

BLESSED BY GOD, WE BLESS OTHERS
The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ ~ 14 June 2020



WE CELEBRATE

This Sunday we celebrate

'The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi).

Gradually we resume our celebrations, within current COVID-19 protocols.

Yesterday morning, baptismal preparations recommenced.

A special time of sharing about the children and the meaning of baptism, and how we have been during the challenges of the last few months.

On Friday night we resumed our prayer vigils.

During the weekend Masses we also celebrate the Feast Day of *St Anthony of Padua*, one of the two patron saints of our parish.

YEAR THREE STUDENTS SHARE GOD'S BLESSINGS – THANK YOU

A big 'thank you' to the students from Year Three from St Joseph's School for your sense of wonder in sharing God's blessings with us, as you see and understand them.

Thank you for today's cross and your messages on them.

Thank you for preparing the prayers of the faithful today.

And thank you to those Year Three students who pre-recorded their reading.

Thank you to your teachers and Assistant Principal Religious Education (APRE) for helping you.



Sharing God's Blessings Cross - Year 3

THIS WEEKEND IS A BLESSING

Even though we have a maximum limit of 20 people at each Mass, we resume our three weekend Masses.

We continue with prayerful access to our livestreamed Mass for the present.

A BLESSING FROM GOD TO US

Jesus declared that he is

'the living bread that came down from heaven'.

Such a wonderful blessing from God to us:

to be blessed by receiving Jesus as the *'living bread'* from heaven.

Let us read from today's Gospel

and later from insights of Pope Francis on blessing and Eucharist.

GOSPEL OF JOHN 6:51-58

***"I am the living bread that came down from heaven.
Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever;
and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."***

*The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying,
'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?'*

So Jesus said to them,

***'Very truly, I tell you,
unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man
and drink his blood, you have no life in you.
Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life,
and I will raise them up on the last day;
for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink.
Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.
Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father,
so whoever eats me will live because of me.***

***This is the bread that came down from heaven,
not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died.
But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.' "***

Last year on June 23rd Pope Francis reflected on the Eucharist.

[Full text of Francis homily: [*Holy Mass, Procession and Eucharistic Blessing on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ*](#)]

Some of his insights are now shared.

POPE FRANCIS SHARES ON BLESSING

- 'Everything begins with blessing: words of goodness create a history of goodness. The same thing happens in the Gospel: before multiplying the loaves, Jesus blesses them: *"Taking the five loaves, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples"* (Lk 9:16). A blessing turns five loaves into food enough for a great crowd: the blessing releases a cascade of goodness.'
- 'Why is it good to bless? Because it turns a word into a gift.'

When we bless, we are not doing something for ourselves, but for others.
Blessing is not about saying nice words or trite phrases.
No, it is about speaking goodness, speaking with love’.

- ‘How many times too, have we been blessed, in church or in our homes?
How many times have we received words of encouragement,
or a sign of the cross on our forehead?
We were blessed on the day of our baptism,
and we are blessed at the end of every Mass.
The Eucharist is itself a school of blessing.
God blesses us, his beloved children, and thus encourages us to keep going.
And we, in turn, bless God in our assemblies (cf. *Ps 68:26*),
rediscovering the joy of praise that liberates and heals the heart.
We come to Mass, certain that we will be blessed by the Lord,
and we leave in order to bless others in turn,
to be channels of goodness in the world.’

- ‘It is sad to think of how easily people today do the opposite:
they curse, despise and insult others.
In the general frenzy, we lose control and vent our rage on everything and everyone.
Sadly, those who shout most and loudest, those angriest,
often appeal to others and persuade them.
Let us avoid being infected by that arrogance;
let us not let ourselves be overcome by bitterness,
for we eat the Bread that *contains all sweetness within it*.
God’s people love to praise, not complain; we were created to bless, not grumble.
In the presence of the Eucharist, Jesus who becomes bread,
this simple bread that contains *the entire reality of the Church*,
let us learn to bless all that we have, to praise God,
to bless and not curse all that has led us to this moment,
and to speak words of encouragement to others.’

- ‘You are not alone, for you have the Eucharist, bread for the journey, the bread of Jesus.’

- ‘And he asks that we too be blessing and gift for others.’

1 CORINTHIANS 10:16-17 - A UNITY BLESSED AND SHARED

We celebrate our unity in today’s second Reading, 1st Corinthians 10:16-17.

*“Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body,
for we all partake of the one bread”.*

We share the blessing of God
in our prayer, our work,
in our care for poor and hungry,
in our care for our neighbour,
in our listening to each other,
and in respect for the dignity of each other.

We share the blessing of God
in our inclusiveness, our solidarity,
in being a member of the human family.
In being part of God's family.

Our meals can satisfy our hunger for food.
Jesus speaks of another type of hunger within us,
in the hungering for a more just and peaceful world.

The bread offered is the bread of love.
May we be both blessing and gift for others.

Let us pray.

Fr Gerry

Readings: <https://universalis.com/Australia/20200614/mass.htm>
[YouTube video Sunday Mass, 14 June 2020](#)