

Homily. Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

Year.A. 13/14 June 2020.

Moses begins his speech to the Israelite people by telling them to remember all that God had done. Their frequent remembrance of God's actions on their behalf, saving them from dangers and enemies, liberating them from oppression and slavery and giving them a land and a home that they could call their own, helps them to never forget God or lose faith when times change.

It's this human propensity to forget that makes our remembering so necessary. Remembering reminds us about why it's so important for us to gather to celebrate and receive the Eucharist as often and as faithfully as we can. Forgetting comes easily, almost naturally to us, but allowing ourselves become forgetful of God, God's gifts and saving actions on our behalf is fatal to our faith and lethal to the light of God's life within us. This annual Corpus Christi Solemnity prompts us to gratefully remember all that we are and have as gifts from God's hands and what it is that we can so easily forget and lose, as these past few months Pandemic ridden months have made plain.

If we allow ourselves to forget as so many do, we lose our vital connection to the living stream of life flowing from Christ, the Spirit who binds us to our God of hope and promise. Along with this forgetting we'll also distance ourselves from God's people, separating ourselves from the friendship, support and guidance of our faith community. All that then remains is our little lonely selves, isolated and adrift in this world, vulnerable to the changeable currents and trends of our times.

When we gather like this as God's family we've come to remember Jesus who is for us and with us always, the greatest gift God, or anyone for that matter, could ever offer. We've come together as a community, God's faith family as I have called us, to listen to Him and to feast upon life Himself. It is the Lord who takes us, like individual like grains and grapes, making us into Himself, His own body and blood. Let me assure you that, necessary as was, there's nothing lonelier, weirder even than celebrating the Eucharist alone as I had to do when Mass was suspended. I know that in your homes and little family units you've felt this strangeness, too, as you've tried various ways to keep your remembrance of Christ alive over the past months of separation.

Now that we're back together here (who knows for how long or in what ways and numbers) we're hungrier and thirstier than ever to remember God's goodness, letting the Lord of Life come and take care of us. As the many grains are ground and baked into one bread of life and as the many grapes of our lives are crushed together to create one cup of salvation, so may we be truly grateful today for what we have. What's more, may we never forget the Giver and the Gift we're called to imitate, the life giving food and drink from God that we are commanded by our Lord to become.