

THANKSGIVING & EUCHARIST
28th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME – 9 OCTOBER 2022



CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Our celebration of the Eucharist (the Mass) is our weekly gathering as a community to give thanks to God.

The verb *eucharisteo* means *to give thanks*.

As we come together today, we give thanks to God.

If we are trapped by a consumer society that keeps wanting more and more, we could be enslaved by a mentality that we only participate at Mass, when we want something. Whereas we also come regularly to pray in Eucharist to give thanks to God.

The verb *eucharisteo* appears 38 times in the New Testament.

The noun *eucharistia* meaning *thanksgiving*, appears 15 times in the New Testament.

A phrase we use today, *'thanks be to God'*, is a translation of *charis to theo*, and appears in St Paul's writings of Romans and 2 Corinthians.

In the Gospels, it is Jesus who was thanking God.

The only Gospel text where someone thanked Jesus, is today's passage where the Samaritan thanked Jesus for being healed.

Let us read the Gospel passage together.

GOSPEL OF LUKE 17:11-19

"On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee.

As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him.

Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!'

When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.'

And as they went, they were made clean.

Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice.

He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan.

Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?'

Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?'

Then he said to him, 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.' "

In this passage, we note that Jesus treated all ten people equally.
He healed each one of them.

Only one person returned to give thanks to God, and that person was a Samaritan.

Jesus is not captive to our prejudice.

Jesus highlights the faith of the healed Samaritan. Jesus encourages the Samaritan.

This Samaritan is the one who models true gratitude to God.

May Jesus say to each of us, as he said to the Samaritan,

'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.'

EARLY CHRISTIANS GIVING THANKS

The early Christians knew the importance of this Gospel passage.

Like the Samaritan, they needed to give thanks.

In most of St Paul's letters, Paul began by thanking God,
and named the particular reason for his thanksgiving.

Some are examples are:

- Paul's letter to the Philippians 1:3-5
*"I thank my God every time I remember you,
constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you,
because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now."*
- The letter to the Ephesians 1:15-16
*"I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints,
and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you
as I remember you in my prayers."*
- The First Letter to the Thessalonians 1:2-3
*"We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers,
constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith
and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."*
- The First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1:4
*"I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God
that has been given you in Christ Jesus"*
- Letter to the Romans 1/8
*"First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you,
because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world."*

*Do we write a letter, or email or a long text,
or a post to someone or to a group of people,
and begin by letting them know that we continually thank God for them?*

The next quote is not at the beginning, but later,
in Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians 5:16-18.

Here, Paul describes the Christian life.

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

DEACONS

November will be a special time for our parish community.

Clint McGoldrick, a member of the parish, will be ordained a *permanent Deacon* for the Archdiocese of Brisbane on the last Saturday in St Stephen’s Cathedral.

There will also be three seminarians to be ordained *transitional deacons* on a different day in November.

One of them will join our parish just before Christmas, and will minister in our parish, until late June as a deacon,

Then he will be ordained a priest and return to our parish for the month of July, before being transferred to a new appointment.

Once I have permission, I’ll inform the community who the new deacon will be.

May we continually give thanks to God for Clint and for the new transitional deacon.

PREPARING FOR CONFIRMATION

This weekend, children are presented at Masses, in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation in November this year, and for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist next year.

Their parents today renew their commitment to their own faith life and their commitment to their children.

They make a public statement together.

Then the children respond briefly to two questions.

EUCARIST IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

In the Gospel accounts of Mark 14:22-23, Matthew 26:26-27 and Luke 22:17-19 Jesus gave thanks at the first Eucharist at the Last Supper.

Over twenty years later, in Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians 11:23-26, he gave this account of the Eucharist in the gatherings of early Christians.

“For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”

May Jesus say to each of us, as he said to the Samaritan,
'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.'

Today, at our celebration of the Eucharist, we continue to be faithful to Jesus.
Let us give thanks to God for one another.

Amen

Father Gerry

Readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/100922.cfm>