

## THE BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST IS A GATEWAY TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

*Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ – 11 June 2023*



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to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

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Today, let us reflect on the rich tapestry of culinary experiences that can be found in a thriving shopping centre like Chermside. It offers us a multitude of restaurants, ranging from sushi to fish and chips, showcasing the diverse range of foods that reflect the multicultural fabric of Australia. In this world of delightful variety, we not only encounter different tastes and ingredients but also get a glimpse into the cultural origins from which they arise. For example, we can appreciate the significance of rice as a main dish in Japanese cuisine, a reflection of their rich cultural heritage.

As we explore these exotic foods and their origins, we begin to unravel the unique aspects and similarities among different cultural delicacies. Each multicultural dish harmoniously contributes to the overall culinary landscape, while retaining its own distinct characteristics. Personally, I have developed an affinity for Indian curry, which, in terms of flavor, shares some similarities with Japanese curry. However, the Indian curry possesses its own unmistakable identity, reminding us of the beauty that arises from diversity.

Today, the Word of God invites us to partake in a different kind of nourishment—the body and blood of Christ. The Scriptures guide us to understand the origin of this sacred food and drink, and that origin is none other than heaven itself. Jesus explicitly states that the living bread and his blood, which he offers to us, come from heaven. He, as the living bread, originates from the Father, and the blood he shares is from his own body. Just as pizza finds its roots in Italy, the body and blood of Jesus originate from him, who came from heaven.

In tracing the origin of the body and blood of Jesus, we embark on a journey to explore the culture of heaven, the culture of the kingdom of God. It is through this exploration that we discover the unique aspects of this heavenly culture and the profound significance of the food and drink Jesus offers. The Gospel points out that as humans, we long for well-being, not just physically, but emotionally and spiritually as well. We seek true life. And just as ordinary food sustains our physical life, the spiritual food that Jesus gives sustains our spiritual life. Jesus even says that if we do not eat his flesh and drink his blood, we will not have life. Therefore, partaking in the body and blood of Jesus is not only a way to acknowledge our humanity but also a way to enter into true life.

As we gather in this sacred space, we are reminded that the spiritual food and drink that Jesus offers have a uniqueness that sets them apart from any other nourishment. The Eucharist is not merely a part of the Mass or a glimpse into the culture of the Kingdom of God. It is an invitation to enter into true life, where we discover the real beauty of our existence. The body and blood of Christ are not simply food; they serve as a gateway to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, where we find solace, encouragement, and the promise of eternal love. This Friday, we will celebrate the feast of the Sacred Heart, honouring this profound connection with our Lord.

Brothers and sisters, we find ourselves here in a spiritual food court, hungry for God's love and thirsty for His mercy. As we embrace the various flavours of multicultural food, we are also presented with the spiritual food that will nourish and enrich us. In this liturgy, especially after receiving Communion, let us open ourselves to experience the culture of the Kingdom of God that our unity with Christ brings.

*What particular aspects of this heavenly culture do we anticipate encountering?*

*Is it God's mercy, His healing touch, a profound sense of happiness, or a renewed sense of direction?*

While we may not experience all of these aspects simultaneously, it is through repeatedly partaking in the body and blood of Christ that we return to the church, seeking to encounter Him anew.

May this spiritual feast we share today deepen our hunger for God's love and quench our thirst for His mercy.

May we leave this place with hearts filled with gratitude and a renewed commitment to follow the path of true life that Christ offers us.

Let us now turn our hearts towards the altar and prepare to receive the gift of Christ's body and blood, with anticipation and reverence.

Amen.

Deacon Minje Kim

Readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/061123.cfm>