

Corpus Christi

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST



Prayer for the Week

Jesus, Body and Blood,
we are grateful for the gift of
your life and the way it
strengthens us to live our lives.
Teach us to draw on the gift of
your Body and Blood for energy,
renewal, strength and grace.
May we never take the gift of
your presence for granted.

Amen



Word of the Week

John 6: 51-58

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If you eat this bread, you will live forever. The bread that I will give you is my flesh, which I give so that the world may live."

This started an angry argument among them. "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" they asked.

Jesus said to them, "I am telling you the truth: if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in yourselves. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them to life on the last day. For my flesh is the real food; my blood is the real drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood live in me, and I live in them. The living Father sent me, and because of him I live also. In the same way whoever eats me will live because of me. This, then, is the bread that came down from heaven; it is not like the bread that your ancestors ate, but then later died. Those who eat this bread will live forever."

I believe that the most necessary thing to do on the feast of Corpus Christi is not to explain some aspect of the Eucharist, but to revive wonder and marvel before the mystery.

Raniero Cantalamessa

What's on?

We welcome our new intake of pupils on Friday for a Taster Day.

In RE lessons this week we will be listening to your views as we get ready for Synod 2020.

Something to think about...

Hard to take and understand? I'm not surprised. When Jesus spoke about eating his flesh and drinking his blood it's hard not to imagine something out of a horror film. With everything we know about Jesus we can see why the disciples may have reacted the way they did when hearing this for the first time. How can this man give us his flesh to eat? In fact so many of his disciples abandoned him over this that Jesus had to ask his twelve closest followers if they planned on quitting on him too!

St Thomas Aquinas explains the Eucharist in a very helpful way though. He explained that we observe lots of changes in our lives, appearances change, as we get older, we experience and go through different things. But deep down the essence of the person stays the same. St Thomas said the Eucharist is one instance of change we encounter in this world that is exactly the opposite of this. The appearance of bread and wine stay the same but the very essence or substance of these realities, which can't be detected by a microscope, is totally transformed.

But ultimately the Eucharist (the body and blood of Jesus) and the change that takes place during every Mass is a mystery. And something so complicated, so complex and so beyond human understanding that it takes faith, the gift of faith, to trust and believe in this extraordinary event.

Something to do...

Head over to the shared drive (Staff Shared Area: Write Staff: Chaplaincy: 2018-2019: Weekly Resources: Corpus Christi-The Body of Christ).

There are a number of videos in this week's folder for you to watch about the Eucharist, Corpus Christi, The Body and Blood of Jesus.

There is a really interesting video on Eucharistic Miracles. In some instances they have been able to prove through scientific analysis that the Eucharist really is the real presence of Jesus, body and blood.

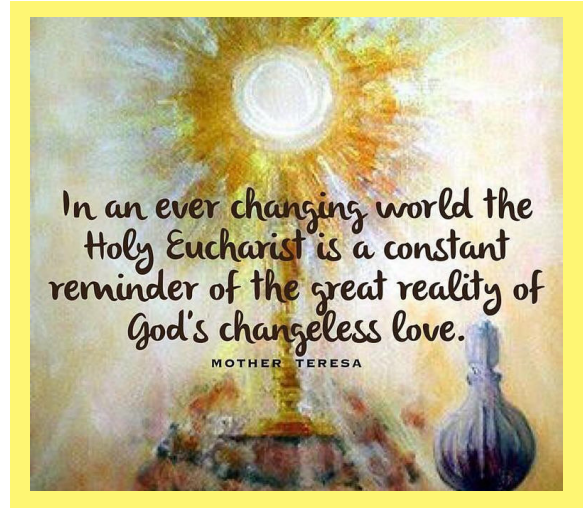


Something to talk about...

This change from bread and wine to the body and blood of Jesus is something we experience every time we go to Mass, when the priest blesses the bread and wine and it transforms. This is known as transubstantiation. But Jesus also intended another kind of transformation. The transformation of us.

Have you ever heard the saying: you are what you eat? The Lord desires us to be transformed from imperfect individuals into the Body of Christ. To become Christ like.

Talk to the person next to you. What Christ like qualities would you like to have in your life? In what ways should you change the way you live, the way you are with others so that you can be more like Jesus, more like God, more holy.



Key Words

Transubstantiation- The communion wafer and altar wine are transformed and really become the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

Eucharist- The word used to talk about the real presence of Jesus, when the bread and wine has been changed into the body and blood of Jesus.