

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

Year. A. 10/11 June 2023.

When we were young our family told us what was good to eat and drink and what to avoid that could harm us. Caring parents and families do this still. Now, being older, it can be our team coach, trainer, fitness instructor, a friend or Doctor who gives us such advice. The reason for this is that over time we become what we eat and drink; for better and for worse we become what we consume.

In many ways most of us don't have a lot in common. We're from different families and histories, diverse cultures and values with varied social and economic circumstances. Yet, day after day, we gather together here, united in our prayer, worship and witness. This is because share a faith and belief in God's real love for us and in the hopeful and saving Good News of Jesus Christ. This union powerfully overcomes all of the differences that might otherwise divide and separate us. We find our unity in drawing our life, our Spirit and our daily bread from the Son, who himself draws life from the one true God.

Our community, our communion comes to us as a gift, a grace, which energises us to give witness to things such as love, mercy, justice and compassion in our very divided world, and to the living God who is far greater than our differences and the dark forces that push us apart. This strength comes to us from Jesus our Lord who lived it out and left us a powerful memorial of his sacrifice and self giving.

Since earliest times believers in God's unifying love, finding their communion in the message of Christ, have gathered together to do what we call 'the Mass', the celebration of the Eucharist. It's clear from many texts and from long history that Jesus wanted it to be this way. He left us an easy means to remember him and to be one in him. We take, bless, break and share the bread and wine, sacramentally his Body and Blood given for us, so that we can keep on drawing our life from him and by consuming into ourselves this best of food and drink, become like him.

As we remember Jesus we focus on what binds us, his loving service and the hope of his resurrection which, despite all of our diversity, effectively unites us together into one body, one community, one Church of God's people at work in the world. And, there remains a lot of ministry and work to be done, not in isolation, but by all of us who are the Lord's presence here and now, works of love and care, of justice, mercy understanding and peace which promote and advance God's reign and rule.

Corpus Christi, the feast of the Lord's Body and Blood, is about the best of food and drink that grows us into real Christlike people, creating and renewing in us our communion as the Body of Christ, the Church today. It's about becoming what we remember; Jesus Christ offering himself lovingly to save the world, and about all of us playing our small but essential part in this process. In many ways it's a small thing we do here, ignored, even ridiculed by some, but no wonder then that our Eucharist of thanks lies at the heart of our Church and at the centre of our faith, for without it we wouldn't be who we are or even exist! For our bountiful life and such gracious communion we offer ourselves in praise of God's gift.