

Homily. 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year. A. 17/18 June 2023.

1st Holy Communion Masses 2023.

Children and families, this is a happy day for you and for all of us. Jesus is our friend who loves us. He is always trying to get closer to us, to know us better and to find out how he can help us. He wants to draw us close to him, too.

One very important way that he does this is by giving himself to us in Holy Communion. He hands himself over to our hands in the form of Bread and Wine. In this way he comes into our hearts so that he can be as close to us as possible, making a loving, strong and safe home within us.

Jesus had many friends. Some were men, some were women. In the gospel we heard about 12 special friends that Jesus called disciples. This means that they came close to him, learning from him about God's way and how to live lives that were right, true, just and loving as God wanted.

We also heard that Jesus renamed them apostles. He did this after they'd learnt from him, because he was sending them out to represent him. They went out to others in his Spirit do what he did; to heal, help, raise people up and tell them all about Jesus Good News of God's loving plan. We are Jesus special and close friends today. We are his disciples and his apostles, learning his way to live and sharing his message with the people we meet.

Children, your 1st Communion shows you just how close Jesus is to you. Receiving Communion gives you Jesus strength and help so that you can do today and he did and do what he wants, the very best for us all.

I said to you earlier that this is a happy day for you, for your families and friends and for us all. It's a special day that we want you to will remember forever; the day that Jesus came so close to you as to live in you, filling you with the love, kindness, strength and power. He is the Good Shepherd alive in your hearts.

Our hope is that what we have begun today will, with the support of your families, continue. We want you come often to celebrate with us. Here you will be fed and strengthened on the life of Jesus. Then, with us, your parish and church family, we can all become happy and holy in Jesus Christ, the bread of life and the cup of friendship that rescues and saves us from being left all alone lost in the world. With joy, let's keep on celebrating the gift of love that is Jesus on your Communion day.