalised:

Monday 26 June, 7pm. Reception of Canon John's Body into the chapel at St Joseph's, Harborne. This will be followed by Mass and the sisters will kindly provide tea and biscuit afterwards. Places will be limited to around 120.

Tuesday 27 June, 10am. Canon John's body will be received into church here at St Ambrose Barlow prior to his funeral.

Tuesday 27 June, midday. Requiem Mass presided by Archbishop Bernard. We are planning for around 60 visiting priests as well as Canon John's family and friends so the service will be live broadcast into the Parish Hall for any overspill guests. There will be a reception immediate afterwards in the Parish Hall and St Francis Room.

Tuesday 27 June, 3pm. Canon John will be buried at Oscott College Cemetery.



It will, naturally, be a very busy parish event as we say our final goodbye to Canon John. If you would like to help in any way, please have a chat with me. Blessings. P



## PARISH NOTICES

**MARY'S MEALS** This weekend we welcome Mary's Meals to the parish. They are the main beneficiary of the most splendid afternoon tea and also will speak at all the weekend Masses. The second collection is to support their work.

**LiveSimply:** Be kind to someone/lookout for neighbours and volunteer to help?

BE  
KIND

**FATHER HUDSON'S** Over the past few months, we have been running a 'Being a Welcoming Church' campaign, which has been very well received



and attended by over 180 parishioners within the Archdiocese. The final virtual event, in the series, takes place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June, starting at 7.30pm, when the presentation will be around Homelessness.

Sadly, this is a subject we are all too aware of and following an introduction from His Grace Archbishop Bernard, we will be looking at projects that currently work closely in this area and exploring ways in which Parishes could perhaps do more to help. Simply email [fundraising@fatherhudsons.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@fatherhudsons.org.uk) to register and a link will be sent or use this QR code. We hope you can join us.

**SICK AND HOUSEBOUD MASS** at Holy Souls on Sunday 9 July, 3.30pm. If you would like to attend, or know someone who would benefit, please speak to the SVP.

**SVP QUIZ** 1 July we will be having a quiz in the parish hall – note the date and start doing your homework 😊

**OUR LADY'S CANDLE** burns today for:

Teresa Fitzgerald Int.

If you would like an intention for Our Lady's Candle, please leave for Fr Paul to light.



**LOURDES INTENTIONS**

Please let Fr Paul have any personal prayer intentions to be taken to Lourdes, placed in an envelope marked 'Lourdes' and they will be taken direct. Don't put money in the envelopes! The pilgrims will be setting off Tuesday so please let Fr Paul have intentions by MIDDAY at the latest.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**



**The sick and housebound of the parish:** Eamonn Brooks, Peggy Burne, Alan Clark, Phyllis Coggins, Eileen Curtin, Brian Ellis, Mary English, Christopher Flaherty, Macius Grudzinski, Rory Lynch, Caroline Mahon, Chris Marsh, Anna McCarthy, Eugene McCarthy, Imelda Moorhouse, Josh Nicholson, John Walsh. Also, those in hospitals and nursing homes.

**Those who have died:** Please pray for those who recently died: Annie Hudson, funeral Wed 21 June, 11am, Canon John Gunn, funeral details above.

**Those travelling to Lourdes:** Please keep in your prayers those in our parish travelling on pilgrimage to Lourdes this week. Pray also for all those on our sick list and those who are in need of our prayers at this time.

# FINANCIAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION

**GIFT AID COORDINATOR:** Martin Jones [martinjones1954@yahoo.com](mailto:martinjones1954@yahoo.com)

**PARISH FINANCES:** 28 May      Offertory: £744.37, SAC £402.55

**SECOND COLLECTION:** This weekend: Mary's Meals, Next week: None

MINISTER ROTA	11/12 June			17/18 June		
	Sat 5.30	Sun 10.00	Sun 5.30	Sat 5.30	Sun 10.00	Sun 5.30
<b>Wardens</b>	MJ/BF	LT/BMcT/TM	SB/TB	MJ/BF	LT/BMcT/TM	GMc/SMc
<b>Reader</b>	??	Agnes	John	??	Molly	Graine
<b>EMHCs</b>	??/HB/MJ	EK/YS/ML	CW/SMc	??/HB/MJ	FF/JT/RF	CH/SMc
<b>Child Lit.</b>	-	School	-	-	PS/CH	-
<b>Counters</b>	-	A&M	-	-	LB/CH	-
<b>Music</b>	-	Kathleen	-	-	Kathleen	-

## PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

**EMAIL:** [stambrose.bham@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:stambrose.bham@rcaob.org.uk)

<https://www.facebook.com/stambrosebarlowhallgreen/>

**Web:** <http://www.st-ambrose-barlow.org.uk/>

**Fr Paul Johnson, Parish Priest, 0121 777 4524 or 07939 137 205**

Safeguarding: Paul Mann 07967 693 652 Bernadette O'Driscoll 07855 998 702

St Vincent de Paul email [PresidentF020118@svp.org.uk](mailto:PresidentF020118@svp.org.uk) or call 07342292230

**Items for newsletter to Parish Office or Email by Thursday, Noon.**

## *Et Tandem... Thirst*



Because of thirst, I accidentally ate bird poo once. In my defence, I was little and very thirsty as I ran out onto the playground at morning break. I had nothing to drink. The climbing frame was glistening with morning dew, little droplets just hanging there, and so I ran my tongue along the bar to drink them up. I didn't notice the 'streak' on the bar until I tasted something ... let's just say, chalky, and not water.

That was not as embarrassing as when I was thirsty when shopping with Dad. The large supermarket chest freezers had ice crystals on the metal trim inside. So, with no one watching, I stuck my tongue out to collect the ice. Big mistake. My tongue instantly froze onto the metal. Bent over the frozen chickens, on tiptoes and flapping my arms, I gurgled for help.

Thirst can be a strong motivating force of our movements and thoughts in the hunt to quench it.

But the strongest thirst happened during lockdown when the churches were closed. Something more than water was denied to us. So I was compelled to drive to the nearest church that had a window on the locked doors, just so I could see the tabernacle. Because sometimes, like water, we don't realise how life giving something is until we don't have it – or until it is taken away from us.