

'NOURISHED BY EUCHARIST, THE BREAD OF LOVE' – HOMILY –18 June 2017

**IN A WORLD OF INFORMATION OVERLOAD,
DO WE TAKE THE TIMES TO RETURN TO THE BASICS?
WITH SO MUCH ACCESS ON THE INTERNET, DO WE REMEMBER - WHAT IS THE KEY?
CAN WE LOSE OUR WAY?**

This Sunday we celebrate '**THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (CORPUS CHRISTI)**'

We go back to the importance of **EUCHARIST** in our lives.

TEMPTED TO FORGET

The first reading from Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14-16 reminds us of Israel's history,
And how God led her out of the terrible, dehumanising conditions
Of slavery in Egypt,
And how God faithfully accompanied her for 40 years through the desert.
Once in the Promised Land, settled and better off materially,
There are temptations to forget how God saved them,
And forget how God accompanied them,
And forget God's goodness to them,
And forget what was the real purpose of coming to the Promised Land.
The Passover is such a time to remember.

The Jewish faith has special times of remembering
What God has done for them.
It was at the Passover Meal that Jesus gave us the Eucharist.

WE REMEMBER – WE TAKE TIME TO REMEMBER

Coming to celebrate this Sunday, we take time to remember.
We remember how the word '**agape**' is used for God's love for us,
A love so strong that Jesus died and rose to save us.

We **REMEMBER** in today's Gospel John 6:51-58 Jesus said
'I am the living bread that came down from heaven'.

We **REMEMBER** that Jesus offers us life.
We **REMEMBER** that the life Jesus offers is forever.

We **REMEMBER** that we are guided by the Word of God.

HOW IMPORTANT IS THE WORD OF GOD IN MY LIFE?

We **REMEMBER** the tradition of putting our faith into song,
as we sing hymns to God today. Our singing today is prayer.

We **REMEMBER** our unity in **today's 2nd 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".*

UNITY

HOW DO WE LIVE OUT THIS UNITY?

In our prayer, our work, our care for poor and hungry, our care for our neighbour,
Our listening to each other, and respect for the dignity of each other,
Our inclusiveness, our solidarity, our sense of being a member of the human family.
Of being part of God's family.

NOURISHED BY THE EUCHARIST, THE BREAD OF LOVE

Pope Francis said on this Solemnity in 2014

*"The Eucharist communicates the Lord's love for us:
A love so great that it nourishes us with Himself;
A freely given love,
Always available to every person who hungers
And needs to regenerate his own strength.
To live the experience of faith means to allow oneself to be nourished by the Lord,
And to build one's own existence not with material goods
But with the reality that does not perish:
The gifts of God, his Word and his Body."*

DO WE INVITE GOD TO NOURISH US, TODAY, IN THIS EUCHARIST?

DO WE REMEMBER AND TREASURE THE GIFTS OF GOD?

Our meals can satisfy our hunger for food.

Jesus speaks of another type of hunger within us.

Pope Francis calls it,

*"A hunger for life, a hunger for love, a hunger for eternity."
"It isn't simple nourishment to satisfy the body, like manna;
The Body of Christ is the bread of the last times,
Capable of giving life, eternal life, because this bread is made of love."*

In hungering for a more just and peaceful world,

Let us remember God wants us to love our neighbour.

Let us remember and let us be nourished by the love of God.

The bread offered is the bread of love.

Let us centre ourselves within.

With the hymn '*Panis Angelicus*' sung in the background,

Let us quietly be nourished by God.

Nourished by God's love for us.

Amen.

Fr. Gerry

[Fr. Gerry Hefferan – Nourished by the Eucharist, the Bread of Love – 18 June 2017]

[Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/060417-day-mass.cfm>]

[Parish Facebook: <http://bit.ly/parishFacebook18062017>]